

## Martin G. Eisner

Department of Romance Studies  
Duke University  
205 Language Center/Box 90257  
Durham, NC 27708  
[martin.eisner@duke.edu](mailto:martin.eisner@duke.edu)

### ACADEMIC POSITIONS DUKE UNIVERSITY

*Associate Professor of Italian Studies* 2013-present  
*Andrew W. Mellon Assistant Professor of Romance Studies* 2008-2009  
*Assistant Professor of Italian Studies* 2005-2013

### EDUCATION

#### COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

*Ph.D. in Comparative Literature and Italian with distinction* 2005  
Dissertation: *Boccaccio between Dante and Petrarch: The Chigiano Codex, the Terza Rima Trilogy, and the Shaping of Literary History*  
*M.Phil. in Comparative Literature with distinction* 2002  
*M.A. in Italian* 2002  
*B.A. in Italian, magna cum laude with Departmental Honors and Phi Beta Kappa* 1999

### GRANTS, AWARDS, & PRIZES

*Lily Auchincloss Rome Prize, American Academy in Rome (Medieval Competition)* 2013-14  
*Rome Prize, American Academy in Rome (Renaissance Competition)* 2013-14  
*Mellon Faculty Book Workshop* 2012  
*Member, School of Historical Studies, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton* Spring, 2008  
*Franklin Research Grant, American Philosophical Society* 2007  
*Fulbright Fellowship* 2005-06  
*Arts & Sciences Research Funds* 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09  
*Mellon Summer Institute Fellow, Italian Paleography, Newberry Library* Summer, 2005  
*Medieval Academy, CARA Grant for Mellon Summer Institute* Summer, 2005  
*Erasmus Institute Seminar on Illuminated Manuscripts, Notre Dame* Summer, 2005  
*Charles Grandgent Prize from Dante Society of America* 2001  
*Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship* 2001-02  
*Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship in Humanistic Studies* 1999-2000

### PUBLICATIONS

#### BOOKS

*Dante and the Afterlife of the Book: Philology, World Literature and the Future of Literary History.*  
In progress.

*Boccaccio and the Invention of Italian Literature: Dante, Petrarch, Cavalcanti and the Authority of the Vernacular.* Cambridge University Press, 2013.

#### ARTICLES

“The Word Made Flesh in *Inferno* 5: Francesca and the Figure of the Annunciation.”  
*Dante Studies* 131 (2013).

“In the Labyrinth of the Library: Petrarch’s Cicero, Dante’s Virgil, and the Historiography of the Renaissance.” *Renaissance Quarterly* 67 (2014).

“Eroticizing Theology in Day Three and the Poetics of the *Decameron*.” *Annali d’Italianistica* 31 (2013): 207-224.

“Boccaccio e l’invenzione della letteratura italiana.” *Le tre corone* 1 (2014): 11-26.

“The Return to Philology and the Future of Literary Criticism: Reading the Temporality of Literature in Auerbach, Benjamin, and Dante.” *California Italian Studies* 2, Special Issue: Italian Futures. 2011.

“*Libido Sciendi*: Boccaccio, Apuleius, and the Study of the History of Sexuality” (co-written with Marc Schachter). *PMLA* 124 (2009): 817-37.  
Reprinted in *Classical and Medieval Literature Criticism: Giovanni Boccaccio* (Gale Publishing, 2012).

BOOK  
CHAPTERS

“In Boccaccio’s Hand: Reconsidering the Construction of Chigi L V 176”. *Boccaccio Philologist and Philosopher*, edited by Teodolinda Barolini and H. Wayne Storey. Indiana University Press, Forthcoming.

“A Singular Boccaccio: Defending and Defining Poetry in the *Decameron* and *Genealogie*.”

“Dante and the Author of the *Decameron*: Love, Literature, and Authority in Boccaccio.” *Oxford Handbook to Chaucer*, edited by Suzanne Akbari. Oxford UP, 2014.

“The Tale of Ferondo’s Purgatory (III.8).” In *The Decameron: Third Day*, edited by Pier Massimo Forni and Francesco Ciabattoni, 153-73. University of Toronto Press, 2014.

“Petrarch Reading Boccaccio: Revisiting the Genesis of the *Triumphs*.” In *Petrarch and the Textual Origins of Interpretation*, edited by Teodolinda Barolini and H. Wayne Storey, 131-46. Leiden: Brill, 2007.

REVIEWS

Rev. of Bonnie Mak, *How the Page Matters*. *Renaissance Quarterly* 66 (2013): 706-707.

Rev. of Rhiannon Daniels, *Boccaccio and the Book*. *Renaissance Quarterly* 63 (2010): 545-46.

Rev. of Carol Lansing. *Passion and Order: Restraint of Grief in the Medieval Italian Communes*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2008. H-Italy.  
<http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showpdf.php?id=26281>

Rev. of Vincenzo Traversa, ed. and trans. *Giovanni Boccaccio, Theseid of the Nuptials of Emilia (Teseida delle nozze di Emilia)*. *Heliotropia* 5 (2008).  
[http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Italian\\_Studies/heliotropia/05/eisner.pdf](http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Italian_Studies/heliotropia/05/eisner.pdf)

Rev. of Prue Shaw, ed. *Dante: Monarchia on CD-ROM*. Birmingham, U.K.: Scholarly Digital Editions, 2006 for *The Medieval Review*.  
<http://hdl.handle.net/2022/4303>

ENCYCLOPEDIA  
ENTRIES

“Giovanni Boccaccio,” “Commedia,” and “Dante Alighieri.” In *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*, edited by Choon Leong Seow, Hermann Spieckermann, Paul Mendes-Flohr, Bernard McGinn, Hans-Josef Klauck, and Eric Ziolkowski. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2008-.

TRANSLATION

“Avicenna: Black Bile and Melancholia.” Translation of Giraldus Cambrensis’ medieval Latin translation of the Arabic original, in *The Nature of Melancholy*, edited by Jennifer Radden. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000), 77-78.

INVITED LECTURES

“*Con le Muse in Parnaso*: Boccaccio’s Ideas of Cultural Renaissance between Dante and Petrarch.” A Boccaccian Renaissance. University of California, Berkeley/Stanford Conference. October 2013.

“The Invention of Italian Literature: Dante, Petrarch, and Cavalcanti in Boccaccio’s Hand.” NYU in Florence, La Pietra. September 2013.

- “Boccaccio in Venice: The 1363 Mission to Petrarch.” Boccaccio Veneto: Cultural crossing in the Medieval Mediterranean. “Casa Artom”, Wake Forest University, Venice, June 2013.
- “Boccaccio’s Open Book: Chigi L V 176 and the Invention of Italian Literature.” Boccaccio and Chaucer Conference. Università di Roma, La Sapienza. June 2013.
- “Mediating Dante: Boccaccio and the Transformation of a Modern Author.” Dante Society of America, Annual Meeting. Cambridge, MA. May 2013.
- “A Singular Boccaccio: The Authority of Literature in the *Decameron* and *Genealogie*.” Princeton University. April 2012.
- “The Codex and the Canon: Boccaccio and the Making of Dante, Petrarch, and Cavalcanti.” University of California, Berkeley. October 2011.
- “Boccaccio and the Authority of Literature.” Mary Washington University. October 2011.
- “The ‘Careless’ Scribe: Boccaccio’s Chigi Codex and the Invention of Italian Literature.” *Boccaccio filologo-filosofo* conference, Columbia University. April 2011.
- “Boccaccio’s Experiments with the Material Book.” Material Philology and the Neo-Latin Text. Netherlands. October 2010.
- “World Literature without Philology?: Rethinking the Shape of Literary History with Auerbach and Dante.” Erich Auerbach and the Future of Literary Criticism Conference. University of Illinois, Urbana. April 2008.
- “Figuring Philology: Beyond Flowers, Rivers, Roots and Branches” Coccia Conference on Inventing History: Italian Literature Between Philology and Theory. University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, November 2007.
- CONFERENCE PAPERS** “Remediating Dante’s *Vita nuova* from Page to Stage: The Case of Ridley Scott’s Hannibal (2001).” AAIS, Zurich. May 2014.
- “Boccaccio’s Cavalcanti between Invention and Transcription.” Locating Boccaccio 2013. Manchester, UK. July 2013.
- “Boccaccio’s Renaissance: Ideas of Cultural Renewal Between Dante and Petrarch.” Boccaccio at 700. Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Binghamton University. April 2013.
- “Eroticizing the Otherworld in Decameron 3.” AAIS, Eugene, OR. April 2013.
- “Illuminating Passages: Shades of Dante’s Virgil in Petrarch’s Letter to Cicero (*Fam.* 24.3). Paper delivered on “Rethinking the Boundaries of Humanism” Panel, organized by myself and David Lumms. RSA, Washington, DC. March 2012.
- “Boccaccio on Dante and Truth in Ferondo’s Purgatory (*Decameron* III.8).” *Lectura Boccaccii* single-speaker session. MLA, Los Angeles. January 2011.
- “Boccaccio and the Invention of Italian Literature.” Panel on “Boccaccio’s Legacies,” organized by the Division for Comparative Studies in Renaissance and Baroque Literature. MLA, Seattle, January 2012.
- “The Point of Reading: The Word Made Flesh in the Annunciation and *Inferno* 5.” Representations of Dante’s *Inferno* in the Visual Arts. MLA, Los Angeles. January 2011.
- “Boccaccio’s Conversation with Dante: Defending Literature in the Frame of the *Decameron*.” PAMLA, Hawaii. November 2010.

- “A Singular Boccaccio.” Triennial International Boccaccio Conference. Amherst, Massachusetts. April 2010.
- Organized panel on Re-materializing Literary History: Innovation and the Matter of Form at Renaissance Society of America. April 2010.
- “Petrarch’s Influence on Dante: The Multiple Temporalities of Literary History.” Revising Petrarch Panel. Renaissance Society of America. April 2009.
- “The Editor as Producer in the Early Modern Period.” Panel moderator. MLA, Chicago, December 2007.
- “The *Lives* of Dante’s corpus: Recodifying Boccaccio’s Biography of Dante.” Paper delivered at the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing Panel. MLA, Chicago, December 2007.
- “Borges’ Pierre Menard and Dante’s Poetics of Editing.” Producing the Renaissance Text Conference. Duke University, February, 2007.
- “Incarnations of the *Vita nuova*: The Hermeneutics of a Textual Tradition.” MLA, Washington, DC, December 2005.
- “Ezra Pound among the Philologists” Romancing the Humanities Seminar, November 2005.
- “The Marriage of Mercury and Philology Revisited.” American Association of Teachers of Italian, Washington, DC, October 2005.
- “Boccaccio Between Dante and Petrarch: The Chigiano Codex.” Paper delivered at the Inter-University Doctoral Consortium Graduate Conference, April 2005.
- “Boccaccio’s Otherworld: Engaging Dante in the *Decameron*.” Paper delivered at Carolina Conference for Romance Languages, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill in March 2003.
- “Meaning’s Order: Putting *A ciascun’alma* in Its Place.” Received Grandgent Prize from the Dante Society of America for best graduate student essay on Dante in 2001.
- “The Consolation of the *Commedia*: On Boethius’ Presence in Dante.” Paper delivered at the Annual Meeting of the American Association for Italian Studies. New York, NY, April 2000.

**SERVICE**

## UNIVERSITY

<i>Undergraduate Admissions and Financial Aid Committee</i>	<i>Fall 2009-present</i>
<i>Arts &amp; Sciences Council, alternate</i>	<i>Spring 2009</i>
<i>Executive Committee, Medieval &amp; Renaissance Studies</i>	<i>Fall 2006-present</i>
<i>First Year Summer Reading Committee</i>	<i>2008-09, 2009-10</i>
<i>Academic Council</i>	<i>2008-09, Fall 2011</i>
<i>Faculty in Residence</i>	<i>Fall 2006-Spring 2009</i>
<i>Academic Advisor for Pre-Majors</i>	<i>2006-2010, 2011-13</i>

## DEPARTMENT

## DISSERTATION COMMITTEES

<i>Julie Singer (Duke)</i>	<i>Spring 2006</i>
<i>Brandon Essary (UNC)</i>	<i>Spring 2012</i>

## DISSERTATION PROSPECTUS DEFENSES

<i>David Cane (UNC)</i>	<i>Spring 2010</i>
<i>Brandon Essary (UNC)</i>	<i>Spring 2011</i>
<i>Giuseppe Prigiotti (Duke)</i>	<i>Spring 2012</i>

<i>Advisor for Italian Majors</i>	Fall 2008-Spring 2009, Spring 2011
<i>Graduate Admissions Committee</i>	2010-11
<i>Curriculum Committee, Romance Studies</i>	2010-11, 2011-12
<i>Romance Studies Ph.D. Committee</i>	2005-06, Spring 2007
<i>Lectures and Media Committee</i>	2005-06, 07-08, 08-09, Spring 10 (chair), 11-12
<i>Romance Studies Workshop Organizing Committee</i>	2011-12
<i>Romance Studies Website Task Force</i>	2007-08
<i>Graduate Affairs Task Force</i>	2007-08
<i>Graduate Student Affairs Task Force</i>	2007-08
<i>Library Representative</i>	2005-06, 2006-07, Spring 2010
<i>Faculty Secretary</i>	Spring 2010
<i>Honors Thesis Committee (Arturo Lei, Lauren Lee-Houghton)</i>	Spring 2009, 2010
<i>Independent Study resulting in student's Dante Prize (David Ungvary)</i>	Spring 2009

## SCHOLARLY COMMUNITY

<i>Executive Committee, MLA Division of Medieval &amp; Renaissance Italian Literature</i>	2014-present
<i>Expert Evaluator, Swiss National Science Foundation (Humanities Division)</i>	2010, 2011
<i>External Reader, Renaissance Quarterly</i>	Spring 2012
<i>External Reader, University of Chicago Press</i>	Spring 2012
<i>External Reader, University of Toronto Press</i>	Spring 2011
<i>External Reader, Pedagogy</i>	Spring 2011
<i>External Reader, Journal of Literature &amp; Theology</i>	Fall 2009
<i>External Reader, Yale University Press</i>	Spring 2008
<i>External Reader, Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies</i>	Spring 2007
<i>External Reader, Digital Philology</i>	Spring 2013
<i>External Reader, Exemplaria</i>	Spring 2013

## COURSES TAUGHT

## DUKE UNIVERSITY

<i>Poetry and the Invention of Italy (Italian 323S)</i>	S2013
<i>Machiavellian Persuasion (Romance Studies 203)</i>	F2012
<i>Dante and the Afterlife of the Book (Italian 202S)</i>	F2011
<i>Boccaccio's Decameron and the Future of Literary Criticism (Italian 202S)</i>	S2011
<i>The Materiality of Literature (Romance Studies 150S/200S)</i>	S2010
<i>Dante's Divine Comedy (Italian 143, now 481)</i>	F2007, S09, S11, S12, S13
<i>Introduction to Medieval &amp; Renaissance Italian Literature (Ital 111)</i>	F05, S07, F07, S09
<i>Speech, Sex, and Death: Boccaccio's Decameron (Italian 122, now 482)</i>	S2006, F2011, F12
<i>Boccaccio &amp; Marguerite de Navarre (RS 200S, with Marc Schachter)</i>	S2007
<i>The Medieval Italian Lyric Book (Italian 164S)</i>	S2006
<i>Dante in Translation (Italian 129A)</i>	F2005

## COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

<i>Literature Humanities: Masterpieces of Western Literature</i>	2002-03 and 2003-04
<i>Elementary Italian I &amp; II</i>	2000-01, 2001-02

## LANGUAGES

Fluent in Italian. Proficient in French.  
Reading competence in Latin, Old Occitan (Provençal), and Spanish.