



# University of St Andrews

## Call for Papers – *Body Narratives*

**Society for Italian Studies – Postgraduate colloquium 2018**

**University of St Andrews – 16<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

Our bodies are defined by and define the space around us. The analysis of the body has been, and continues to be a pervasive subject in a wide number of disciplines and theoretical strands, from the phenomenology of Merleau-Ponty and today Sara Ahmed, to Michel Foucault and subsequent gender and feminist theorists such as Judith Butler, Elizabeth Grosz, Luisa Muraro and Adriana Cavarero. Going beyond the purely material, the body has become a metaphor employed in a wide range of academic contexts, from literary and cultural studies to history, anthropology, philosophy, and the visual and performing arts.

This conference aims to bring together early career researchers working on Italian topics across disciplines, inviting them to reflect on how varying interpretations of the body in academic theory and cultural production intersect with their own research. How has the body been variously figured in Italian culture? How has the body been exploited to further or counter specific ideologies? What does it mean to think about a body of the nation, of the text, of knowledge? How do questions of gender, sexuality, race, and ability shape what bodies can do and where they can go?

*Body Narratives* will contribute to the field of Italian Studies and to broader academic disciplines in several ways. It will provide a platform for young researchers to exchange research methodologies, approaches and questions concerning their research, and it will foster an integrated research network within Italian Studies. This will allow to add value to current interdisciplinary networks inside and outside academia working on the consistently challenging question of the body, understood both as a metaphor and material entity. For this reason, we particularly encourage presentations informed by interdisciplinary perspectives, aimed at situating current iterations of body narratives in Italian Studies within the wider academic context.

The day will be organised as follows:

- The first part of the day will be dedicated to formal 20 minutes presentations, divided in panels encouraging dialogue between papers sharing similar research interests.  
Dr Emma Bond, senior lecturer in our own department of Italian, has agreed to deliver a keynote lecture and will present her forthcoming book *Writing Migration through the Body*.

- In the afternoon, we will hold a poster session. A common space will be set up to display research posters, in order to create an occasion for exchange and socialisation. The authors of the posters will have the chance to engage with all participants, both the local PhD students and staff cohort and other colleagues from across the UK and abroad. Such open and informal session represents a great chance to discuss in an articulate way both one's work and future plans, and so gather useful feedback and insights from fresh eyes and third-party perspectives.

We invite participants to send abstracts and posters on any aspect of this debate.

Potential topics of discussion include, but are not limited to:

- **Body of the nation**
- **The social body**
- **The body politic**
- **The body and ideology**
- **Historical bodies**
- **Body of the text**
- **Body languages**
- **Intersectionality and the body**
- **Ethnographies of the body**
- **The migrant body**
- **Mobility and immobility**
- **Bodily boundaries**
- **Racialised bodies**
- **The affective body**
- **Queer and/or gendered bodies**
- **Disabled bodies**
- **Non-human bodies**
- **The performing body**
- **The affective body**
- **Trauma and the body**
- **The healthy/unhealthy body**

Abstracts should be 300 words at most. Posters should be in PDF format, and will be printed in A1 format. Both submissions should include a short biographical note (250 words) focussing on your affiliation and research project.

The deadline for submission is **30<sup>th</sup> September 2018**. To send your abstract or poster, please write to [sispgcolloquium2018@gmail.com](mailto:sispgcolloquium2018@gmail.com).

The event is free to attend for members of the Society for Italian Studies. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

The organising committee,  
Daniele Lei and Becky Walker