

PERSONAL PAGE: LAURA LORI



Laura Lori has a strong commitment to teaching and her research field goes from Gender and Cultural Studies to Literature and Theater. She completed her PhD at LaTrobe University in Melbourne and her thesis was recently turned into a book, published in Italy by [Ombre Corte](#) and launched at the [ACIS Conference](#) in Adelaide. It responds to recent calls for a long overdue appraisal of Italy's colonial responsibilities by studying Somali postcolonial literature, which explores a hitherto hidden past and challenges Italy's reluctance today to face its own identity. It offers a definition of what is distinctively postcolonial in Italo-Somali writing of the past two decades both in terms of its historical placement as compared to other postcolonial literatures and in terms of its

specific textual features. Particular attention is paid to the theme of female genital cutting, which forces the issue of postcolonialism into one of conflicting human values in a global context. Laura also works as a freelance in the publishing sector, as a translator and editor, and is a very committed member of the community, taking part in many of its diverse initiatives.

Publications

- 'Border Crossing in Italy', in title TBA – edited book, forthcoming 2015
- 'Review of *Far from Mogadishu and Somalitalia: Four Roads to Mogadishu*', ARIA - Annual Review of Islam in Africa, 13, forthcoming 2014.
- '*Naago, Dumar, Haween: figure femminili nella letteratura postcoloniale somala in italiano*', in *Subalternità italiane. Percorsi di ricerca tra letteratura e storia*, edited by Valeria Deplano, Lorenzo Mari, Gabriele Proglia. Aracne, Ariccia (RM), forthcoming 2014.
- *Inchiostro d'Africa. La letteratura postcoloniale somala fra diaspora e identità*. Ombre Corte, Verona, 2013, pp. 238.
- 'Identità italiana fra postcolonialismo e migrazione', *Spunti e ricerche*, 2012, 27, 48-61.

Conference Papers and Public Lectures

- 'Crime fiction in the post-imperialistic literature in Italian' - ACIS Study Day / Workshop "Why Crime Fiction Matters", Melbourne, November 2014.
- 'Cosmopolitan Rome. The former *caput mundi* between postcoloniality and globalisation' - The View From Above: Cosmopolitan Culture and its Critics, Melbourne, September 2014.
- 'Italy' - Re-imagining Italian studies: ACIS 7th Biennial Conference, Adelaide, 2013.

- 'Postcolonial Somali Literature in Italian: the Importance of Being (Intellectually) Earnest' – XXe Congrès de l'Association Internationale de Littérature Comparée (AILC), Paris, France, 2013.
- '*Ciyaal missioni*: Italy's stolen generation. Representation of the colonial and religious encounter between Italy and Somalia' – The Monk, the Priest, the Nun conference, Philadelphia, US. 2013.
- 'Crossing borders in Italy' – Border Crossings Conference, Flinders University, Kangaroo Island, 2012.
- 'The ghost of Somalia and the quest for Italian identity' – Cultural ReOrientations and Comparative Colonialities, CSAA Annual, Adelaide, 2011.
- 'Women Talk About Women' – public lecture organised by The Flinders Institute for Research, Adelaide, 2011.
- 'Il soggetto sessuato nella narrativa di Igiaba Scego' – 6th ACIS Biennial Conference, Melbourne, 2011.
- 'Gli scrittori migranti: il caso somalo' – 5th biennial ACIS conference, Auckland 2009.
- 'Reflections upon Postcolonial literature of former Italian colonies' – Re-Orientating Whiteness Conference, University of Melbourne, 2008.
- 'Il ruolo corale del pubblico nello spettacolo Vajont di Marco Paolini' – 4th ACIS Biennial Conference, Brisbane, 2007.

Translations and Editing

- Freelance Language Consultant, Editor and Producer at Cengage, South Melbourne, Australia, Project: *Parliamo Italiano Insieme*.
- 204 Assistant Editor special film issue of FULGOR, Flinders University Journal.
- Translator of three essays in the volume *Postcolonial Italy*, edited by Christina Lombardi-Diop and Caterina Romeo, Le Monnier, Firenze 2014.
- 2007 to 2009 Language Consultant, Proof Reader and Author at Pearson–Heinemann Publishers, Port Melbourne, Australia. Projects: *Formula Italiana 1*, *Ecco! Uno and Ecco! Due*.
- Translator of *Building Community. Fifty years of the Pastorelle Sisters in Australia* by Annamaria Davine, Italian Australian Institute and La Trobe University, Melbourne: 2008.

Broadcasts

- 'Come ripensare l'italianistica'. Interview on SBS, 7 December 2013. Available at: <http://www.sbs.com.au/yourlanguage/italian/highlight/page/id/305119/t/Re-imagining-Italian-Studies>.