

LUISA PASSERINI

Abridged cv

Place and Date of Birth Asti (Italy) on February 2nd 1941

Citizenship Italian

Languages Fluent English and French; reading Spanish and Portuguese

Address (work) CIRSDE (Centro Interdisciplinare di Ricerche e Studi delle Donne), Università degli Studi di Torino
Via Sant'Ottavio 20; I-10124 Torino

Address (home) Summer: Via Maestra 5b; I-10020 Pavarolo (To)
Winter: Largo Montebello 31; I-10124 Torino

Telephone +39.011.0376527 (home, winter)
+39.011.9407853 (home, summer)
+39.347.9244180 (mobile)

Fax +39.011.6703270 (office)

E-mail luisa.passerini@unito.it; lp2382@columbia.edu

Website <http://www.personalweb.unito.it/luisa.passerini>

SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES

1959 Diploma di Maturità Classica, Liceo Classico "Vittorio Alfieri", Asti, Italy

1960 Diploma of Graduation, Irondequoit High School, Rochester, N.Y.

1965 Laurea in Philosophy and History, University of Turin;

Dissertation (awarded the national prize "Piero Martinetti"): "The Concept of Historical Crisis in the Philosophies of Henri de Saint-Simon and Auguste Comte"

CURRENT POSITIONS

Retired Professor of Cultural History at the University of Turin, Italy

Tutor and Advisor in the PhD Program in Historical Studies, University of Turin

Founding Member of CIRSDE (Women Studies Centre, University of Turin)

External Professor of History of the XX Century at the European University Institute, Florence

Visiting Professor in the Oral History Master Program at Columbia University, NY, NY

POSTS HELD

1969-73 Teaching collaborator, University of Turin, and teacher in high schools

1974-84 Assistant Professor of Contemporary History, University of Turin

1984-94 Associate Professor of Methodology of History, University of Turin

1989 Fall Visiting Professor, University of Western Australia, Perth, and Univ. of Sydney

1990 Spring Directeur d'Etudes at the Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, Paris

1990 Fall Visiting Professor at the New School for Social Research, USA

1991 Fall Fellow at the Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut, Essen, Germany

1992-93 Fellow at the Wissenschaftskolleg, Berlin, Germany

1993 Fall Visiting Professor at New York University, Department of History

1994-2002 Professor of History of the XX Century, Dep. of History, EUI, Florence, Italy

1998 Spring Visiting Prof. at New York University, Dep. of History

1999 Full Professor of Contemporary History in Italian Universities

2001 Visiting Professor at University of California, Berkeley

2002 Coordinator of the Summer Institute in Advanced Oral History at UC Berkeley

2002-2004 Resident Fellow at the Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut, Essen, Germany

2004-2011 Professor of Cultural History at the University of Turin

2008-2011 Visiting Professor at Columbia University, New York, Oral History MA Program

PROFILE

Luisa Passerini's research has followed some major themes as connecting threads through various fields. She has studied the history of the subjects of social and cultural change, from the African liberation movements to the movements of workers, students, and women in our century. In this endeavour she has largely used memory in its oral form, as expressed through interviews and testimonies, for constructing a history of Fascism under a new perspective as well as a history of gender and generation identities. Memory, understood in a large sense as an epoch's heritage of the past in its various forms, has been the object of her writings on the methodology of history and on the relationships between history and the social sciences. In the field of methodology she has given particular attention to the links between sources, objects and methods, and to the interpretation of sources for a history of subjectivity.

From 1993 to 2010 she has been working on a project on the relationships between the discourses on Europe and on love in Britain, France, and Italy in our century, with particular attention to the period between the wars. This research has deconstructed Eurocentrism in the field of passions by analysing the emotional and symbolic components of European identity in historical perspective. It has also proposed a critical interpretation of the sense of identity (or belonging and allegiance) in a post-colonial world, where hierarchies between Europe and other continents as well as between various European regions (such as Eastern and Southern) are no longer viable. Her sources include texts of various kinds, such as essays (from literature on European federalism to literary histories), novels and personal letters, while an iconographic dimension of the research is provided by a history of the artistic representations of the myth of Europa as one of the symbols of European culture and civilisation. On the basis of this research, she has produced three authored books, two edited ones, an edited special issue of an international journal and a number of articles.

In recent years, Luisa Passerini has started a new project intending to study intercultural connections in contemporary Europe, engaging both native and 'new' Europeans and using especially visual sources. These intercultural connections are woven through the faculties of embodied subjects – memory, visuality and mobility –

and concern the movement of people, ideas and images across the borders of European nation-states. These faculties are connected with that of affect, an increasingly important concept in history and the social sciences. In this project, memory will be understood not only as oral or direct memory, but also as cultural memory, embodied in various cultural products, among which priority will be given to visual ones: videoart, cinema, fixed and mobile images of various kinds. This study aims to understand new forms of European identity, as these develop in an increasingly diasporic world. Europe today is not only a key site of immigration, after having been for centuries an area of emigration, but also a crucial point of arrival in a global network designed by mobile human beings.

PROJECTS

1965-1979

Various grants from CNR (Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche), the Ministry of Education, and Turin's Municipality for research projects on "Culture Daily Life of the Subaltern Classes in Piedmont 1900-1950."

1982-86

Director of the Italian part in the comparative research on "Car-workers in Coventry and Turin", directed by Paul Thompson for the part on Great Britain; and in the comparative research on "Social structures and collective representations in four communities in France and Italy", directed by Yves Lequin on France.

1995-2007

Participation in the International Programme of Research on "Les identités européennes au XX siècle" directed by Robert Frank and Gérard Bossuat (Paris I), and co-chair with Prof. Kaelble of the sub-group based at the Humboldt University, Berlin.

2000-2002

Director of the research project *Gender relationships in Europe at the turn of the millennium: women as subjects in migration and marriage* within the Fifth Framework of the European Union and with the participation of five European universities (EUI, Florence; Copenhagen; Budapest; Sofia; Utrecht).

2002-2004

Director of the international research project "Europe: Emotions, Politics and Identities" at the Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut, Essen (Germany).

2004-2006

Director of the research project “Images of Europe 1989-2004: The Construction of European Identity through the Cinema” at the University of Turin, with the support of the Foundation Compagnia San Paolo of Turin.

2005-2007

Director of the research project “Aging in Turin in multicultural perspective” at the University of Turin, with the support of the Foundation Cassa di Risparmio di Torino.

PRIZES

1999

Prize for History within the “XXXIV Premio Internazionale Le Muse: Clio”, Firenze

2002-4

Research Prize of the Land of Nordrhein-Westphalen at the Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut in Essen, Germany.

PARTICIPATION IN SCIENTIFIC BOARDS

Director, in the years 1981-85, of the periodical "Fonti orali. Studi e ricerche", Turin.

Member of the Consiglio dei Garanti of the Fondazione Basso, Rome.

Member of the Advisory Committee for the Leverhulme research project 'Sisterhood and After: The Women's Liberation Oral History Project' based at the University of Sussex.

Member of the Scientific Committee of Biennale Democrazia, an international event that takes place every two years in Turin, composed of a week of debates and initiatives on democracy, and funded by the Municipality of Turin.