

PILAR MARTÍNEZ BENEDÍ

Ricercatrice TDA, SSD L-LIN 11: Lingue e letterature Anglo-Americane

Dipartimento di Science Umane, Università dell'Aquila

Viale Nizza 14, 67100 L'Aquila, Italy

mariapilar.martinezbenedi@univaq.it

EDUCATION:

- PhD in English, University of Rome, "La Sapienza," with honors, 2016
- MA in English, University of Rome, "La Sapienza," *cum laude*, 2012
- BA in English, University of Rome, "La Sapienza," *cum laude*, 2009
- JD, University of Zaragoza, Spain, January 2000

EMPLOYMENT

1 August 2019- : Assistant Professor, American Literature (Ricercatrice a Tempo Determinato di tipo A, SSD L-LIN 11), University of L'Aquila.

2018/19: Adjunct Professor, English for Physics, University of Rome, "La Sapienza."

2018/19: Adjunct Professor, English for Environmental Sciences, University of Rome, "La Sapienza."

2018/19: Adjunct Professor, English for Chemistry, University of Rome, "La Sapienza."

2018/19: Adjunct Professor, English for Industrial Chemistry, University of Rome, "La Sapienza."

2017-2018, Adjunct Professor, American Literature, University of Turin.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS:

- Associazione Italiana di Studi Nord-Americani (AISNA)
- Modern Languages Association (MLA)
- International American Studies Association (IASA)
- Melville Society
- C19: The Society of Nineteenth Century Americanists

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE:

- **2018 - : Peer reviewer** for *CoSMo* (Comparative Studies in Modernism) and *RLAS* (Review of International American studies)
- **2018:** Conference “Past (Im)Perfect Continuous: Trans-cultural Articulations of the Post-Memory of the Shoah,” University of Rome, “La Sapienza.”
Organizing committee,
- **2011- : MEL,** Melville Electronic Library, **Research associate** in the Art Group.
- **2011:** 8th International Melville Conference, Melville and Rome. **Local organizing committee.**

GRANTS AND AWARDS:

- **2019:** Melville Society Conference Travel Grant.
- **2017:** Post-doctoral grant for the publication of PhD dissertation, AISNA and US Embassy in Italy
- **2013:** Melville Society Archive Walter E. Bezanson Fellowship.
- **2011-12:** Borsa di studio per tesi all'estero (travel fund for research abroad), University of Rome, “La Sapienza”

RESEARCH PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS:

- **March 2019:** Villa Vigoni, German-Italian Center for European Excellence. Participation in the project: “Civil Religion and Civil Sentimentalism: Cultural and Political Imaginaries of Belonging” (Coordinated by Heike Paul and Donatella Izzo)
- **2016-2019:** University of Rome “La Sapienza.” Participation in the University Research Project: “The Post-Memory of WWII” (Coordinated by Giorgio Mariani)
- **2016, 2014, 2012:** OASIS—Orientale American Studies International School, Procida
- **February 2016; February-March 2015; October 2013-March 2014::** IFUSS Fellow, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- **January-June 2015:** Hofstra University, Visiting Scholar
- **September-December 2014:** Duke University, Durham, NC, Independent research.
- **October 2011-May 2015:** Melville Electronic Library. Participation in MELCamp 3 (2011) and MELCamp 5 (2015), at MIT (Cambridge, Boston), periodic two-day meetings of MEL associates to discuss the progress and future developments of the Melville Electronic Library. Organized by John Bryant and Wyn Kelley, in collaboration with the Digital Research Center (DRC) at Hofstra University.

- **January 2013:** Walter E. Bezanson Fellow, Melville Society Archive at the Whaling Museum Research Library, New Bedford, Mass.
- **October 2011-January 2012:** NYPL, Research for MA thesis

PAPERS AND CONFERENCES:

- “Where Was White-Jacket Then?: Spatial Confinement and Unbounded Corporeality in Melville’s *Man of War*”. Paper accepted. International Conference “Melville’s Measures.” Paris-Lille, 17-19 October 2019.
- “You Don’t Fear Zombies, You Fear Capitalism” An Ontology of the Plague in Colson Whitehead’s *Zone One*.” 25th Biennial AISNA Conference, Ragusa, 26-28 September 2019.
- “Speak, Find the Words”: Retracing Neurodiverse Voices in Colson Whitehead’s *The Intuitionist*.” International MLA Symposium, Lisbona, 23-25 July 2019.
- “Phantom Empathy: Ahab and Mirror-Touch Synesthesia” (with Ralph James Savarese). Roundtable “Rethinking Ahab.” 12th International Melville Conference: “Melville’s Origins.” NYU, NY, 17-21 giugno 2019.
- “Melville’s Polynesian Soundscapes”. Paper accepted. 12th International Melville Conference: “Melville’s Origins.” NYU, NY, 17-21 June 2019.
- “Ever Been Modern?” Incorporal Bodies, Cartesian Vortices, and Pure Relationality in “The Mast-Head.” Paper presented at the Panel “Melville’s Quarrel with Modernity” at the 2019 MLA Convention, Chicago, 3-6 January 2019.
- “Surface Trains, Underground (Post)Memories: Co-operative Remembrance in Colson Whitehead’s *The Underground Railroad*.” Paper presented at the international conference Past (Im)Perfect Continuous: Trans-Cultural Articulations of the Post-Memory of WWII. La Sapienza, Rome, 26-18 June, 2018.
- “Mitchell, Melville, and Phantom Limbs. Fleshing Out Sensory Ghosts.” Paper presented at the Panel “Silas Weir Mitchell’s Fiction,” sponsored by the TC Forum Science and Literature, MLA Convention, New York City, 4-7 January 2018.
- “Nonhuman Attachments: Androids, Elevators, and the Vitality of Inert Life.” 24th Biennial AISNA Conference: “The US and the World We Inhabit”, Milan, Italy, 28-30 September 2017.
- “Invisible Walls: Disability, Diversity, and the Mobile Margins of ‘Normalcy.’” IASA 8th World Congress: “Marginalia—The Borders of the Border”. Texas A&M International University, Laredo, TX, 19-21 July 2017.
- “Neurological Crossings II: Pip and Mirror-Touch Synesthesia.” 11th International Melville Conference: “Melville at King’s,” King’s College, London, UK, 27-30 June, 2017.

- "Extraordinary Bodies and Extraordinary Minds. Disability, Diversity, and a New Cosmopolitanism." 2nd Sapienza Graduate Forum, Rome, Italy, 8-10 May 2017.
- "Gigantic Stilts: 'Prosthetic' Embodiment and the Incorporeality of the Body in Melville's *Moby-Dick*." Embodiment, Perception, and Critical Practice. International Conference, Ruhr Universität, Bochum, Germany, 8-9 July 2016.
- "Hovering Over Cartesian Vortices. Corporeal Disappearance and 'Prosthetic' Embodiment in *Moby-Dick*." 10th International Melville Conference: "Melville in a Global Context," Keio University, Tokyo, Japan, 25-19 June 2015.
- "Revolving the Vortex; or, Working Through Trauma at Sea." Sixth IASA World Conference: "Oceans Apart: In Search of New Wor(l)ds," Szczecin, Poland, 3-6 August 2013.
- "Ishmael as Stage Manager: Dramatizing and Narrativizing Trauma in *Moby-Dick*." The 9th International Melville Conference: "Melville and Whitman in Washington," George Washington University, Washington DC, 4-7 June 2013.

PUBLICATIONS:

Books

The Insurability of Sensation. Indagini letterarie tra corpo, mente e affect. Naples: La Scuola di Pitagora. ISBN: 978-88-6542-680-7; 978-88-6542-681-4.

Articles in Journals

- "Navigating Dualisms in "The Mast-Head"" *Leviathan: A Journal of Melville Studies*, Vol. 21 (Melville at 200), No. 2, June 2019, pp. 68-82. DOI: 10.1353/lvn.2019.0011
- "When Racial Meets Neuro Diversity. Pondering 'Who's We' in Colson Whitehead's *The Intuitionist*". *Critique: Studies in Contemporary Fiction*, Vol. 60, No. 2, 2019, pp. 179-190. DOI: 10.1080/00111619.2018.1531819
- "Suoni perduti (o ritrovati) nell'orecchio. Fattualità, intensità e la trasmissione dell'*affect* in *Typee* di Herman Melville", *Ácoma*, Vol. 12, 2017, pp.149-167.
- "Mind Reading and Mind Blindness in *The Age of Innocence*. A Cognitive Perspective." *Iperstoria* Vol. 8, 2016, pp. 266-273.
- "Revolving the Vortex; or Working Through Trauma at Sea." *Review of International American Studies* Vol 7, 2014, no. 1, pp. 85-103.
- "The Cognitive Turn: A Short Guide for Nervous Drivers." *Status Quaestionis* Vol. 7, 2014, pp. 127-155.

- "Report: Melville Society-Bezanson Archive Fellowship 2012." *Leviathan* Vol. 15, No. 2, 2013, pp. 82-85.

Chapters in Edited Collections:

- "Phantom Empathy: Ahab and Mirror-Touch Synesthesia." (co-written with Ralph James Savarese). Solicited and submitted for *Rethinking Ahab: Melville and the Materialist Turn*. Meredith Farmer and Jonathan Schroeder (eds.), under contract with University of Minnesota Press, forthcoming 2020.

Reviews:

- "Braccia e Martello." Recensione di *John Henry Festival* di Colson Whitehead. *L'Indice dei libri del mese*, Anno XXXVI, N. 3, Marzo 2019, p. 20.

RESEARCH INTERESTS:

Nineteenth-century American Literature
Cognitive Literary Criticism and Cognitive Neuroscience
Affect Theory
Disability Studies
New Materialisms
Trauma Theory

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Legal Practice and Business Development, Studio Legale Macchi di Cellere Gangemi (International Law Firm), Rome, 2003-2008.

- Legal apprenticeship and practice
- Draft of proposals for actual and/or potential clients
- Organization of conferences and workshops and relationships with the specialized press

LANGUAGES:

Spanish (native speaker), Italian (Fluent), English (Fluent), French (Basic competence)