

# ARIELLE SAIBER

Associate Professor of Italian  
Department of Romance Languages  
Bowdoin College  
Brunswick, ME 04011  
[asaiber@bowdoin.edu](mailto:asaiber@bowdoin.edu)

---

## EDUCATION

Yale University	Ph.D., Italian Literature	1999
Yale University	M.A., Italian Literature	1994
Hampshire College	B.A., Philosophy	1993
Università di Bologna	Four courses in Philosophy	1991 – 1992

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

*Giordano Bruno and the Geometry of Language* (Aldershot, England: Ashgate Press, 2005).

Co-editor (with Stefano Baldassarri). *Images of Quattrocento Florence: Selected Writings in Literature, History, and Art* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2000).

### Articles

“The Song of the Return: *Paradiso* XXXIII.” *Lectura Dantis: Paradiso*. Ed. Allen Mandelbaum, Anthony Oldcorn, and Charles Ross. Berkeley: University of California Press. Forthcoming.

“Paul Laffoley’s *Dante’s Divine Comedy* Triptych.” *Paul Laffoley: Building for the Bauharoque*. Ed. Doug Walla. New York: Kent Gallery, Inc. Forthcoming.

“The Middle Ages and Early Renaissance.” *Routledge Companion to Literature and Science*. Ed. Bruce Clarke and Manuela Rossini. London: Routledge Press. Forthcoming.

with Henry S. Turner. Introduction to “Mathematics and the Imagination.” Ed. Arielle Saiber and Henry S. Turner. A special issue of *Configurations*. Forthcoming 2010.

“When in (Renaissance) Rome...” *Cabinet. A Quarterly Magazine of Art and Culture* 35 (2009): 12-15.

“Virtual Reality: *Purgatorio* XV.” *Lectura Dantis: Purgatorio*. Eds. Allen Mandelbaum, Anthony Oldcorn, and Charles Ross. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2008: 151-166.

“The Polyvalent Discourse of Electronic Music.” *PMLA*. October (2007): 1613-1625.

“Flexilinear Language in Giambattista Della Porta’s *Elementorum curvilinearorum libri tres*.” *Annali d’Italianistica* 23 (2005): 89-104.

“The Giordano Asteroid and Giordano Bruno Lunar Crater: A Tale of Two Namings.” *Bruniana & Campanelliana* 10.1 (2004): 183-191.

with Elliott King. “Hyperdimensionality in Salvador Dalí’s Illustrations of Dante’s *Paradiso*.” *Illuminating Dante* (an on-line database of articles supported by the Dante Society of America and a grant from the Mellon Foundation), April, 2003.

“Ornamental Flourishes in Giordano Bruno’s Geometry.” *Sixteenth Century Journal* 34 (2003): 730-747.

“Un convegno su Bruno a Chicago.” *Bruniana & Campanelliana* 5 (1999) 1:213-15.

### **Guest Editor**

with Giuseppe Mazzotta. *Dante and Longfellow*. A special issue of *Dante Studies*.

with Henry S. Turner. “Mathematics and the Imagination.” A special issue of *Configurations*. Forthcoming, 2010.

### **Works in Progress**

*Well-Versed Mathematics in Early Modern Italy (1450-1650)*.  
Advance contract with the University of Toronto Press.

“Niccolò Tartaglia’s Poetic Solution to the Cubic Equation.” *Science, Literature, and the Arts in Medieval and Early Modern Italy*. Ed. Federica Anichini.

“Q.E.D. in Boccaccio’s *Caccia di Diana*.”

with Mark Peterson, “Dante and Archimedes: Measuring the Circle in *Paradiso* XXXIII.”

Translation and critical edition of Giordano Bruno, *De l’infinito universo e mondi* (London, 1584) for UCLA Press. Ed. Brian Copenhaver and David Marsh.

### **Book Reviews**

Anna Laura Puliafito Bleuel, *Comica pazzia: Vicissitudine e destini umani nel Candelaio di Giordano Bruno* (Florence: Olschki, 2007) for *Renaissance Quarterly* 62 (Spring 2009): 207-209.

Eugenio Canone and Ingrid Rowland, ed. *The Alchemy of Extremes: The Laboratory of The Eroici Furori of Giordano Bruno* (Pisa-Rome: Istituti Editoriali e Poligrafici Internazionali, 2007) for *The Medieval Review*. <http://hdl.handle.net/2027/spo.baj9928.0811.020> (2008)

Leo Catana, *The Concept of Contraction in Giordano Bruno's Philosophy* (Aldershot: Ashgate Publishing 2005) for *Renaissance Quarterly* 59.3 (2006): 833-834.

Pierpaolo Antonello and Simon Gilson, ed., *Science and Literature in Italian Culture: A Festschrift for Pat Boyde* (Oxford: Legenda, 2005) for *Italian Studies* 60.2 (2005): 255-257.

Louis Van Delft, *Frammento e anatomia: Rivoluzione scientifica e creazione letteraria* (Bologna: Il Mulino, 2004) for *Renaissance Quarterly* 58.3 (2005): 990-992.

Simon Gilson, *Medieval Optics and Theories of Light in the Works of Dante* (NY: The Edwin Mellen Press, 2000) for *Italian Culture* 20 (2002).

Alison Cornish, *Reading Dante's Stars* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2000) for *Italian Culture* 20 (2002).

### **Encyclopedia Entries**

*The Encyclopedia of Italian Literary Studies*. 2 vols. (London: Routledge Press, 2006).  
Folgore da San Gimignano  
Rustico di Filippo

*The Encyclopedia of Literature and Science* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2002).  
Literature and Science in Italy  
Dante  
Leonardo da Vinci  
Giambattista Vico

### **Translations**

Ordine, Nuccio. *Giordano Bruno and the Philosophy of the Ass* (1987). Tr. Henryk Baranski and Arielle Saiber (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1996).

The diaries of architect Paolo Soleri, 1994 (not for publication).

### **Web Project**

*Dante Today: Sightings and Citings of Dante's Works in Contemporary Culture*.  
<http://learn.bowdoin.edu/italian/dante/> (on-line since fall 2006)

### **GRANTS • FELLOWSHIPS • AWARDS**

2008 – 2009

#### **Villa I Tatti Fellowship**

The Harvard University Center for Renaissance Studies (Florence, Italy)

2008 – 2009

**NEH Research Fellowship** (declined)

- 2004                    **Sydney B. Karofsky Prize**  
(Bowdoin College's award for outstanding teaching granted to one assistant professor a year, based on at least two years of teaching evaluations)
- 2003 – 2004           **Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study Fellowship**  
Harvard University
- 2003 – 2004           **Kenan Research Fellowship**  
(Bowdoin College, funding for a full-year sabbatical and 3 summers of research)
- 2002 – 2003           **Mellon Foundation**  
(a planning grant for the development of a project of the Dante Society of America entitled *Illuminating Dante*)
- 2000, 2007            **Bowdoin Faculty Research Awards**
- 2000                    **Theron Rockwell Field Prize**  
(Yale University, dissertation award given to "the year's best scholarly work of poetry, literature or religion" at Yale)
- 1998 – 1999           **Istituto Italiano per gli Studi Filosofici Dissertation Award**  
(Naples, Italy)
- 1998 (fall)            **Yale College Fellow**  
(selected to teach a seminar of my design to Yale undergraduates)
- 1998 (summer)       **John Perry Miller Research Grant (Yale)**
- 1998 (summer)       **Warburg Institute Seminar Fellowship**  
(London, England)
- 1997 – 1998           **Lionel Pincus Dissertation Fellowship in the Humanities (Yale)**
- 1997 (summer)       **John F. Enders Research Grant (Yale)**
- 1995 – 1998 (summers) **Centro Internazionale di Studi Bruniani research grants**  
Istituto Italiano per gli Studi Filosofici (Naples, Italy)
- 1994 (spring)         **Folger Institute**
- 1993 – 1997           **Yale University Fellowship**
- 1993 – 1995           **A. Bartlett Giamatti Fellowship for Italian Studies**
- 1993                    **The Pirandello Lyceum Award for Italian Studies**

**INVITED LECTURES**

- March 2010 “Giambattista Della Porta’s Flexilinear Language.” Indiana University-Bloomington.
- Dec. 2009 “Interdisciplinarity.” The State of Italian Studies. Wellesley College, MA. One of three professors invited to pre-circulate paper to the attendees. The day-long conference was centered on a discussion of these papers.
- Oct. 2009 “Niccolò Tartaglia’s Poetic Solution to the Cubic Equation.” University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Mathematics.
- April 2009 “Leon Battista Alberti e la crittografia: Un duetto in cifra tra il linguaggio e la matematica.” Palazzo Rucellai. Florence, Italy.
- Nov. 2008 “Literature and Mathematics in Early Modern Italy.” Villa I Tatti, Florence, Italy.
- March 2008 “Twists, Knots, and the Very Small: Pathways into the Literary and Mathematical Imaginations.” Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.
- Feb. 2008 “Alberti’s Cryptography.” *Codes in Conflict: New Formations in Early Modern Studies*. The Center for Early Modern Studies. University of Wisconsin-Madison.
- Dec. 2007 “Dante: Stella della cultura pop?” *Circolo Italiano di Boston*. Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.
- Feb. 2006 Keynote: “*In a network of lines that enlance: Science and the Italian Literary Imagination.*” *Graduate Student Conference: Scientifica-mente: The Symbiosis of Literature and Science in Italian Culture*. University of Chicago, Chicago, IL.
- Jan. 2006 “*A Huge Ever Growing Pulsating Brain That Rules From the Centre of the Ultraworld: The Polyphonic Discourse of Electronic Music.*” University of California, Santa Cruz.
- May 2005 Keynote: “Rewarding.” *Bowdoin Honors Day*.
- Feb. 2005 “Lyrical Numbers: The Poetry of Mathematics in Early Modern Europe.” University of Oregon, Eugene, OR.
- Feb. 2005 “Lyrical Numbers: The Poetry of Mathematics in Early Modern Europe.” Yale University, New Haven, CT.
- June 2004 “Spazio e letteratura.” *Centro Internazionale di Studi Deradiani*, San Demetrio Corone, Italy.
- March 2004 “Number, Shape, and Word in Renaissance Italian Literature.” *Humanities Center*, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.
- March 2004 “Well-Versed Mathematics in Early Modern Italy.” *Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study*, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.

- April 2003 "Hyperdimensionality in Salvador Dalí's Illustrations of Dante's *Paradiso*." *Dante Society of America*, Cambridge, MA.
- March 1999 "Giordano Bruno's *Ars memoriae*." Smith College, Northampton, MA.
- Feb. 1998 "Ornamental Flourishes in Giordano Bruno's Geometry." *Graduate Student Seminar*, Yale University, New Haven, CT.
- June 1996 "La cultura dello studio negli Stati Uniti." *Appello per la cultura e la ricerca in Europa*, Camera dei Deputati, Rome, Italy.
- Aug. 1995 "Food and Futurism." *Architectural Curiosities*. Philadelphia Arts Alliance, Philadelphia, PA.

### CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PARTICIPATION

- April 2010 "Math and the Alphabet in the Italian Renaissance." Italian Literature. *Renaissance Society of America*. Venice, Italy.
- April 2010 Respondent: Space in the Renaissance I & II. *Renaissance Society of America*. Venice, Italy.
- Nov. 2009 "The Architecture of the Afterlife: Paul Laffoley's *The Divine Comedy Triptych*." Occultism and Science in Twentieth-Century Art. *Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts*. Atlanta, GA.
- Nov. 2009 "Math and the Alphabet in the Italian Renaissance." Math in Theory I. *Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts*. Atlanta, GA.
- April 2008 Organizer and Chair, Italian Literature: From Counter-Reformation Grace to Baroque Dissimulation. *Renaissance Society of America*, Chicago, IL.
- April 2008 "The Language of Code: Leon Battista Alberti's *De componendis cifris* (1466)." Words Contained, Words Transposed: Writing and Rewriting in the Italian Renaissance. *Renaissance Society of America*, Chicago, IL.
- March 2008 "Two Contemporary Illustrators of Dante's *Commedia*." *Tra Amici: A Symposium in Honor of Giuseppe Mazzotta*. University of Mary Washington. Fredericksburg, VA.
- Dec. 2007 Presenter on the roundtable Annotated Bibliography: New Work in Literature and Science. *Modern Language Association*. Chicago, IL.
- Dec. 2007 Organizer and Chair, Micro: Studies in the Very Small. Division of Literature and Science. *Modern Language Association*. Chicago, IL.
- March 2007 Chair, Italian Literature. *Renaissance Society of America*. Miami, FL.

- Dec. 2006 “Leon Battista Alberti’s Code Words: *De componendis cifris* (1466).” Italian Literature and Science. Division of Italian Medieval and Renaissance Literature. *Modern Language Association*. Philadelphia, PA.
- Dec. 2006 Organizer and Chair, Cyphernetics: Signs, Codes, Texts. Division of Literature and Science. *Modern Language Association*. Philadelphia, PA.
- Nov. 2006 Chair, Mathematics and the Body. *Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts*, NY, NY.
- Oct. 2006 Organizer and Chair, Italian within an Interdisciplinary Context. *The Italian Legacy at Yale: Alumni Conference*. New Haven, CT.
- May 2006 “Microsuoni.” Minimalisms. *American Association of Italian Studies*, Genova, Italy.
- May 2006 Organizer and Chair, Dark Matters. *American Association of Italian Studies*, Genova, Italy.
- Dec. 2005 Organizer and Chair, “Rhythm Science” and Reading Electronic Music. Division of Literature and Science. *Modern Language Association*, Washington, D.C.
- April 2005 “The Space of the Fantastic in Italian Literature.” Space and Literature. *Northeastern Modern Language Association*, Cambridge, MA.
- Dec. 2004 “Handmaiden to Philology and Mistress of the Arts: Geometry as Metaphor in Early Modern Thought.” Roundtable: Between Semiotics and Geometry: Metaphor, Science, and the Trading Zone. Division of Literature and Science. *Modern Language Association*, Philadelphia, PA.
- Oct. 2004 “Niccolò Tartaglia’s Poetic Solution to the Cubic Equation.” Mathematics, Philosophy, and Interpretation. *Center for Medieval and Early Modern Studies*. SUNY Binghamton, Binghamton, NY.
- Oct. 2004 “The Garden of Archimedes: The Poetry of Mathematics in Early Modern Europe.” Mathematics and the Imagination I: Early Modern. *Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts*, Durham, NC.
- April 2004 “Mathematics and Literature.” Roundtable: Science and Literature. *American Association of Italian Studies*, Ottawa, Canada.
- March 2004 “Flexilinear Language: Giambattista Della Porta’s Impure Mathematics.” Noble and Ignoble Mathematics in Renaissance Italy. *Renaissance Society of America*, New York, NY.
- Dec. 2003 Chair, Dante: Seeing Pain, Feeling Pain, Canonizing Texts. Division of Medieval and Renaissance Italian Literature. *Modern Language Association*, San Diego, CA.

- Dec. 2002 Organizer and chair, Hard Choices: How Should Literary Theorists Approach Science? Division of Literature and Science. *Modern Language Association*, New York, NY.
- Oct. 2002 “Antirectilinear Satire in Giordano Bruno’s *Candelaio*.” Number, Shape, Word. *Society for Literature and Science*, Pasadena, CA.
- April 2002 “Mathematics’ Slow Rise to Power in Renaissance Florence.” Intellectual Currents in Rome, Florence, and Venice. *Renaissance Society of America*, Tempe, AZ.
- April 2001 “What is the Math in Bruno’s *mathesis*?” Giordano Bruno. *American Association of Italian Studies*, Philadelphia, PA.
- Dec. 2000 Organizer and chair, Leveling the Field: Science Studies vs. Science and Literature. Division of Literature and Science. *Modern Language Association*, Washington, DC.
- Oct. 2000 “Why Women Want To Know about Optics.” Learning Science. *Society for Literature and Science*, Atlanta, GA.
- April 2000 “Algarotti, Optics, and Women.” Optical Allusions in Italian Literature. *American Association of Italian Studies*, New York, NY.
- Oct. 1999 “Symmetry Operations as Terminological Tools for Literary Analysis.” *Society for Literature and Science*, Norman, OK.
- March 1999 “The ‘Ornamental’ Frames in Giordano Bruno’s *Articuli adversus mathematicos*.” *Conference on Giordano Bruno*, De Paul University, Chicago, IL.
- Dec. 1998 “Hyperbole-Hyperbola: Geometric Rhetoric in the Italian Renaissance.” Mathematics and Literature, Division of Literature and Science. *Modern Language Association*, San Francisco, CA.
- April 1998 “The Circular Line: Metaphoric Geometry in Giordano Bruno’s Doctrine of the Infinite.” Images of Geometry, Medicine and Science. *Pacific Northwest Renaissance Society*, Bellingham, WA.
- April 1998 “Mandalic Patterns in Giordano Bruno?” La via dei simboli: Jung e la letteratura italiana. *American Association of Italian Studies*, Chicago, IL.
- Dec. 1996 “Futurist Gastropolemics.” A Menu for All Seasons: From Antipasto to Dessert in Contemporary Italian Literature. *Modern Language Association*, Washington, DC.
- Dec. 1996 “Herculean Trials of the *Heroic Mind*: Giambattista Vico’s 1732 Oration.” Vico and Interpretation. *Modern Language Association*, Washington, DC.

### **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

- 2008 – 2009    **Consultant**, CIEE (Council on International Educational Exchange).
- 2006 – 2007    **Co-organizer** with Aden Evens (Dartmouth) and Susan McHugh (University of New England) of the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference of the Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts (SLSA). Topic: CODE. November 1-4. Portland, Maine.  
<http://www.slsa07.com/>
- 2006 – 2010    **Council Member**, Dante Society of America.
- 2005 – 2007    **Member**, Publications Committee for the journal *Configurations*.
- 2004 – 2005    **Member-at-Large**, Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts (SLSA).
- 2003 – 2004    **Co-organizer** with sculptor Laurie Palmer of the Art Institute of Chicago a series of ten interdisciplinary workshops at Harvard University on the subject of SPACE.
- 2003 – 2007    **Executive Committee**, Division of Literature and Science of the Modern Language Association.
- 2002 –         **Executive Board**, CET Study Abroad Programs in Siena and Catania, Italy.
- 2000 – 2003    **Representative**, Division of Medieval and Renaissance Italian Literature of the Modern Language Association.

**Manuscript Reader:** Cambridge University Press, Cornell University Press, Harvard University Press, Princeton University Press, University of Chicago Press.

### **ACTIVITIES AT BOWDOIN**

- March 2008    **Organized** author and food critic Nancy Harmon-Jenkin's collaboration with Dining Services to create a Renaissance Banquet in Moulton Union in Conjunction with my course "How to Do It: Manuals to Good Living in the Renaissance")
- Sept. 2007    **Organized** artist Sandow Birk's visit to Bowdoin for an all-campus screening of his film *Dante's Inferno* (2007), followed by a Q&A with Birk.
- May 2006       **Director**, Dario Fo's, *Non tutti i ladri vengono per nuocere* (1957), performed in Italian by the students of the Italian Theater course (Ital. 314).
- June 2005       **Lecture**, "Mona Lisa and the Mafia." *Bowdoin Alumni*.
- March 2005    **Lecture**, "Lyrical Numbers: The Poetry of Mathematics in Early Modern Italy." *Bowdoin Faculty Series*.

- Nov. 2004      **Organized** Common Hour talk by Matthew Pearl, “*The Dante Club: A Tour.*”
- March 2002    **Lecture**, “The Futurist Cookbook.” *Friends of Bowdoin.*
- April 2001     **Organized** all-campus lecture by film critic Giorgio Bertellini, “Women of Horror: Dario Argento’s Murder Mysteries.”
- Oct. 2000      **Co-curated** “Dante’s *Divine Comedy: Cut, Oiled, and Shot.*” Bowdoin College Museum of Art.

### SERVICE AT BOWDOIN

- 2009 – 2012    Chair, Romance Languages  
2007 – 2008    Study Abroad Committee  
2006 – 2007    Grants and Fellowships Committee  
2004 – 2005    Study Abroad Committee  
2002 Fall        Judicial Board  
2001 – 2002    Student Affairs Committee

### TEACHING

#### **Bowdoin College**

Fall 1999 – present

- “Dante’s *Divine Comedy*” (English and Italian)
- “Medieval and Renaissance Texts and Criticism” (Italian)
- “How To Do It: Manuals to Good Living in the Renaissance” (English)
- “Italian Theater” (Italian)
- “Mona Lisa and the Mafia: Italian Culture through the Centuries” (English)
- “Hallucinatory Landscapes: The Fantastic in Italian Film and Literature” (English and Italian)
- Elementary, Intermediate, and Advanced Italian
- Independent Studies in Italian: Dante; Italian Renaissance Theater; Literature & Combinatorics; Literature & Mathematics; Michelangelo’s Poetry; Italian Opera; Italian Women Writers; Italian Film; Science & Literature; Italian Science Fiction
- Independent Studies in English: Dante and Longfellow; *Inf. XXIX* of Dante’s *Commedia*; Italian Futurism; Cyberculture

#### **University of California, Santa Cruz**

- “Where am I? Space in the Renaissance” January term 2006

**Yale University**

- “The Space of the Literary Fantastic” (graduate) Fall 2005
- “Science and Literature” (undergraduate) Fall 2005
- Teaching Assistant: “Italian Renaissance Thought” Spring 1999
- Instructor: “Vanishing Points and Bloodletting:  
Science in Italian Literature from Dante to Eco” Fall 1998
- Teaching Assistant: “Dante in Translation” Fall 1996
- Instructor: Elementary and Intermediate Italian 1995 – 1997

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Modern Language Association  
Renaissance Society of America  
Dante Society of America

American Association of Italian Studies  
Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts  
Società Italiana di Storia delle Matematiche