

## ROSSELLA MERLINO

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### WORK EXPERIENCE

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2022-  
present

**Associate Editor of Modern Italy**, Journal of the Association for the Study of Modern Italy (ASMI). Liaise with Editorial Board, oversee assigned manuscripts and special issues, elect and assign reviewers, manage review process, make recommendations based on review outcomes, support authors.

Oct 2018-  
Dec 2021

**Horizon 2020 Marie Sklodowska-Curie Research Fellow**

Università degli Studi di Messina, Department of Political and Juridical Sciences

Project title: '*MessCa*': *mafia-type organised crime in the province of Messina* (GA799865)

Apart from research-related activities, my responsibilities included:

- As "Cultore della Materia" (subject expert) in Contemporary History (M-STO/04), contributed to the teaching of undergraduate and postgraduate courses in *Contemporary History*, *Corruption and Clientelism*, and doctoral seminars.
- Organized outreach and dissemination activities
- Mentored postgraduate students

Sept 2015-  
June 2022

**Lecturer and Head of Italian Studies, Bangor University, UK  
(on research leave 2018-2022)**

- Coordinated department of five tutors in Italian Studies
- Convened and taught courses on Contemporary Italian History, Literature and Cinema, European Cinema, Qualitative and Quantitative Research methods
- Designed, implemented and assessed integrated Italian history and culture modules
- Supervised undergraduate and postgraduate MA and PhD theses
- Prepared teaching material and updated module's VLE
- Set and gave feedback on formative and summative assessment
- Complied with University-wide management and administrative duties
- Provided pastoral care to students as a Personal Tutor
- Acted as Admissions and Final Year Dissertations Representative for the School of Modern languages, Literatures and Cultures

March-April  
2016

**Visiting Scholar, Seton Hall University, New York**

- Carried out research on mafia in the US in the late 1800s
- Gave lectures on literary representations and a keynote speech on mafia as a Southern Question to a general audience

Sept 2014-  
Aug 2015

**Associate Lecturer in Italian, University of Exeter**

- Designed and delivered integrated modules in Italian Language and Culture
- Set formative and summative assessment
- Complied with management and administrative duties

Sept 2013-  
Sept 2014

**Teaching Fellow in Italian Studies, University of Bath**

- Convened, designed and delivered undergraduate Contemporary History and Politics modules

- Prepared teaching materials and delivered lectures, seminars, and tutorials
- Provided pastoral care acting as a Personal Tutor
- Set and marked coursework and exams, providing formative and summative feedback
- Contributed to organising outreach activities
- Successfully completed the *Bath Course in Enhancing Academic Practice*

Oct 2009-  
June 2013

**PhD Teaching Assistant**  
**Strathclyde University, Glasgow, UK**

As a PhD student, contributed to the teaching and assessment of Italian language modules *ab initio* to honours level, and Italian Cultural Studies modules, including History, Cinema and Literature

Oct 2004-  
Sept 2008

**International House London**  
**CLTA Teacher Trainer**

- Trained prospective CELTA teachers
- Provided graded observations and award certificates
- Observed and provided feedback after Teaching Practice sessions
- Planned and delivered Language Awareness sessions for all MFLs
- Developed course material and programmes

2004-2007

**Ofsted Peer-Observation and Review of Teaching Instructor**  
**City University London**

- Achieved OFSTED Peer-Observation and Review of Teaching Certificate
- Monitored, advised and contributed to enhancing teaching practice at City University London

## EDUCATION

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Oct 2009-  
June 2013

**PhD in Italian Studies**  
**University of Strathclyde, Glasgow**

Thesis: *'In the Name of the Godfather: an interdisciplinary study on the role of religion in the communicative practices of the Sicilian mafia'*

Viva held on 26 June 2013

Oct 2007-  
Sept 2008

**Master of Arts in Contemporary Italian Culture and History**  
**University College London**

Principal Subjects: Memory of Terrorism, Modernity and Postmodernity in Italian Literature, Organised Crime in Italy, Genre in Italian Cinema, Social Movements in the 1960s.

Dissertation Grade: Distinction

Sept 1999-  
Sept 2002

**BA Degree in Foreign Languages and Literatures (Interpreting and Translation).**  
**Università degli Studi 'G. D'Annunzio', Pescara**

Grade: 110/110

2001

**Traineeship in English for Academic Purposes**  
**University of Western Australia (UWA), Perth**

Six-month Translation Traineeship and Study Programme.

Grade: A+

2000

**Traineeship in Spanish Language and Literature**  
**University of Salamanca, Spain**

Six-month Translation Traineeship and Study Programme in Spanish Culture and Literature.

Translation of *El Cuarto de Atrás* by Carmen Martín Gaité.

Grade: *Sobresaliente* (Outstanding)

## TEACHING QUALIFICATIONS

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2014

### University of Bath

#### The Bath Course in Enhancing Academic Practice

Work-based learning course aimed at:

- Enhancing teaching practice
- Developing teaching, feedback and assessment skills
- Broadening skills in designing and implementing research-based curricula

2008

### International House London

- Teacher Trainer Certificate (CLTA)
- EDI Training and Awareness-Raising Programme
- Cross-Cultural Trainer Certificate to deliver cross-cultural training programmes
- Graded Observations and Reports Writing: intensive training on peer-observation and feedback writing
- Full-Time Certificate in Language Teaching to Adults (CLTA)

2008

2007

2006

2004

## GRANTS and SCHOLARSHIP

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**H2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship** € 168,277.20

**Seton Hall University**, April 2016: fully funded Visiting Fellowship \$ 5,000

**University of Strathclyde**, 2009-2013: 3-year fully funded John Anderson PhD Scholarship £ 36,000

## PhD SUPERVISORY WORK

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2018-present

**Bangor University:** Gareth White's PhD Thesis, "Italians in Wales: A Transnational Approach to Italian Working Practices in Wales 1870s–1950s"

## PUBLICATIONS

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### MONOGRAPHS

MERLINO R., (2023) *La mafia prima della mafia. The Messina case*, Studi Storici Carocci, Carocci, Roma (forthcoming).

CHIARA L. and MERLINO R. (expected 2023) (eds) *Mafie tra continuità e mutamento: analisi esperienze, narrative* (provisional title) Biblioteca di Testi e Studi, Carocci, Roma (in preparation)

### ARTICLES and BOOK CHAPTERS

MERLINO R., 'Miscreants, supreme bosses and counterfeiters. The mafia between Messina and New York in 1870s', *Modern Italy*, Cambridge University Press (in submission)

MERLINO, R. (2019), *Pizzini: Sicilian mafia culture between continuity and change*. In F. Allum, I. Clough Marinaro, & R. Sciarrone (Eds.), *Italian Mafias Today: Territory, Business and Politics* (pp. 125–141), Edward Elgar.

ALLUM, F, MERLINO, R. & COLLETTI, A. (2019), 'Facilitating the Italian Mafia: The Grey Zone of Complicity and Collusion', *South European Society and Politics*, vol. 24, no. 1, pp. 79-101.

MERLINO, R., (2017), 'Papi, cupole e mandarini tardivi: Religiosità e identità nelle parole del boss Michele Greco', in *L'immaginario devoto tra organizzazioni mafiose e lotta alla mafia*. Viella Editrice, Rome, pp. 61-82.

MERLINO, R. (2015), 'Tales of Trauma, Identity, and God: The Memoirs of Mafia Boss Michele Greco and Leonardo Vitale', *European Review of Organised Crime*, vol. 1, no. 2, pp. 49-75.

MERLINO, R., (2015), 'Sicilian Mafia, Patron Saints, and Religious Processions: The consistent face of an ever-changing criminal organization', *California Italian Studies Journal*, vol. 5, no. 1.

MERLINO, R., (2015), 'Devotion and identity in the history of the Sicilian mafia. The case of Bernardo Provenzano', in *RESET: Dialogues on Civilizations* (open)

MERLINO, R., (2013), 'The sacred oath of a secret ritual: Performing authority and submission in the Mafia initiation ceremony', *Forum The University of Edinburgh Postgraduate Journal of Culture & the Arts*, 17.

MERLINO, R., (2012), 'Con il Volere di Dio': religious symbolic ritual of mafia boss Bernardo Provenzano, *Modern Italy*, vol. 17, no. 3, Routledge, 365-381.

MERLINO, R., (2012), "From a Man to a 'Man of Honour': The Role of Religion in the Initiation Ritual of the Sicilian Mafia", *The International Journal of the Humanities: Annual Review*, 9 (11): 59-70.

## JOURNAL EDITING and PEER-REVIEWING

Peer-reviewer for the *Journal of Modern Italian Studies*, Taylor and Francis

Peer-reviewer for the *Italian American Review*, The journal of the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute

Peer-reviewer for *Modern Italy*, The journal of the Association for the Study of Modern Italy

Peer-reviewer for *The European Review of Organised Crime* (ERO) Journal of the European Consortium for Political Research's Standing Group on Organised Crime (ECPR's SGOC)

Associate Editor for *The International Journal of the Humanities*, volume 9, Issue 6

Associate Editor for *The International Journal of the Humanities*, volume 9, Issue 7

## OUTREACH

### CONFERENCE ORGANISATION

8-9 Dec '23

**ILCS, Senate House London, Annual ASMI Conference 2023: *Mafias and the Italian State 30 years on: history, narratives and investigations***

27-28 Sept '21

**Università degli Studi di Messina: *Mafie tra continuità e mutamento: analisi, esperienze, narrative*, 27-28 September 2021**

2021/2022

**Bangor University: Research Seminar Series on *Southern Italy: Representing the Italian South***

20-21 Nov 2014

**Casa della Memoria e della Storia, Rome Two-days conference on Organised Crime, Religion and the Church: *L'immaginario devoto tra organizzazioni mafiose e lotta alla mafia***

## KEYNOTES and INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- 20 May '23 **American Association of Italian Studies (AAIS)**, Presidential panel: *Outside the Law: renegades, rebels, anarchists*
- 5 Mar '23 **The Garden Cinema London, Italian Film Festival**, panel on *Primadonna* (Marta Savina 2023)
- 26 Oct '22 **The University of Lucerne**, Keynote: *Italian mafias (Cosa Nostra, 'Ndrangheta & Camorra) yesterday and today: continuity of an ever-changing phenomenon*
- 1 Dec '21 **European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR)** *Mafia business in the time of Covid-19: the case of Messina*, OC24 Virtual Conference on Global Organised Crime
- 2 Dec '21 **ECPR** OC24 Virtual Conference on Global Organised Crime, book presentation session on *Gender and Organised Crime*
- 10 June '21 **ECPR** Summer School on Transnational Organised Crime, Keynote speech on *Transnational Organised Crime and Religion*, ECPR-SGOC Online
- 21 May '21 **Università degli Studi di Messina**, *Genesi di una strage*, in commemoration of the Capaci bombing
- 10 Nov '20 **ECPR** 24-hour virtual Conference on Global Organised Crime, *Mafia in the province of Messina: a long-underestimated phenomenon*
- 9 Nov '20 **ECPR**, 24-hour virtual Conference on Global Organised Crime *Confessions of a mafia killer documentary*, in conversation with BBC Foreign Affairs Correspondent Dominic Casciani
- April 2019 **Bangor University**, Research Seminar Series MSCA-IF research project experience
- 23–24 Jun '16 **Bristol University**, *Sacred Texts and Secret Letters: mafia communication between tradition and change*, ASMI Postgraduate Summer School,
- 28 Oct 2015 **Bangor University**, *Sicilian mafia, sacred ritual and communication*, Bangor Research Seminar Series
- Dec 2015 **Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II, Naples** *Italian mafias, religion and a Church: is a change possible?* Invited panel at the ECPR Standing Group on Organised Crime First General Conference on 'Old and new forms of organised crime between the local and the global'
- June 2015 **University of Bath** *The pious face of the Camorra: insecurity, religion and the Church*. GW4 Alliance 1<sup>st</sup> workshop on 'Challenges of an Insecure Society: Naples in the Second Republic (1993-present)
- June 2014 **University of Catania** *Organised crime at the time of crisis: the interesting case of the Italian mafias*', ESGOC Intensive Summer School on Serious and Organized Crime (ISSOC),

## SELECTED CONFERENCE PAPERS

- 14 Oct 2022 **European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR)**, roundtable on *Mafia culture and cultural representations*
- Nov 2014 **University of Rome Tor Vergata**, *Memoriali di mafia: identità, trauma, religione*, International Conference on 'L'immaginario devoto tra organizzazioni mafiose e lotta alla mafia'
- April 2014 **University of Bath**, *The religious dimension of mafia organisations: an interdisciplinary analysis*', PoLIS Department Seminar Series
- June 2012 **University of Granada, Spain**, *From a Man to a 'Man of Honour': The Role of Religion in the Interaction Rituals of the Sicilian Mafia*', 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on New Directions in the Humanities
- June 2011 **University of Bristol**, *The devout godfathers: case studies on the religious performative behaviours of three mafia bosses*', ASMI Postgraduate Conference
- Feb 2011 **University of Strathclyde**, *'La punciuta': Religious Rituals and Symbols in the Initiation Ceremony of the Sicilian Mafia*, RSS

Aug 2010

**University of Cambridge**, *'An Interdisciplinary Approach to the Study of Religion in the Cultural Dimension of Cosa Nostra'*, Fifth International Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Sciences

June 2010

**University of Birmingham**, *'The religion of mafia boss Bernardo Provenzano: a case study of religion in the cultural life of Cosa Nostra'*, ASMI Postgraduate Conference

Nov 2009

**International House London, 9<sup>th</sup>**, *'Task-Based Approach to Teaching Foreign Modern Languages to adult learners'*, 1<sup>st</sup> Modern Languages Conference (MoLaCo)

### MEMBERSHIPS

**ASMI:** Association of the Study of Modern Italy

**AAIS:** American Association of Italian Studies

**SIS:** Society for Italian Studies

**BSA:** British Sociological Association

### LANGUAGE SKILLS

Languages	Receptive skills		Productive skills	
	listening	reading	speaking	writing
<b>Italian</b>	NATIVE			
<b>English</b>	C2	C2	C2	C2
<b>Spanish</b>	C2	C2	C2	C1

(\*) *Common European Framework of Reference for Languages*

Celbridge, 25/05/2023

