

PILAR MARTÍNEZ BENEDÍ

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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

ACADEMIC CAREER

- 1 February 2023 – : Assistant Professor of American Literature (RTDB, SSD L-LIN/11), University of L’Aquila.
- 16.05.2022: National Scientific Qualification (ASN) as Associate Professor (10/L1- English and American Language, Literature and Culture)
- 1 August 2019 – 31 July 2022: Visiting Assistant Professor of American Literature (RTDA, SSD L-LIN/11), University of L’Aquila.
- 2018-19: Adjunct Professor, English for Physics; English for Environmental Sciences; English for Chemistry and English for Industrial Chemistry, University of Rome, “La Sapienza”
- 2017-18, Adjunct Professor, American Literature, University of Turin.

FELLOWSHIPS AND RESEARCH RESIDENCIES

- April-May 2022: Newberry Library (Chicago), Scholar-in-residence.
- October-December 2021: Loyola University and Newberry Library (Chicago), Visiting Scholar.
- February 2016: IFUSS Fellow, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- February-March 2015: 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 2013-March 2014: IFUSS Fellow, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- January 2013: Walter E. Bezanson Fellow, Melville Society Archive at the Whaling Museum Research Library, New Bedford, Mass.
- October 2011-January 2012: New York Public Library, Research for MA thesis (with Research Grant from the University of Rome, “La Sapienza”).

PARTICIPATION IN RESEARCH PROJECTS

- 2022—: University of L’Aquila, Department of Humanities, Research Project AQDH (L’Aquila Digital Humanities Archives). Investigator (I). Funded.
- October 2018 - 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”. With the support of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft

(German Fund for Scientific Research). PIs: Heike Paul (Friedrich-Alexander Universität Erlanger-Nürnberg) and Donatella Izzo (Università Orientale di Napoli). Funded.

- 2016-2018: University of Rome “La Sapienza.” Participation in the University Research Project: “The Post-memory of WWII in European and American literature, cinema, and popular culture”. PI: Giorgio Mariani. Investigator (I). Funded.

OTHER RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

- 2020—: MEL (Melville Electronic Library): Research associate and consultant in the “Adaptation and Adaptive Revision” Group. MEL is a critical digital archive partially funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).
- July 2020—: TRADHUM-Research group on translation and *Digital Humanities*, University of L’Aquila. Co-founder and co-director (with Giuseppe Sofo, University of Venice Ca’ Foscari)
- 2011—: MEL (Melville Electronic Library) Research associate in the Art Group. MEL is a critical digital archive partially funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

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”

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

- May 29-June 3, 2016: OASIS—Orientale American Studies International School, Procida. Biennial week-long school with lectures and seminars on American Studies. Directed by Donatella Izzo and Giorgio Mariani.
- April 30-May 2, 2015: MELCamp 5, at MIT (Cambridge, Boston). Two-day meeting 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 and the Houghton Library (Harvard) and funded by NEH Grant.
- May 4-10, 2014: OASIS—Orientale American Studies International School, Procida. Biennial week-long school with lectures and seminars on American Studies. Directed by Donatella Izzo and Giorgio Mariani.
- May 20-26, 2012: OASIS—Orientale American Studies International School, Procida. Biennial week-long school with lectures and seminars on American Studies. Directed by Donatella Izzo and Giorgio Mariani.
- October 13-14, 2011: MELCamp 3, at MIT (Cambridge, Boston). Two-day meeting 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 and the Houghton Library (Harvard) and funded by NEH Grant.

PARTICIPATION IN EDITORIAL BOARDS

- 2022—:International Board of *Leviathan: A Journal of Melville Studies*, Italian ANVUR “ClasseA” (Top Tier) Journal.

CONFERENCE PANELS AND PRESENTATIONS

- "Melville on the Yoga Ma(s)t," Roundtable "Medical Melville." 2024 MLA Convention, Philadelphia, 4-7 January 2024.
- "May I Divert Your Attention? Melville's 'Benito Cereno'." 2023 MLA Convention, San Francisco, January 5-8, 2023.
- "The Other America(n)s: (Re)Branding, Suspicion, Integration in Millennial Multicultural Peripheries." International Conference "Altre Alterità/Other Otherness", University of Catania, September 22-23, 2022.
- "What a Body Can Do: Suffering, Pleasure, and Disability in Late Whitman" (with Ralph Savarese). International conference "L'estasi del martirio: metamorfosi del piacere e del dolore nell'esperienza estetica", University of L'Aquila, July 5-6, 2022.
- "'NO TRUST': Delusional Misidentification Syndromes and *The Confidence Man*." 13th International Melville International Conference: "Melville's Energies," Paris, June 27-30, 2022.
- "'Sapore di Mare': Pavese's Fluid Translation of *Moby-Dick*". 2022 STS (Society of Textual Studies) Annual Conference: "Cultural Mappings." Chicago, May 26-28, 2022.
- "Sensing the Non-Human. On Bodies, Trees, and Elevators." PAMLA Annual Conference, Las Vegas, November 11-14, 2021.
- "'In words before words': Translating the More-than-Human" 26th AISNA Biennial Conference, L'Aquila, September 23-25, 2021.
- "'A Kentucky Cave Fish': May's Blindness and Mind Blindness in *The Age of Innocence*." Paper accepted for the Edith Wharton's New York Conference. New York, June 17-20, 2020. (Canceled due to Covid-19)
- "'Where Was White-Jacket Then?': Spatial Confinement and Unbounded Corporeality in Melville's *Man of War*". International Conference "Melville's Measures." Paris-Lille, October 17-19, 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, September 26-28, 2019.
- "'Speak, Find the Words': Retracing Neurodiverse Voices in Colson Whitehead's *The Intuitionist*." International MLA Symposium, Lisbona, July 23-25, 2019.
- "Phantom Empathy: Ahab and Mirror-Touch Synesthesia" (with Ralph James Savarese). Roundtable "Rethinking Ahab." 12th International Melville Conference: "Melville's Origins." NYU, NY, June 17-21, 2019.
- "Melville's Polynesian Soundscapes" 12th International Melville Conference: "Melville's Origins." NYU, NY, June 17-21, 2019.
- "Ever Been Modern? Incorporeal Bodies, Cartesian Vortices, and Pure Relationality in 'The Mast-Head.'" MLA Convention, Chicago, January, 3-6 2019.
- "Surface Trains, Underground (Post)Memories: Co-operative Remembrance in Colson Whitehead's *The Underground Railroad*." International conference "Past (Im)Perfect Continuous: Trans-Cultural Articulations of the Post-Memory of WWII." La Sapienza, Rome, June 26-18, 2018.
- "Mitchell, Melville, and Phantom Limbs. Fleshing Out Sensory Ghosts." MLA Convention, New York City, January 4-7, 2018.
- "Nonhuman Attachments: Androids, Elevators, and the Vitality of Inert Life." 24th Biennial AISNA Conference: "The US and the World We Inhabit", Milan, September 28-30, 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, July 19-21, 2017.

- “Neurological Crossings II: Pip and Mirror-Touch Synesthesia.” 11th International Melville Conference: “Melville at King’s,” King’s College, London, June 27-30, 2017.
- “Extraordinary Bodies and Extraordinary Minds. Disability, Diversity, and a New Cosmopolitanism.” 2nd Sapienza Graduate Forum, Rome, May 8-10, 2017.
- “Gigantic Stilts: ‘Prosthetic’ Embodiment and the Incorporeality of the Body in Melville’s *Moby-Dick*.” International Conference “Embodiment, Perception, and Critical Practice”, Ruhr Universität, Bochum, July 8-9, 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, June 25-29, 2015.
- “Revolving the Vortex; or, Working Trough Trauma at Sea.” Sixth IASA World Conference: “Oceans Apart: In Search of New Wor(l)ds,” Szczecin, Poland, August 3-6, 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.

CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

- 2021: Member of the local organizing committee of the Biennial AISNA Conference: “Crossing Territories. Recognitions across Time, Space, and Textuality in the US and Beyond”
- 2018: Member of the organizing committee of the international conference “Past (Im)Perfect Continuous: Trans-cultural Articulations of the Post-Memory of WWII,” University of Rome, “La Sapienza.”
- 2011: Member of the local organizing committee of the 8th International Melville Conference, “Melville and Rome: Empire, Democracy, Belief, Art”.

INVITED TALKS AND GUEST LECTURES

- “Melville sul tappetino. Appunti su yoga e meditazione nell’*American Renaissance*.” Guest lecture. “Giornata Indologica,” PhD Programme in Philological-Literary and Historical-Cultural Studies, University of Cagliari, March 4, 2024.
- “‘Pulsed Life.’ Armonia e conflitto nell’Arte Melvilliana,” Invited on-line lecture. University of Bari, March 30, 2022.
- “Pavese e gli altri. Tradurre Melville e il testo fluido.” Invited on-line lecture. University of Cagliari, October 28, 2021.
- “Urban Nomads: (Melvillean) Itineraries Through the Digital City”. Winter School “Transcoding the City: A Multidisciplinary Approach”, University of L’Aquila, January 27-31, 2020.

PUBLICATIONS:

Books

- *Herman Melville and Neurodiversity, or Why Hunt Difference with Harpoons. A Primitivist Phenomenology* (with Ralph James Savarese). Bloomsbury Academic, (Forthcoming September 2024).
- *The Insurability of Sensation. Indagini letterarie tra corpo, mente e affect*. Naples: La Scuola di Pitagora, 2018. ISBN: 978-88-6542-680-7; 978-88-6542-681-4.

Articles in Journals

- “A Pop Song on the Last Day of Earth’: Post-humanism and Environmental Poetics in American Literature” (with Cristina Iuli). *RSA* 34, 2023: 25-33. Article in ANVUR “Classe A” Journal.
- “Beyond Resilience: Reclaiming the “glints of emotions under emergencies” (with Chiara Patrizi). *JAm It (Journal of American Studies in Italy)*, No. 7, December 2022: 7-13.
- “Visceral Goosebumps: On White-Jacket’s Minor Resistance”. *Textual Practice* Vol. 35, No. 11, 2021, p. 1765-1779. Doi: [10.1080/0950236X.2021.196818](https://doi.org/10.1080/0950236X.2021.196818). Article in ANVUR “Classe A” Journal.
- “A Different Side of the Story: On Neurodiversity and Trees.” *Iperstoria* 16, 2020: 259-277. Doi: [10.13136/2281-4582/2020.i16.904](https://doi.org/10.13136/2281-4582/2020.i16.904). Article in ANVUR “Classe A” Journal.
- “Multidirectional Trains. Co-Operative (Post)Memory in Colson Whitehead’s *The Underground Railroad*.” *Status Quaestionis* 18, 2020: 85-97. Doi: [10.13133/2239-1983/16835](https://doi.org/10.13133/2239-1983/16835). Article in ANVUR “Classe A” Journal.
- “From Downtown Manhattan to the Bronx. Feliz cumpleaños, Herman!” *Leviathan: A Journal of Melville Studies*, Vol. 22, No. 1, 2020, pp. 177-180. Article in ANVUR “Classe A” Journal.
- “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](https://doi.org/10.1353/lvn.2019.0011). Article in ANVUR “Classe A” Journal.
- “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](https://doi.org/10.1080/00111619.2018.1531819). Article in ANVUR “Classe A” Journal.
- “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. Article in ANVUR “Classe A” Journal.
- “Mind Reading and Mind Blindness in *The Age of Innocence*. A Cognitive Perspective.” *Iperstoria* Vol. 8, 2016, pp. 266-273. Doi: [10.13136/2281-4582/2016.i8.434](https://doi.org/10.13136/2281-4582/2016.i8.434). Article in ANVUR “Classe A” Journal.
- “Somewhere Over the Rainbow.” *Sky-Hawk. The Journal of the Melville Society of Japan*. No. 3, 2015, pp. 59-60.
- “Revolving the Vortex; or Working Through Trauma at Sea.” *Review of International American Studies* Vol 7, 2014, no. 1, pp. 85-103. Article in ANVUR “rivista scientifica”.
- “The Cognitive Turn: A Short Guide for Nervous Drivers.” *Status Quaestionis* Vol. 7, 2014, pp. 127-155. Article in ANVUR “Classe A” Journal.
- “Report: Melville Society-Bezanson Archive Fellowship 2012.” *Leviathan* Vol. 15, No. 2, 2013, pp. 82-85. Article in ANVUR “Classe A” Journal.

Chapters in Edited Collections:

- “Backhanded Compliments, or Rehabilitating Rehabilitation in Walt Whitman” (with Ralph Savarese). *The Oxford Handbook to Walt Whitman*. Kenneth Price and Stefan Shöberlein (eds.), Oxford UP, 2024.
- “A Mute Wooing’: Animism in *Pierre*” (with Ralph James Savarese). *A Companion to Herman Melville, 2nd Edition*. Wyn Kelley and Christopher Ohge (eds.), Wiley-Blackwell, September 2022, 485-95. Doi: [10.1002/9781119668565.ch39](https://doi.org/10.1002/9781119668565.ch39).
- “Phantom Empathy: Ahab and Mirror-Touch Synesthesia” (with Ralph James Savarese). *Ahab Unbound. Melville and the Materialist Turn*. Meredith Farmer and Jonathan Schroeder (eds.), University of Minnesota Press, 2022, 127-143.

Edited Collections and Special Issues:

- *Crossing Territories. Recognition across Time, Space, and Textuality, in the US and Beyond* (with Gianna Fusco, Anna Scannavini, and Enrico Botta). De Gruyter, forthcoming 2024.
- “‘It’s Alright Ma (I’m Only Bleeding)’”. (Hi)Stories of American Fragility” (with Chiara Patrizi). *JAm It (Journal of American Studies in Italy)*, No. 7, December 2022.

Reviews:

- “*For a Pragmatics of the Useless* by Erin Manning.” *African American Review*, December 2023.
- “Il più grande nessuno di Harlem.” Review of Colson Whitehead’s *Harlem Shuffle (Il ritmo di Harlem)*. *L’indice dei libri del mese*, February 2022.
- “Braccia e Martello.” Review of Colson Whitehead’s *John Henry Days*. *L’Indice dei libri del mese*, Anno XXXVI, N. 3, March 2019, p. 20.

ACADEMIC SERVICE AND APPOINTMENTS

- 2024: Appointed chair of the guaranteed Melville Society panel at MLA 2025.
- 2022 : Appointed member of the Melville Society “Nomination Committee”
- 2018—: Peer reviewer for *CoSMo* (Comparative Studies in Modernism), *América Crítica*, *RIAS* (Review of International American studies), *Iperstoria*, *Ácoma*, *Altre Modernità*, *Miranda*. *Revue pluridisciplinaire du monde anglophone*, and *Leviathan: A Journal of Melville Studies*.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Associazione Italiana di Studi Nord-Americani (AISNA)
- Modern Languages Association (MLA)
- International American Studies Association (IASA)
- International Melville Society
- C19: The Society of Nineteenth Century Americanists
- Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association (PAMLA)
- Society for Textual Scholarship

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)