

EXPERIENCE

Contributing Writer SAN FRANCISCO OPERA

2015 – Present

Serves as Italian opera specialist.

Conducts historiographical research in collaboration with the Department of Communications in occasion of high-profile performances.

Develops themes and subjects for original articles together with the Publications Editor.

Writes in-depth full-length features and conducts interviews in both English and Italian.

Selected writings:

- Interview with San Francisco Opera Czech Language Coach Radoslava Biancalana, *San Francisco Opera Magazine* (2019).
- Interview with Carmen Giannattasio in Occasion of Her Role Debut in *Tosca*, *San Francisco Opera Magazine* (2018).
- “When Aida Conquered the Silver Screen” on the 1953 film adaptation of Aida featuring Sofia Loren, *San Francisco Opera Magazine* (2016).

Academic Specialist

2017 – 2019

BERKELEY INTERNATIONAL STUDY PROGRAM, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

Provided on-going group and individual academic and cultural advising to 100+ international students.

Supported students by enhancing their critical thinking skills and ability to face and learn complex and sensitive topics in contemporary society and culture.

Led the weekly seminar “Cross-Cultural Learning,” exploring the concept of culture from a variety of intellectual, multidisciplinary, and intersectional perspectives.

Designed and led innovative series of workshops and seminars on topics such as essay writing, research, and academic excellence in the US context.

Lecturer

2017 – 2019

DEPARTMENT OF ITALIAN STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

Areas of expertise: academic writing and research, reading and composition, Italian language and conversation, Italian music and cinema, 19th-, 20th-, 21st-century Italian and European cultures, cross-cultural communication, contemporary American culture and society.

Taught an intensive Italian language and culture course developed specifically for romance language speakers.

Collaborated with core faculty to offer guest lectures on Italy’s political and musical history.

Designed focus sessions based on an interdisciplinary and multicultural approach in order to sustain and enhance students' communicative and intercultural tools, consistently receiving excellent students' and faculty's evaluations.

Localization and Music Specialist
APPLE VIA WELOCALIZE

2015 – 2016

Acted as Italian culture and music expert, translator, fact-checker, and managing editor.

Reviewed and wrote original copy for multiple international editorial projects.

Supervised and coordinated QA testing across multiple platforms (mobile, desktop, TV) and media (music, books, apps, games, podcasts).

Trained junior specialists.

Business English Language Coach

2019 – Present

Serves as coach for professionals, offering both group and private coaching, from pre-intermediate to advanced levels.

Provides personalized training for public speaking skills, presentations, lectures, interviews.

Works as freelance general English and business English trainer for companies such as Dell EMC and Achab S.p.A (via English Project Italia) based in Milan, Italy.

Writer and Cultural Consultant

2007 – Present

Published on *MusicalCriticism.com*, *Classic Voice*, *Österreichische Musikzeitschrift*, *The Dreaming Machine*.

Served as senior consultant and adviser to Editor-in-Chief of peer-reviewed academic journal *Film Quarterly* (2015 - 2016).

Selected writings:

- “In Times of Micro-Aggressions: ‘9-1-1- What’s Your Emergency? The Verdict,’ a Play by Jovelyn D. Richards,” *The Dreaming Machine* 4 (2019).
- “Americana. C’era una volta il West” (“Once Upon a Time in the West”), *Classic Voice* 232 (2018). On Francesca Zambello’s *Ring* and John Adams and Peter Sellars’ *Girls of the Golden West*, and how these two productions address the debate on American and California identity.
- “Politischer Richtungswechsel. Woody Guthrie’s This Land Is Your Land und die Macht der populistischen Folk Music” (“*This Land Is Your Land* for the Twenty-First Century: The Power of Populist Folk Music”), *Österreichische Musikzeitschrift* 6 (2017). German translation by Judith Kemp.

For more publications, see <https://www.marinaromani.org/criticism>

Translator and Editor

2008 – Present

Works with private clients and companies worldwide, offering translation (Italian < > English), consulting, and editing services on Italian culture, cinema, music, poetry, literature, academic essays, legal documents.

Selected projects:

- Poetry and essay translations (EN > IT) published on the world cultures magazines *La Macchina Sognante* (2019) and *The Dreaming Machine* (2020).

- Translation of poems by scholar and author Ann Harleman (Brown University and Rhode Island School of Design) presented at the 22nd International Poetry Festival in Genoa (2018).
- Language and cultural consulting for the novel *Tell Me, Signora* (2020, Elixir Press) by scholar and author Ann Harleman.
- Language and cultural consulting for the novel *The Moncalvos* by Enrico Castelnuovo (Wings Press, 2017, originally published as *I Moncalvo*, 1908) in collaboration with author and translator Brenda Webster (President Emerita, PEN West).
- Subtitle translation and editing for the retrospective “Days of Glory: Revisiting Italian Neorealism” at the Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive (BAMPFA), in collaboration with BAMPFA senior curator (2010).
- Translation of 16th-century madrigals for music professionals in London, UK (2008).

Copyeditor

2011 – 2017

CALIFORNIA ITALIAN STUDIES JOURNAL

Edited academic essays on European cultures for the peer-reviewed academic journal *California Italian Studies*.

Created editorial guidelines; provided academic and stylistic feedback to authors and editors.

Collaborated closely with the managing editors as cultural consultant.

Research Fellow and Instructor

2012 – 2015

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

Taught courses in music, film, and Italian language, as well as originally designed courses on European and American literatures and cultures, consistently receiving excellent evaluations.

Created original syllabi and teaching units.

Provided extensive individual feedback and support to students.

Designed and taught an innovative performance-based language and culture course where students learn a foreign language through music and theater performance.

Directed the staging of an opera scene performed by 20+ students.

North America Editor

2009 – 2015

MUSICALCRITICISM.COM

Managed all aspects of online publication: supervised assignments, copy-editing, image copyrights, graphic formatting and uploading.

Commissioned articles and exclusive interviews to contributors across the United States.

Liaised with cultural institutions across the world and with the London-based Editor-in-Chief.

Served as music critic of concerts in San Francisco, London, Milan, Rome.

ADVISORY POSITIONS

Resident Scholar and Expert

2016 – Present

UN WOMEN GLOBAL VOICES FILM FESTIVAL

Selected as one of three members of the jury for the first UN Women Global Voices Film Festival held at Lucasfilm, San Francisco.

Served as cultural adviser to the President of the United States National Committee for UN Women (San Francisco Bay Area Chapter) and to the festival viewing committee.

Created proprietary academic materials used by the viewing committee, and presented such original materials to the festival committee and to festival sponsors such as Salesforce.

Contributed to the design of award categories, assigned awards to shortlisted films, presented films at the festival.

Executive Director

2018 – 2019

PROGRAM FOR THE STUDY OF ITALY, INSTITUTE OF EUROPEAN STUDIES (IES) UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

Collaborated closely with the IES Director and with the IES Program Manager as Italian culture specialist.

Developed strategies for the growth and advancement of the Program for the Study of Italy.

Invited scholars from the US and Europe to offer lectures and participate in events designed for the academic community and for wider audiences.

EDUCATION

PhD in Italian Studies with Designated Emphasis in Film Studies

2015

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

Dissertation: *Between Soundtrack and Performance: Music and History in Italian Film Melodrama (1940-2010)*.

MA in Comparative Literature

2008

KING'S COLLEGE LONDON

Awarded with Distinction.

Thesis: *Performing Verdi: Dannunzian Images and Mythical Displays in Opera under Fascism*.

Laurea Triennale (BA) in Foreign Languages and Cultures

2006

UNIVERSITÀ ROMA TRE

Awarded with Distinction (110/110 cum laude).

Thesis: *Salman Rushdie's The Ground Beneath Her Feet: A Rock Epic*.

Intermediate Degree in Piano

2001

CONSERVATORY OF PESCARA

SELECTED CONFERENCES AND INVITED TALKS

2020

- Invited Colloquium Speaker in the Department of Music, King's College London.

2019

- Invited Speaker. Presentation of the first Italian translation of the poetry collection *Epicrisi* by Ashraf Fayadh, translated by Sana Darghmouni. University of Bologna, Italy.
- Invited Speaker. “Viral Italian Sounds.” Department of Music, UC Berkeley.
- Organizer, Academic Consultant, and Moderator. “Beyond Archetypes: A Panel Discussion Examining the Role of Women in Folk Music and Dance from Latin America and the Caribbean.” Featuring artists Maria De La Rosa, Liliana Herrera, Gabriela Shiroma, and Shefali Shah. Department of Anthropology, UC Berkeley.
- Invited Guest Lecturer. “Music and Feminism” Seminar. Department of Music, UC Berkeley.

2018

- Invited Lecturer. “Political and Contemporary Mythologies in Contemporary Italy: Lega Nord’s Va Pensiero.” Institute of European Studies, UC Berkeley.
- Featured Workshop Speaker. “Inside Dope: Life as a Humanist II.” Townsend Center for the Humanities, UC Berkeley.
- Invited Guest Lecturer. “Sirens and 20th-Century Music” Seminar. Department of Music, UC Berkeley.
- Organizer and Moderator. “Humanists Inside/Outside Academia.” Featuring Dr. Olivia Sears (Founder and President, Center for the Art of Translation) and Dr. Elisabeth I. Ward (Executive Director, Los Altos History Museum). Departments of Italian Studies and Scandinavian, UC Berkeley.
- Invited Moderator and Speaker. “Media and Communication.” Beyond Academia Conference 2018. Clark Kerr Campus, UC Berkeley.

2017

- Panelist. “Melodramatic Minimalism: Music and History in Guadagnino’s *Io sono l’amore*.” Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association (PAMLA). 115th Annual Conference. Chaminade University of Honolulu, Hawaii.
- Featured Workshop Speaker. “Inside Dope: Life as a Humanist.” Townsend Center for the Humanities, UC Berkeley.
- Guest Lecturer and Performer. “19th-Century Europe: Opera and Risorgimento.” Introductory Course in History of Italian Culture, UC Berkeley.

2016

- Invited Speaker. “What I Wish I Did in Graduate School.” Beyond Academia Workshop, UC Berkeley.

2015

- Invited Speaker. “Singing Culture: The Italian Language and the Birth of Opera.” Co-presented with San Francisco Opera Dramaturg Kip Cranna. Italian Cultural Institute, San Francisco.
- Invited Speaker. “Between Stage and Screen: Verdi’s *La Traviata*.” College of Marin, CA.

2008 – 2014

- Featured Speaker. “Italian in Performance: Opera as a Holistic Framework for Language Pedagogy.” Berkeley Language Center, UC Berkeley (2014).
- Panelist. “Verdi’s Forgetful Consumers: Lega Nord’s Va, Pensiero.” New York University and American Institute for Verdi Studies (2013).
- Panelist. “How Does Neorealism Sound? The Case of Umberto D.” Music and Politics in Britain and Italy, 1933-1968. King’s College London (2012).
- Invited Speaker. “Consumed by Sex: The Scandal of Verdi’s *La Traviata* Between Street and Stage.” Co-presented with Professor of Music Mary Ann Smart. UC Berkeley (2012).
- Panelist. “Music, Mourning, and Rituals: The Close-Up Seriality of Treme.” Yale University (2012).
- Panelist. “Inside/Outside the Academic Discourse: Antonio Pennacchi’s *Fascio e Martello. Viaggio per le città del Duce*.” University of Southern California (2011).
- Panelist. “Su! Del Nilo... Verdi’s *Aida* and Fascist Appropriation.” The Royal Musical Association, London (2009).
- Panelist. “Verdi’s *Aida* and Fascist appropriation”. The Performances of Power or the Powers of Performance. Centre for the Study of International Governance, Loughborough University, UK (2008).

PERFORMANCE

Vocalist and Performer

2003 – Present

Areas of expertise: Western classical music (Italian opera), Southern Italian folkloric music (pizzica), Puerto Rican music, son jarocho (from Veracruz, Mexico).

Singer (soprano) and multi-instrumentalist (piano, jarana jarocho, percussion) with 10+ years of training in Western classical music and Afro-Puerto Rican music.

Solo singer and instrumentalist with Puerto Rican bomba ensemble Aguacero and with son jarocho ensemble DíaPa'Son.

Performed at venues such as CubaCaribe, Brava Theater and Dance Mission Theater (San Francisco, CA), Stanford University, La Peña Cultural Center (Berkeley, CA), MACLA Cultural Center (San Jose, CA).

Performed repertoires of Western classical music in Europe (Italy, Germany, UK) and in the US.

Selected performances:

- June 2019. Singer and Academic Consultant for “Las Peteneras” at Brava Theater, San Francisco. Part of the Series “Timeless Archetypes of Women in Music and Dance” sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI) Investing in Artists grant program, Dancer’s Group CASH grant program, National Association of Latino Arts and Culture (NALAC) Fund for Artists, National Performance Network (NPN).
- November 2018. “Yo Cantaré. Women’s Voices in Puerto Rican Music and Art,” La Peña Cultural Center. Concert sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts.
- May 2018. “Sanctuary Print Cart,” San Francisco. Live performance art by internationally acclaimed artist Sergio De La Torre. DíaPa'Son invited as accompanying artist. Commissioned by San Francisco Arts Commission.
- May 2018. *Beyond La Bamba* film screening featuring director Marcos Villalobos, La Peña Cultural Center. DíaPa'Son featured performing artist and panel participant.
- July 2018. “Frida Kahlo’s Birthday Tianguis: Celebrating Strong Women Artists and Artisans,” La Peña Cultural Center. DíaPa'Son featured performing artist.
- November 2016. Aguacero at MACLA Cultural Center, San Jose, CA.
- April 2016. Marina Romani as featured artist at La Peña Cultural Center. Presented a program of original arrangements (pizzica from Salento, Southern Italy, and son jarocho from Veracruz, Mexico).
- August 2015. Aguacero as featured artist at California Environmental Justice Alliance, Sacramento, CA.
- November 2013. Aguacero at Stanford University, Dinkenspiel Auditorium.
- March 2012. Concert “An Evening of Russian Music,” Morrison Hall, UC Berkeley.
- March – June 2009. Series of concerts at St. Martins in the Field (London, UK) with John Landor and the London Musical Arts Orchestra.
- October 2008. Concert with King’s Consort at Christ Church Chelsea (London, UK).
- December 2008. Concert at St. James’s Piccadilly (London, UK) with John Landor and the London Musical Arts Orchestra.
- October 2008. Concert at St. Martins in the Field (London, UK) with John Landor and the London Musical Arts Orchestra.
- January 2007. “The Jerome Hines Memorial Concert – World Peace Concert” at Basilica Santa Maria degli Angeli, Rome, Italy; music by Bach, Hines, Verdi, Gounod, Mozart.
- December 2006. “La carezza del Papa:” Concert for the Pope at Basilica Santa Maria degli Angeli, Rome, Italy; music by Charpentier and Bach.
- June 2006. Concert “L’Italia suonò”, Teatro Argentina, Rome, Italy. Release of the album of Puccini’s *Messa di Gloria* (Aramus Label).

For more performances, see <https://www.marinaromani.org/performance>

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

2017. Staff Recognition Award. Berkeley International Study Program. Department of Sociology, UC Berkeley.

2014. Berkeley Language Center Fellowship.

2012 – 2013. Dean's Normative Time Fellowship.

2012. Arts Research Center Fellowship.

2009 – 2012. Townsend Center Mellon Discovery Fellowship.

2009 – 2011. UC Berkeley Regents' Fellowship.

COMMUNITY SERVICE (SELECTED)

2014. Assistant to Producer. Music in Schools Today: Celebrity Gala. Yoshi's Jazz Club, San Francisco, CA.

2012. Band Manager and Voice Instructor. Bay Area Girls Rock Camp, Oakland, CA.

2007 – 2008. London Philharmonic Orchestra Ambassador.

2007 – 2008. King's College London Graduate Student Ambassador.

LANGUAGES AND TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Italian (native speaker).
- English (bilingual proficiency).
- French (intermediate proficiency).
- Spanish (intermediate speaking and oral comprehension, elementary writing).

Competence in:

- MacOS, iOS, MS Windows, MS Office.
- Google Drive.
- Social media and instant messaging.
- Blog and website editing (focus on Blogger, Wix).
- Adobe Spark, Canva.

Basic knowledge of:

- Adobe Creative Cloud (Photoshop, InDesign, Illustrator).
- HTML5 and CSS.

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Available upon request.