

# Julianne VanWagenen

[jvanwagenen.github.io](https://jvanwagenen.github.io) | Beijing, China / East Lansing, MI, USA | +86 185 1840 7553 | [vanwagen@umich.edu](mailto:vanwagen@umich.edu)

## EDUCATION

---

### Harvard University - Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

Cambridge, MA

PhD, Italian Studies (specialization in Digital Humanities)

2011 - May 2017

Dissertation: "The Mythologist in Microgroove: Fabrizio De André's Italy (1961-1981)"

Committee: Francesco Erspamer, Giuliana Minghelli, Jeffrey Schnapp

### DePaul University

Chicago, IL

BA, with High Honors, Italian Studies and English Literature

2002 - March 2006

Thesis in Italian: "Alberto Moravia alla ricerca del carattere sacro dell'uomo moderno"

Advisor: Gary Cestaro

Completion paper in English: "Arnold's Scholar Gypsy on the Road with Kerouac"

Advisor: Hugh Ingrasci

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

---

- 20th/21st-century Italian literature (especially Svevo, Pirandello, Bontempelli, Moravia, Morante, Ferrante);
- comparative frontier studies (especially between Italy, the U.S., and Argentina);
- comparative songwriter studies (between song, theatre, poetry and Italy, France, England, the US, Argentina);
- countercultural thought and cultural productions;
- the intersection of math and literature, science and literature;
- migration studies and Italian migration cinema;
- post-colonial studies;
- 20th-century Italian theatre (especially Fo and Pirandello);
- popular culture and comic books;
- translation and translation studies;
- digital platform development for humanities teaching;

## PUBLICATIONS

---

### Articles

"Italian Cowboy Songs: *i cantautori* and Bob Dylan's Myth of the Frontier West" *Submitted*.

"Corto Maltese, Counterculture Hero: A Unifying Figure for Francesco Guccini and Fabrizio De André's Revolutionary Visions." *Submitted*.

"[Fiddler Jones, Between Nostalgia and Revolution](#)." *Forthcoming*. Spring 2020, *Gradiva: International Journal of Poetry*. Stony Brook University.

"[Masters vs. Lee Masters: The Legacy of the Spoon River Author between Illinois and Italy](#)." *Forthcoming*. Fall 2019, *Forum Italicum*. Stony Brook University.

"[Chess Set Theory: The Fractal Realism of Bontempelli and Borges](#)." *South Central Review* 36.1 (Spring 2019): 104-128. Johns Hopkins University Press.

"[Canto X of Gerusalemme liberata](#)." Harvard Tasso Lab. *Romance Sphere*: 2-11. Web. May 2013.

### Book Chapters

"Le piazze d'Italia: de Chirico's Prophetic Vision of Public Space in Destination Italy" in *The City and Civilization: Representations of Urban Spaces in Italian Culture*. *Forthcoming* 2020/2021.

"Singer-songwriters as Cowboys: the Counterculture, the Global, the Outlawed" in *Critical Lyrical Perspectives*. *Forthcoming* 2020/2021.

## Contributor

Schnapp, Jeffrey T. *FuturPiaggio. 6 lezioni italiane sulla mobilità e sulla vita moderna / Six Italian Lessons on Mobility and Modern Life*. Rizzoli / Rizzoli New York, 2017.

## DIGITAL HUMANITIES PROJECTS

---

Digital Humanities consultant. [Archives Charlie à Harvard](#). Web. 2016 - 2018.

Project Lead. [www.curarium.com](#) and its [satellite site](#) with metaLAB (at) Harvard. Web. 2013 - Present.

Project Lead as Monad Media. "In Africa It's Another Story," Giuliana Minghelli, and the Harvard Fine Arts Library. <http://hcl.harvard.edu/libraries/finearts/exhibitions/africa/index.cfm>. Web. Aug. 2014.

Digital Humanities 2.0 Final Project. "Houghton.Translate: Translations (across Media) of 'L'Après-midi d'un faune'" <https://jvanwagenen.github.io/translating-from-the-textual/>. Web. Apr. 2012.

## INTERVIEWS

---

Mattei, Ugo. Interview with Julianne VanWagenen (in English). "[Overcoming Privatization](#)." *La Voce di New York*. Web. 7 Apr. 2016.

Prete, Antonio. Interview with Julianne VanWagenen (in Italian). "[La leggerezza dell'elefante](#)." *Romance Sphere*. Web. 23 Apr. 2012.

## REVIEWS

---

[Mistero Buffo](#). By Dario Fo, performed by The Poets' Theatre. *La Voce di New York*, 2016. Web. 7 Apr. 2016.

[Digital Humanities](#). By Anne Burdick, Johanna Drucker, Peter Lunenfeld, Todd Presner, Jeffrey Schnapp. *Romance Sphere*. Web. 5 May 2013.

[Italia reloaded. Ripartire con la cultura](#). Christian Caliandro and Pier Luigi Sacco. *Romance Sphere*. Web. 7 May 2012.

[The Electric Information Age Book: McLuhan/Agel/Fiore and the Experimental Paperback](#). By Jeffrey Schnapp and Adam Michaels. *Romance Sphere*. Web. 15 Apr. 2012.

## FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS & AWARDS

---

Elson Family Arts Initiative Fund to Support the Integration of Arts into the Curriculum	Spring 2017
Graduate School of Arts & Sciences Dissertation Completion Fellowship	Summer 2016 - Spring 2017
Harvard University Department of Romance Languages and Literatures Teaching Prize	2016
American Association of Teachers of Italian Travel Grant	2015
Harvard Graduate Student Council Conference Grant	2015
Harvard Graduate Student Council Summer Research Grant	2015
Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning Certificate of Excellence	Fall 2013, Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Fall 2015

## CONFERENCES & PAPERS

---

### Conferences/Panels Organized

It's All Relative: Modernism and Science. *Panel Chair*. MLA Conference, Seattle, 2020.

Pirandellian Transactions: Text, Context, Cultural Negotiation. *Panel Respondent*. MLA Conference, Chicago, 2019.

Conversation with Andrea Segre and Presentation of *Io sono Li*. Harvard University, 11 March 2013.

*Chiasmi, Cultural Materials / Material Culture*. Graduate Student Conference. Cambridge, MA. 8-10 March 2013.

## Invited Talks

[World Academic Salon Presentation](#). Tsinghua University. Beijing, China. 4 April 2019.

*Rethinking Poetry in the 21st Century: Songwriters in Culture and the Classroom*. China-UK Humanities Annual Forum. Chinese University of Hong Kong. 6 December 2018.

*Man of the Woods: Bob Dylan and the American West in the Italian 1970s Counterculture*. University of Southern California. Los Angeles, California. 25 April 2018.

*Fabrizio De André and Counter Pop*. McGill University. Montreal, Québec. 8 March 2017.

## Papers Presented

*Counterculture, Cowboys, and Cantautori: De André's Ironic Take on an American Myth*. NeMLA Conference, Washington DC, March, 2019.

*Le isole non trovate of Hugo Pratt and Francesco Guccini*. CSIS Conference, Ottawa, May, 2018.

*Digital Projects in the Humanist Classroom*. Paper and digital project. SCMLA Conference, Dallas, November, 2016.

*Civilizing the Scaffold: The Hanged Man from the Medieval to the Modern in Fabrizio De André*. Conference, Hartford, March, 2016.

*The Kaleidoscopic Rimini of De André as a Telescopic Extension of Fellini's Rimini*. Intersections/Intersezioni Conference, Florence, June, 2015.

*Fabrizio De André: "Oltre il confine stabilito."* AATI Annual Conference, Siena, June, 2015.

*Minimal description in 20th-century Short Fiction: Dante's Divine Comedy in Borges' "The aleph."* European Network for Short Fiction Research Conference, Trinity College, Dublin, April, 2015.

*Antonioni's L'avventura: Un giallo alla rovescia, Inside-Out not Backwards*. AATI Conference, Strasbourg, June, 2013.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Society of Fellows, University of Michigan

*Tsinghua-Michigan Fellow*

Beijing, China / Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA  
September 2018 - Present

### Tsinghua University

*Assistant Professor*

Beijing, China / Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA  
September 2019 - Present

### University of Southern California

*Lecturer in Italian*

Los Angeles, CA  
January 2018 - May 2018

### Harvard University

*Teaching Assistant, Course Developer*

Cambridge, MA  
September 2017 - January 2018

### Milan and Siena: Harvard Study Abroad Program

*Coordinator and Instructor*

Harvard Summer School (HSS)  
Summer 2016

### Monad Media

*Owner, Web App Development*

Cambridge, MA  
2014 - Present

### metaLAB (at) Harvard

*Principal*

Cambridge, MA  
2013 - 2017

### Harvard University

*Head Librarian, Dudley Library*

Cambridge, MA  
2012 - 2017

### The American in Italia Magazine

*Essayist for "Wonderland" Column ([43 essays](#))*

Rome, Italy  
2009 - 2014

### Physical Chemistry Department, Michigan State University

*Theoretician, Web developer*

East Lansing, MI  
2009 - 2011

### Associazione culturale italo-irlandese (AICI)

*English department director and language instructor*

Rome, Italy  
2007 - 2009

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

---

<b>Postcolonial Writing: Between the Nation and Relation</b> <i>Assistant Professor</i>	Tsinghua University Fall 2018, Fall 2019
<b>The Power and Limits of Sight: Reading the <i>Divine Comedy</i> with Borges</b> <i>Assistant Professor</i>	Tsinghua University Spring 2019
<b>Italian 235: Italian Culture and Conversation</b> <i>Instructor, Syllabus Developer</i>	USC Dornsife Spring 2018
<b>Italian 220: Third-Semester Italian</b> <i>Instructor</i>	USC Dornsife Spring 2018
<b>Italian 150: Second-Semester Italian</b> <i>Instructor</i>	USC Dornsife Spring 2018
<b>Italian 30: A History of Postwar Italy through Literature and Music</b> <i>Instructor, Syllabus Developer</i>	FAS, Harvard Fall 2017
<b>Italian 96R: Italian and the Community</b> <i>Instructor, Syllabus Developer</i>	FAS, Harvard Fall 2017
<b>Aesthetics &amp; Ethics: Beauty, Leadership, and Innovation</b> <i>Teaching Fellow</i>	Harvard Summer School Summer 2016, Summer 2017
<b>Intensive Beginning Italian: Gateway to Italy</b> <i>Instructor, Syllabus Developer</i>	Harvard Summer School Summer 2016, Summer 2017
<b>Intermediate Italian: Romance, Mystery, Noir, Western</b> <i>Instructor, Assistant Syllabus Developer</i>	Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS), Harvard Fall 2015, Spring 2016
<b>Humanities Studio 2.0: Homeless Paintings of the Italian Renaissance</b> <i>Teaching Fellow, Assistant Syllabus Developer</i>	FAS and Graduate School of Design (GSD), Harvard Spring 2014
<b>The Cosmos of The Comedy: Aesthetic and Interpretive Understanding 51</b> <i>Teaching Fellow</i>	FAS, Harvard Fall 2013
<b>Beginning Italian II: The Art and Craft of Italy</b> <i>Instructor</i>	FAS, Harvard Fall 2014
<b>Beginning Italian I: Pathways to Italy</b> <i>Instructor</i>	FAS, Harvard Fall 2013, Spring 2015

## ACADEMIC SERVICE

---

<b>Senior Thesis Advisor</b> <i>Thesis advising and defense committee member</i>	Tsinghua University Fall 2018 - Present
<a href="http://italiansongwriters.com">italiansongwriters.com</a> <i>Contributor</i>	Italian cantautori in Translation Project Aug 2018 - Present
<b>The PSA Journal</b> <i>Managing Editor</i>	The Pirandello Society of America Dec 2017 - Present
<b>Senior Thesis Advisor</b> <i>Italian Section Senior Thesis Advisor</i>	Harvard University Fall 2017
<b>"Digital Humanities Centers in Libraries" Talk</b> <i>Invited Roundtable Speaker</i>	Harvard Libraries 5 Dec 2016
<b>Department of Romance Language and Literature</b> <i>Assistant to the Chair</i>	FAS, Harvard 2014
<b>The Lauro De Bosis Italian Colloquium Speaker Series</b> <i>Video Series Coordinator</i>	FAS, Harvard 2013 - 2014
<b>Drucker, Johanna. <i>Graphesis: Visual Forms of Knowledge Production</i></b> <i>Copy editor</i>	FAS, Harvard 2014

## MEDIA COVERAGE

---

Research Featured in Volpe, Andrea. "[Being Human Now: How Innovative Methods and Contemporary Concerns are Helping Humanities Scholars Re-Envision the Past and Imagine the Future.](#)" *Colloquy*. Spring 2016. 12-17. Print.

## LANGUAGES

---

English (mother-tongue), Italian (near-native), Spanish (intermediate), French (reading knowledge)

## REFERENCES

---

### **Giuliana Minghelli**

*Professor of Language, Literature and Culture*  
 McGill University  
 688 Sherbrooke Street West  
 Montréal, QC H3A 0B2, Canada  
 514-398-3650 / [giuliana.minghelli@mcgill.ca](mailto:giuliana.minghelli@mcgill.ca)

### **Margaret Rosenthal**

*Professor of Italian, Comparative Literature and English*  
 University of Southern California  
 Taper Hall, 155D  
 Los Angeles, CA 90007  
 213-740-3702 / [mrosenth@usc.edu](mailto:mrosenth@usc.edu)

### **Francesco Erspamer**

*Professor of Romance Languages and Literatures*  
 Harvard University  
 Boylston Hall, 4th Floor  
 Cambridge, MA 02138  
 617-495-4940 / [erspamer@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:erspamer@fas.harvard.edu)

### **Jeffrey Schnapp**

*Professor of Romance Languages and Literatures; Comparative Literatures; Graduate School of Design*  
 Founder/faculty director of metaLAB (at) Harvard  
 Faculty co-director of the Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society  
 Harvard University  
 Boylston Hall, 4th Floor  
 Cambridge, MA 02138  
 617-495-2528 / [jeffrey@metalab.harvard.edu](mailto:jeffrey@metalab.harvard.edu)