

# ARIELLE SAIBER

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Department of Romance Languages  
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## EDUCATION

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

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

with Giuseppe Mazzotta, ed. *Longfellow and Dante*. New York: Fordham University Press. Forthcoming.

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

with Stefano Baldassarri, ed. *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.

“Abacus and Allegory in the *Caccia di Diana*.” *Boccaccio: A Critical Guide to the Complete Works*. Ed. Victoria Kirkham, Michael Sherberg, and Janet Smarr. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Forthcoming.

“Flying Saucers Would Never Land in Lucca: The Fiction of Italian Science Fiction.” *California Italian Studies*. Special Issue: *Italian Futures*. Forthcoming.

“Paul Laffoley’s *Dante’s Divine Comedy* Triptych.” *Paul Laffoley: Building for the Bauharoque*. Ed. Doug Walla. New York: Kent Gallery, Inc. Projected publication, 2011.

“The Middle Ages and Early Renaissance.” *Routledge Companion to Literature and Science*. Ed. Bruce Clarke and Manuela Rossini. London: Routledge Press, 2010: 423-437.

with Henry S. Turner. Introduction to “Mathematics and the Imagination.” Ed. Arielle Saiber and Henry S. Turner. A special issue of *Configurations* 17 (2009): 1-18.

“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 curvilinearoum 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 (2004): 183-191.

with Elliott King. “Hyperdimensionality in Salvador Dalí’s Illustrations of Dante’s *Paradiso*.” *Illuminating Dante* (an online 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): 213-15.

### **Guest Editor**

with Giuseppe Mazzotta. *Longfellow and Dante*. A special issue of *Dante Studies* 128 (2010). 371pp.

with Henry S. Turner. *Mathematics and the Imagination*. A special issue of *Configurations* 17 (2009). 195pp.

### **Works in Progress**

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

with Deanna Shemek and Michael Wyatt, ed. *Sound*. A special issue of *California Italian Studies*.

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*. Ed. Gaetana Marrone and Paolo Puppa. 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

- Nov. 2011 Seminar discussant, *Futures*. Johns Hopkins University, Department of German and Romance Languages.
- April 2011 with Elliott King, "Dante and Dalí." Georgia Museum of Art. Athens, GA.
- Dec. 2010 "Giordano Bruno, Philosopher of the Forbidden." Hampshire College.
- Oct. 2010 "Renaissance Cryptography." Loyola University.
- April 2010 "Math and the Alphabet in Renaissance Italy." Ohio State University.
- April 2010 "Futurist Gastropolemics." Smith College.
- March 2010 "Giambattista Della Porta's Flexilinear Language." Indiana University-Bloomington.
- March 2010 "*Purgatorio* XV." McGill University.
- March 2010 "Dante and Pop Culture." McGill University.
- Jan. 2010 "The Cryptographer's Flying Eyeball: A Case Study in Interdisciplinarity." Karofsky Encore Lecture. Bowdoin College.
- Dec. 2009 "Interdisciplinarity." The State of Italian Studies. Wellesley College.
- 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.
- Feb. 2008 "Alberti's Cryptography." *Codes in Conflict: New Formations in Early Modern Studies*. University of Wisconsin-Madison, The Center for Early Modern Studies.
- Dec. 2007 "Dante: Stella della cultura *pop*?" Harvard University.
- Feb. 2006 Keynote: "*In a network of lines that enlase*: Science and the Italian Literary Imagination." University of Chicago, Graduate Student Conference: "Scientificamente: The Symbiosis of Literature and Science in Italian Culture."
- 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*. Bowdoin College.
- Feb. 2005      "Lyrical Numbers: The Poetry of Mathematics in Early Modern Europe." University of Oregon.
- Feb. 2005      "Lyrical Numbers: The Poetry of Mathematics in Early Modern Europe." Yale University.
- 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.
- March 2004     "Well-Versed Mathematics in Early Modern Italy." *Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study*, Harvard University.
- April 2003     "Hyperdimensionality in Salvador Dalí's Illustrations of Dante's *Paradiso*." *Dante Society of America* annual meeting. Cambridge, MA.
- March 1999     "Giordano Bruno's *Ars memoriae*." Smith College.
- Feb. 1998      "Ornamental Flourishes in Giordano Bruno's Geometry." Yale University, *Graduate Student Seminar*.
- 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**

- Sept. 2011     "Italian Science Fiction." World Science Fiction. *Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts*. Ontario, Canada.
- April 2011     Roundtable, African-American Reception of Dante. *American Association of Italian Studies*. Pittsburgh, PA.
- Jan. 2011      Roundtable, Dante and the Popular Imagination. The Winter Meeting of the Dante Society of America. *Modern Language Association*. Los Angeles, CA.
- 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 AND SERVICE

- 2011-2013 **Selection Committee**, Modern Language Association, Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Publication Award for a Manuscript in Italian Literary Studies.
- 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.

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

**Article Manuscript Reader** for *Configurations*, *Journal of American Studies*, *Dante Studies*, *California Italian Studies*

**External Reviewer for Tenure Cases:** 2007 (1); 2008 (1); 2009 (2)

#### ACTIVITIES AT BOWDOIN

- April 2011 **Organized** Lecture by Dennis Looney, “Freedom Readers: The African American Reception of Dante Alighieri and the Divine Comedy.”
- May 2010 **Director** of Niccolò Machiavelli, *La Mandragola* (1518), performed in Italian by the students of the Italian Theater course (Ital. 314).
- 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** of Dario Fo, *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 author 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)
- “Renaissance Theater (Italian)
- “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; Is Mathematics Narrative?

#### **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

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Modern Language Association  
Renaissance Society of America  
Dante Society of America  
Science Fiction Research Association

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