

VALENTINA GRAZIUSSO

Assistant Teaching Professor of Italian
University of Notre Dame, IN

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Romance Languages and Literatures – Italian Studies, May 2025
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC

Master of Arts (M.A.) in Italian Studies, May 2020
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC

Master of Arts (M.A.) in Linguistics, July 2013
Philipps University Marburg, Marburg, Germany.

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Linguistics and Cultural Mediation, May 2010
L'Orientale University of Naples, Naples, Italy.

Academic Exchange

Northern Caribbean University, Department of Humanities – College of Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Mandeville, Jamaica. September – December 2012.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- *Anna Maria Ortese's Mystical Animals: Posthumanism, Relational Ontology, Ecologies of Care and Transcendence* [based on completed doctoral dissertation, currently in preparation as a monograph].

Book Chapters

- Graziuso, Valentina. "Entangled Exploitations: Migration, Ecology, and Environmental Ethics in «Violazione» by Alessandra Sarchi." *Italy's (Post)Colonial Ecologies: Elements, Power, and Resistance*, edited by Giovanna Faleschini Learner and Liu Quan Mauro (forthcoming in Fall 2026).

Articles

- Graziuso, Valentina (2025). "Epistemologie della cura e intelligenza vegetale: uno sguardo ecocritico su «La nuova stagione» di Silvia Ballestra." *Italian Studies* (under revision with *Italian Studies Journal*).
- Graziuso, Valentina (2024). "Animalità, etica della compassione e trascendenza in «Alonso e i visionari» di Anna Maria Ortese." In: AA.VV., *Trasparenze. Monographic issue dedicated to Anna Maria Ortese*, pp. 99-117. Genova: Edizioni San Marco dei Giustiniani. ISBN: 9788874943678.
- Graziuso, Valentina (2023). "Convenzioni matrimoniali, emancipazione e consenso femminile in epoca medievale: La voce della Compiuta Donzella di Firenze." *Forum Italicum*, Volume 57, Issue 1, pp. 3 – 21. [DOI](#).

Book Review

- Graziuso, Valentina. Review of *Italian Science Fiction and the Environmental Humanities*, by Daniel A. Finch-Race, Emiliano Guaraldo, and Marco Malvestio. *Ecozon@: European Journal of Literature, Culture and Environment*, vol. 17, no. 1, 2026, pp. 395–398. <https://doi.org/10.37536/ECOZONA.2026.17.1.6014>.

INVITED GUEST LECTURES

- “Anna Maria Ortese’s Mystical Animals” for Professor Serenella Iovino’s graduate seminar *Animali narrativi e animali narrati*, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. November 11, 2025.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2018 - 2025 **Instructor of Italian as a Second Language and Culture**, Department of Romance Studies, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Instructor of Record (developing tests, homework, and syllabi).

- Elementary Italian I (Fall 2018; Spring 2019; Fall 2019; Spring 2021; Fall 2021).
- Elementary Italian II (Spring 2020; Spring 2022; Fall 2022; Spring 2024).
- Intermediate Italian I (Fall 2020; Spring 2021 – virtual section).
- Intermediate Italian II (Spring 2023; Fall 2024).
- Communicating in Italian: Media, Culture, and Society (Fall 2023).
- Intermediate Accelerated Italian II (Spring 2023).
- Italian Culture Today (Spring 2025).

Graduate Teaching Fellow (grading homework, tests, and final exams)

- GTF for ITAL 130 – Prof. Maggie Fritz-Morkin’s class, *Dante’s Divine Comedy*, Fall 2023.

AWARDS AND TEACHING EXCELLENCE

- 2021 Dana B. Drake Award for Excellence in Teaching Italian, May 2021.
- Finalist for the UNC Department of Romance Studies Graduate Teaching Fellow Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching – 2020 and 2023.
- 2024 Romance Studies Award – The UNC Graduate School and the College of Arts and Sciences, May 2024.
- Graduate Student Transportation Grant – The UNC Graduate School and the College of Arts and Sciences, May 2024.

ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **Course Coordinator**, ITAL 203 Intermediate Italian I, Fall 2023 – Spring 2024.
- **Graduate Research Consultant** (GRC), Professor Serenella Iovino’s class, ITAL 388: Environmental Issues in Italian Literature and Film, Fall 2023.
- **Graduate Research Consultant** (GRC), Professor Serenella Iovino’s class, ITAL 320: Cities and Cultures. History, Power, and Ecology, Fall 2022.

CONFERENCES ATTENDED

Recent Selected Presentations

- *Napoli come spazio etico di vulnerabilità e giustizia sociale nell’opera di Anna Maria Ortese*, **AAIS 2026** Annual Conference – American Association for Italian Studies *Precarity/Care/Liberation*. Università di Sassari, Italy, June 3–5, 2026.

- *Displacement, alterità ed etica della cura in «Il cardillo addolorato di Anna Maria Ortese»*
Chiasmi, 17th Annual Brown-Harvard International Conference in Italian Studies,
On Displacement(s) and Becoming. Brown University, Providence, April 10-11, 2026.
- *Regenerating Ecological Knowledge: Re-rooting Life and Biodiversity in Human Culture.*
NeMLA 57th Annual Convention – Northeast Modern Language Association,
(Re)generation. Pittsburgh, March 5–8, 2026.
- *Metamorfosi e continuità biologica: l'ecologia degli elementi nell'opera di Anna Maria Ortese.*
Chiasmi - 16th Annual Harvard-Brown Conference in Italian Studies, Elementi:
Transformations and Metamorphoses. Harvard University, April 4-5, 2025.
- *Change and Ethics of Posterity in Bruno Arpaia's Work «Qualcosa, là fuori».*
Carolina Conference for Romance Studies, Existence as Resistance, University of North
Carolina at Chapel Hill, March 28-29, 2025.
- *Carlo Levi tra nuovo umanesimo e cultura ecologica.*
AAIS 2025 Annual Conference – American Association for Italian Studies,
Performing/ Surviving/ Resisting, University of Pennsylvania, March 13-15, 2025.
- *«L'Iguana» di Anna Maria Ortese. Postumanesimo, ontologia relazionale e trascendenza.*
AAIS 2024 Annual Conference – American Association for Italian Studies, Sant'Anna
Institute, Sorrento, June 6–9, 2024.
- *Creaturalità e trascendenza nel corpo de «L'Iguana» di Anna Maria Ortese.*
Escritoras y Escrituras – XXI International Conference
Corpi terrestri, corpi celesti. L'avventura del corpo nella letteratura, dal secolo XIV. Università degli
Studi di Sassari, May 22–24, 2024.
- *Trascendenza ed etica della compassione in «Alonso e i visionari» di Anna Maria Ortese.*
CAIS 2023 Annual Conference – Canadian Association for Italian Studies,
University of Montreal, May 4–7, 2023 (remote attendance).

Proposed Panels

- “Beyond Human Hegemony: Narratives of Precarity, Care, and Liberation” for the 2026
AAIS Annual Conference, Sassari, Italy, June 3-5, 2026 (forthcoming).

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS ORGANIZED

In the Romance Studies Department, UNC

- Conference co-organizer: 28th Annual Carolina Conference for Romance Studies – *Esse Humani: The (Non)Human Question*, April 5–6, 2024, Carolina Student Union, Chapel Hill.
- Subcommittee Organizer: 27th Annual Carolina Conference for Romance Studies – *Nostalgia: Painful and Joyful Memory of “The Good Ole’ Days”*, 2023.
- Graduate Students Mentor: Academic years 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024.
- Committee Member: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, 2022–2023.
- Committee Member: Undergraduate Research Committee, academic year 2022–2023.
- Committee Member: Departmental Recognition Committee, academic year 2021–2022.

STUDENTS SUPPORT AND CAMPUS SERVICE

At The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

- U.S. Adult Mental Health First Aider, National Council for Mental Wellbeing, May 18–19, 2022.
- Safe Zone Ally, LGBTIQ+ Center, September 9, 2022.
- HAVEN (Helping Advocates for Ending Violence Now), Carolina Women's Center, November 14, 2022.
- Green Zone Training, Carolina Veteran Resource Center, March 31, 2023.
- UndocuCarolina Ally Training, UNC, May 3, 2023.

ACADEMIC WORKSHOPS ATTENDED

At The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

- Teaching Black Italy – Exploring the historical and contemporary presence of the African diaspora in Italy, workshops, remote attendance, July 8–12, 2024.
- Respecting All, The School of Medicine DEI, June 6, 2022
- Racial Justice, The School of Medicine DEI, June 28, 2022
- Unconscious Biases, The School of Medicine DEI, July 7, 2022
- CARE for Inclusion and Equity in Learning Environments, Stanford University (online), June 16, 2022

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- AAIS – American Association of Italian Studies, since 2023.
- CAIS – Canadian Association for Italian Studies, since 2023.
- AdI – Associazione degli Italianisti, since 2023.
- EASLCE – European Association for the Study of Literature, Culture, and Environment, since 2023.
- CIRTL – The Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning, 2022.

LANGUAGE SKILLS

- Italian: native speaker
- English: advanced (IELTS certification)
- French: fluent
- Spanish: fluent reading, good oral comprehension

COMPUTER SKILLS

- ECDL – European Computer Driving Licence, IDIS – Città della Scienza, Italy, September 2004