

# 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

PhD, Italian Studies

Cambridge, MA

2011 - May 2017

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

Committee: Francesco Erspamer, Giuliana Minghelli, Jeffrey Schnapp

### DePaul University

BA, with High Honors, Italian Studies and English Literature

Chicago, IL

2002 - March 2006

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

---

- 20th/21st-century Italian literature;
- 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 ([jvanwagenen.github.io/writing](https://jvanwagenen.github.io/writing))

---

### 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*.

"[The Double Life of Fiddler Jones](#)" *Forthcoming*. Fall 2020, *Gradiva: International Journal of Poetry*. Stony Brook University.

"It's All Relative: Modernism and Science." *Pirandello Society Annual*. Vol. 32 (Spring 2020): pp. 13-21.

"[Masters vs. Lee Masters: The Legacy of the Spoon River Author between Illinois and Italy](#)." *Forum Italicum* Vol. 53(3) (Fall 2019): pp. 679-698. 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*. Amsterdam University Press. Forthcoming 2020.

"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](http://www.curarium.com) and its [satellite site](#) with metaLAB (at) Harvard. Web. 2013 - 2018.

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 Caliendo 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

Breaking the Fourth Wall: Experimental Theatre from *Six Characters* to Today. *Panel Chair*. MLA Conference, Toronto, 2021.

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

---

### Tsinghua-Michigan Society of Fellows

Postdoctoral Fellow

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

### Tsinghua University

Assistant Professor

Beijing, China  
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  
2010 - 2011

### Associazione culturale italo-irlandese (AICI)

English department director and language instructor

Rome, Italy  
2006 - 2010

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

---

### The Power and Limits of Sight: Reading the *Divine Comedy* with Borges

Assistant Professor

Tsinghua University  
Spring 2019, Spring 2020

### Postcolonial Writing: Between the Nation and Relation

Assistant Professor

Tsinghua University  
Fall 2018, Fall 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 Music, 1947-1985</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>The Pirandello Society of America</b> <i>Website creator, Webmaster</i>	Summer 2020 - Present
<b>The Pirandello Society of America</b> <i>Board of Directors</i>	Fall 2019 - Present
<b>Senior Thesis Advisor</b> <i>Thesis advising and defense committee member</i>	Tsinghua University Fall 2018 - Present
<b>Italian cantautori in Translation Project</b> <i>Contributor</i>	<a href="http://italiansongwriters.com">italiansongwriters.com</a> 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. Graphesis: Visual Forms of Knowledge Production</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)

### **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)

### **Donald S. Lopez Jr.**

*Arthur E. Link Distinguished University Professor of Buddhist and Tibetan Studies*  
*Chair of the University of Michigan Society of Fellows*  
 University of Michigan  
 202 South Thayer Street, Suite 5012  
 Ann Arbor, MI 48104-1608  
 734-615-1331 / [dlopez@umich.edu](mailto:dlopez@umich.edu)

### **James Fortney**

*Assistant Professor of Italian Language, Director of the Italian Language Program*  
 University of Southern California  
 Taper Hall, 155  
 Los Angeles, CA 90007  
 213-740-3700 / [fortney@usc.edu](mailto:fortney@usc.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)