

## **GABRIELLA MARIA ROMANO**

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### **EDUCATION**

- PhD, History, Birkbeck College, University of London, 2017 – 2021. Wellcome Trust funded.
- MRes, History, Birkbeck College, University of London, 2016 - 2017. Distinction. Wellcome Trust funded.
- Post-Graduate Diploma in Communication Studies (Documentary), Goldsmiths' College, University of London, 1989-90.
- BA in Lettere e Filosofia (Theatre and Music), University of Turin, 1979 -1986
- Maturità Classica (high school diploma), Liceo Classico M. D'Azeglio, Turin, 1974 – 1979.

### **SUMMARY**

Dr Gabriella M. Romano is an independent historian and a documentary writer/director. Her field of research is the history of sexuality and homosexuality in Italy, focussing on the fascist period (1922 – 1943), and women's history. On these two broad topics, she has published books and essays mainly based on her oral history and archive research, and she has written, produced and directed several documentaries. She has taught at Temple University Rome, Richmond University Rome, West Surrey College of Arts and Design, Farnham, Birkbeck College, London, and the University of Turin, where she held two one-off sessions within the History of Homosexuality course.

Her other main interests are cinema, media and the performing arts. She has consolidated experience working as a journalist too. She started her career as a music and theatre journalist for radio, magazines and daily newspapers and, when in London, she worked as a researcher for independent television companies and for several broadcasters.

In April 2022, she was awarded a Research Grant by the Gerda Henkel Foundation to continue her archive research on the repression of sexuality through psychiatric internment in Southern Italy. She is Honorary Research Fellow at Birkbeck College, University of London.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

*Italian Fascism's Forgotten LGBT victims. Asylums and Internment, 1922 – 1943*, Bloomsbury, London 2024.

Dangerous or in Danger? Young victims of violence, neglect and abuse interned in Italian asylums in the first decades of the Twentieth century, “L.I.S.A. Wissenschaft portal”, 5.8.2023, <https://lisa.gerda-henkel-stiftung.de>.

Tra il dire, il non dire e il fare. Ambiguità e contraddizioni della psichiatria italiana del Ventennio fascista nei confronti dei/le pazienti omosessuali, in Bernardi M., Milazzo F. (eds.), *La Devianza in Italia dall'Unità al fascismo. Discorsi e rappresentazioni*, Biblion, Milano 2022, pp. 119 – 140.

Le parole di Violet, in Lombardo G. P. (ed.), *La donna che sparò al Duce. Le diverse identità di Violet Gibson tra follia e politica*, Fefè, Roma 2021, pp. 69 - 88.

Talking About Silence, “Cadmus” European University Institute, (3), 2020, pp. 1 – 10.

*The Pathologisation of Homosexuality in Fascist Italy. The Case of G.*, Palgrave Macmillan, Basingstoke 2019. Traduzione Italiana: *Il Caso di G. La patologizzazione dell'omosessualità nell'Italia fascista*, ETS, Pisa 2019.

*La Tarantina e la sua Dolce Vita*, Ombre corte, Verona 2013.

*Prodigiose Amazzoni. Opere di Artiste a Roma tra il Rinascimento e il primo Ottocento*, Biblink, Roma 2012.

*Il mio nome è Lucy. L'Italia del XX secolo nei ricordi di una transessuale*, Donzelli, Roma 2009, versione audiolibro: Storytel, Roma 2022.

Ritratti di Donne in Interni, in *Fuori dalla Norma*, Milletti N., Passerini L. (eds.), Rosenberg & Sellier, Torino 2007, pp. 73 - 96.

*I Saporì della Seduzione*. Ombre corte, Verona 2006 (II ed.: PM editore).

Co-autrice con Petley J. di *Europe after the Deluge*, in *Channels of Resistance*, Downmunt T. (a cura di), British Film Institute, London 1991, pp. 27 - 49.

*I Quindici Anni del Centro Pannunzio*, Quaderni Laici, Torino 1983.

## **ACADEMIC TEACHING & OTHER RELEVANT CREDITS**

Temple University, Rome, “Queer Autobiographies” course (academic year 2024 – 2025, I and II Term).

Historical consultant for Harper & Collins' novel set in Rome during the fascist regime (2023).

Annual lecture at University of Turin, History Dept., History of Homosexuality Course, academic years 2023 – 2024 and 2022 – 2023.

External Researcher for Pisa University research project on repressive politics implemented by the fascist regime, July – August 2022.

Co-organiser of Seminar “Out in the Outskirts. LGBTQ+ Lives beyond Metropolises”, EUI (European University Institute), Fiesole, March 2022.

Temple University, Rome, “History of Theatre” course (academic year 2021 - 2022, II Term).

Richmond University, Rome, “Writing for the Media and Journalism” course (academic year 2015 - 2016, I Term).

Press Officer for “Corso Polonia”, yearly cultural festival organised by the Polish Cultural Institute in Rome (2010).

Winner of European Bursary Scheme “Leonardo da Vinci”: lived in Berlin between January and May 2002, placement c/o Eys-Zeit Kino, a film distribution company.

Birkbeck College, University of London, two lectures on Federico Fellini, BA course on History of Cinema, Faculty of Media Studies (1997).

West Surrey College of Arts & Design, Farnham, “History of Italian Television” course for first-year BA students, Faculty of Communication Studies (1994).

One of the founders of the London Women Broadcasting Committee (WBC) and member of its steering committee. The association collectively curated *Her Point of View* (London: BECTU 1993), on women's representation behind and in front of the camera.

Researcher for *Copycat TV* by Albert Moran (Brisbane: Griffith University Press 1992) on media globalization,

1987 – 2016 generic and archive researcher for TV programmes, on a free-lance basis. Worked for BBC, RAI and several independent production companies such as Mentorn Barraclough Carey, NVC Arts, Cinenova Productions Toronto and Bonne Compagnie Paris. She also worked as a free-lance translator, interpreter, English teacher and film sub-titler. A full list of credits is available.

Press officer for Teatro Trianon, Rome (1986 – 1987).

Music journalist for classical music magazines *Musica & Dossier*, (1987-1990) and *L'Opera* (1983–1984), for classical music radio programme *Pomeriggio Musicale*, RAI Radio 3 (1985, 1986, 1988). Currently she reviews theatre shows for the magazine *Noi Donne*.

Theatre journalist for cultural magazine *Noi Donne* (2023 – to date), *I Mesi* (1983-1984) and for Turin daily newspaper *La Gazzetta del Popolo* (1982-1983).

### **CONFERENCE PAPERS**

Pisa University, “Too Much Love. Pathologisation of Passions and Emotions in Southern Italy during the fascist regime (1922 – 1943)”, International Seminar 14 – 15/2/2024. Paper: *L'Amore negato. La patologizzazione del desiderio, dell'amore e dell'ira in Puglia (1922 – 1943)*.

EUI Fiesole, “Out in the Outskirts – LGBTQ+ Lives beyond Metropolises” Workshop 22/3/2022. Paper: *Subverting 'Back to the Kitchen'. Memories of food and lesbian love affairs in Italy's 1950s*.

IHR London, History of Sexuality Seminar, 16/11/2021, Presentation of PhD Thesis.

DISSGeA, Padua University, “Corpi e Sessualità nella Storia”, 2/12/2021.

ASMI, London, 1 – 2/12/2017, “The Culture and Politics of the Italian Family from 19<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”. Paper: *The disintegration of family values in fascist Italy: the Collegno mental health hospital files*.

Società Italiana delle Storiche Congress, “Nuove frontiere per la storia di genere”, Napoli 28 – 30 gennaio 2010. Paper: *Il caso di Lucy: una storia eccezionale?*

Seminar/Symposium “Omosessualità e Media”, Università di Roma Tor Vergata, 5 ottobre 2011

### **DOCUMENTARIES**

“Baci Rubati. Amori omosessuali nell'Italia fascista” (“Stolen Kisses. Same-Sex Love in Fascist Italy”), co-author and co-director, produced by Cinecittà Luce (video, I 2020).

“Essere Lucy” (“Being Lucy”), author, director and producer (video, I 2011), on MtoF survivor of fascism and deportation to Dachau.

“Violet Gibson. La donna che cercò di uccidere il Duce” (“Violet Gibson. The Woman Who Tried to Kill the Duce.”), author and director, produced by Paneikon (video, I 2009).

"Ricordare" ("To Remember"), director and producer (video and S/8, I 2003), oral history project on gay men's recollections of fascism.

“L’Altro Ieri” (“The Day Before Yesterday”), director and producer (video and S/8, I & UK 2001), oral history project on lesbians' recollections of fascism.

"Nietta's Diary" (“Pazza d’Azzurro”), director and producer (16mm, Super 8 and video, UK 1996), on the unpublished diaries of art historian Nietta Aprà documenting her life-long relationship with translator and journalist Flafi (Linda) Mazzuccato, started in 1930s Milan. Audience Prize at 1997 Immaginaria Film Festival, Bologna.

“Lesbian Health Matters”, director and producer (educational, video, UK 1995), Mention for Special Merit at BMA Video Awards 1996.

"A Son of the Desert", director, documentary produced by BBC2 for the series, "10 x 10", (16 mm, UK 1990), on a film collector based in Northern England.

#### REFEREE

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