

Alejandro Cuadrado, PhD

Visiting Assistant Professor
Department of Romance Languages & Literatures
Bowdoin College

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EDUCATION

2023 PhD Italian and Comparative Literature, Columbia University
2019 MPhil Italian and Comparative Literature, Columbia University
2017 MA Italian, Columbia University
2016 AB French & Italian, *summa cum laude*, Princeton University

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

2024- Visiting Assistant Professor, Romance Languages & Literatures, Bowdoin College
2023-2024 Lecturer, Italian Studies, Yale University
2020-2023 Core Preceptor, Center for the Core Curriculum, Columbia University
2017-2020 Teaching Fellow, Italian Department, Columbia University

PUBLICATIONS

Books in Progress

The Corruption of the Church and Dante's Philosophy of History.

Dante, Urban Thinker.

Journal Articles

2026 "Flemish and Paduan Water Defenses: Toward an Eco-Historical Reading of *Inferno* 15.4-12," *MLN Special Issue: Old Texts, New Questions*, ed. Alejandro Cuadrado, Alberto Gelmi, and Akash Kumar.
2025 "Orsini Nepotism, Urban *Incastellamento*, and Dante's Jubilee Simile (*Inf.* 18.25-33), *Dante Studies* 142 (2024), under review.

Edited Volumes

2026 Special Issue of *MLN: Old Texts, New Questions: Critical Approaches to Medieval Italian Literature*, ed. Alejandro Cuadrado, Alberto Gelmi, and Akash Kumar.

Just Like Dante: Historicizing the Similes of the Commedia, ed. Alejandro Cuadrado and Akash Kumar.

Book Chapters

2025 "The Structure of Dante's *Paradiso*, or How to Tell a Story Beyond Time and Space (*Paradiso* 1-4)," *Dante's Paradiso: A Reader's Guide*, ed. Ronald Herzman and Filippo Gianferrari, Routledge.

- 2025 “Mentoring Early-Stage Dissertation Writers through Peer-Led Interdisciplinary Writing Groups,” *Getting to the Finish Line: New Directions for the Dissertation Process*, ed. Kristina Reardon, Courtney Ferriter, and Gretchen Busl, Modern Language Association. *Forthcoming*.

Digital Publications

- 2025 “Mapping the Tenzone with Forese Donati,” *Digital Dante*. *Forthcoming*.

Book Reviews

- 2025 Elizabeth Coggeshall, *On Amistà: Negotiating Friendship in Dante’s Italy*, University of Toronto Press, 2022, *MLN* 140. *Forthcoming*.
- 2023 Jacques Dalarun, Sean L. Field, and Valerio Cappozzo, *A Female Apostle in Medieval Italy: The Life of Clare of Rimini*, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2023, *g/s/i (gender/sexuality/Italy)*.
- 2023 Helena Phillips-Robins, *Liturgical Song in Dante’s Commedia*, The William and Katherine Devers Series in Dante and Medieval Italian Literature, 19, Notre Dame University Press, 2021, *Modern Language Review* 118.2.
- 2022 Nicolò Crisafi, *Dante’s Masterplot and Alternative Narratives in the Commedia*, Oxford University Press, 2022, *Bibliotheca Dantesca* 5.
- 2020 Roberta Morosini, *Il mare salato. Il Mediterraneo di Dante, Petrarca e Boccaccio*, Viella, 2020, *Bibliotheca Dantesca* 3.
- 2019 Aleksandr Nicolaevic Veselovskij [Alexander Veselovsky], *Studi su Dante, La Parola del Testo XXI*, 1-2, 2017, ed. Roberta Di Giorgi & Renzo Rabboni, *Bibliotheca Dantesca* 2.

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

Fellowships and Scholarships

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| 2023-2024 | Branford College Fellowship, Yale University |
| 2016-2023 | Provost’s Diversity Fellowship, Columbia University |
| 2021-2022 | Brittan Family Fellowship, Columbia University |
| 2021-2022 | Dissertation Fellowship, Columbia University |
| 2021 | Summer Research Fellowship, Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life, Columbia University |
| 2020 | Summer Dissertation Fellowship, Institute for Comparative Literature and Society, Columbia University |
| 2019-2020 | Helen and Howard R. Marraro Prize, Columbia University |
| 2014-2016 | Behrman Undergraduate Society of Fellows, Humanities Council, Princeton University |
| 2015-2016 | Undergraduate Research Fellowship, Center for the Study of Religion, Princeton University |
| 2012-2016 | Summit Foundation 4-Year Scholarship, The Summit Foundation of Colorado |
| 2010-2011 | Rotary Youth Exchange in Vicenza, Italy, Rotary International |

Prizes, Awards, and Honors

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| 2023 | Campbell Award, Columbia University Alumni Association |
| 2016 | Phi Beta Kappa, Princeton University |
| 2016 | Joseph R. Strayer Prize in Medieval Studies, Princeton University |
| 2016 | Gruppo Esponenti Thesis Prize in Italian, Princeton University |

- 2015 Dante Prize, Dante Society of America
 2015 AATI College Essay Prize, American Association of Teachers of Italian
 2015 Greater New York Chamber of Commerce Junior Prize in Italian, Princeton University

Grants for Research and Conference Travel

- 2024 RSA Diversity Grant, Renaissance Society of America
 2023 GSAS Conference Travel Matching Fund, Department of Italian, Columbia University
 2023 ASGC Travel Grant, Arts & Sciences Graduate Council, Columbia University
 2022 Claudia Rattazzi Papka Memorial Fund Grant, Medieval & Renaissance Studies, Columbia University (awarded twice)
 2022 MLA Conference Travel Grant, Modern Language Association
 2019 GSAS Conference Travel Matching Fund, Department of Italian, Columbia University
 2017 Travel Bursary, Centre for Medieval Studies & TORCH, Oxford University
 2017 Living Latin in Rome Scholarship, Paideia Institute for Humanistic Study
 2016 Notre Dame Rome Prize for Rome Jubilee Seminar, Notre Dame University
 2015 Karl D. Uitti Memorial Thesis Fund in Medieval Studies, Princeton University
 2015 Fred Fox Fund, Princeton University
 2015 Independent Project Travel Grant, Department of French & Italian, Princeton University (awarded twice)

LECTURES, CONFERENCES, AND SEMINARS

Invited Lectures

- 2024 “Dante e i decretalisti, o come fare carriera nel Medioevo,” *Settimana di Studi Danteschi Giuseppe Lo Manto*, XXVIII Edizione: “*Son li giusti occhi tuoi rivolti altrove?*,” Palermo, October 25.
 2024 “Tre fiumi danteschi: Ecologia e storia nell’*Inferno*,” Dipartimento di scienze umanistiche, Università degli Studi di Palermo, Palermo, October 23.
 2024 “Popes in Hell and Nuns in Paradise: Dante’s Many Histories of the Church,” Killeen Chair of Theology and Philosophy Lecture Series, St. Norbert College, De Pere, Wisconsin, April 11
 2023 “Caso Dante: Historiador y Poeta,” Seminarios de actualización de Profesores, Instituto de Humanidades, Universidad Panamericana, Guadalajara, November 24
 2023 “The Structure of Dante’s *Paradiso*: or How to Tell a Story Beyond Time, Space, and Individuality,” *Project Paradiso: A Gateway to Dante’s Heaven* (online), University of California, Santa Cruz, November 10
 2023 “E temo che non sia già sì smarrito: La voce di Beatrice e la memoria del poeta,” *Settimana di Studi Danteschi Giuseppe Lo Manto*, XXVII Edizione: “*Lucevan li occhi suoi più che la stella*,” Palermo, October 16-20
 2019 “Los papas e nel inferno de Dante. Crítica ala Iglesia en la *Divina Comedia*,” Departamento de Letras, Universidad de Guadalajara, Guadalajara, November 4

Papers Presented

- 2025 “Colonial Triumphs from Padova to Puebla,” *Global Petrarch(s) and Petrarchism*, Italians and Italianists at Kalamazoo, 60^h International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Michigan, May 8-11

- 2025 “Dantean Shapes of History,” *Reiteration and Recurrence in Premodern Aesthetic Forms*, 100th Annual Meeting of the Medieval Academy of America, Harvard University, Cambridge, March 20-22
- 2024 “An Island in the Stream: Boccaccio’s Cyprus and Mobility in the *Decameron’s* Mediterranean,” *Boccaccio at the Crusades*, American Boccaccio Association, Renaissance Society of America, Chicago, March 21-23
- 2024 “Reframing Decameronian Cinema,” *Frame Narratives in Literature and Across Media*, 55th Northeast Modern Language Association, Boston, March 7-10
- 2023 “Urban Topography and Orsini Nepotism: *Inferno* 18-19 Reconsidered,” *Dante’s Histories*, Department of Romance Studies, Duke University, December 13
- 2023 “Dante’s Work Ethics, or, a Poet’s Guide to Career and Retirement,” *Dante I*, Dante Society of America, 58th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Michigan, May 11-13
- 2022 “‘Due bestie van sott’ una pelle’: Horses and Humans in *Paradiso* 21,” *Animal Dante*, Dante Society of America, Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Washington, D.C. (online), January 6-9
- 2021 “Dante’s Poetic Universe in Shane McCrae’s ‘A Fire in Every World,’” *Dante’s Afterlives*, In Via Dante Network, University of Leeds (online), June 24-25
- 2019 “Intellectual vs. Higher Education: The University in Petrarch’s Universe,” *Anti-Intellectualism in Medieval Italy*, 54th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Michigan, May 9-12
- 2019 “‘E un che ’ntese la parola tosca’: Dante in the Elementary Italian Classroom,” *Teaching Dante in America*, 50th Northeast Modern Language Association, Washington, D.C., March 21-24
- 2018 “Boccaccio’s Parody of the Order of Saint Anthony: Historicizing Frate Cipolla as an Antonite Friar (*Decameron* VI.10),” *Passion, Procession, and the People: An Interdisciplinary Panel*, Italians and Italianists at Kalamazoo, 53rd International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Michigan, May 10-13
- 2018 “Mapping Dante’s Tenzzone with Forese Donati,” *Digital Approaches to Italian Medieval and Early Modern Texts*, 49th Northeast Modern Language Association, Pittsburgh, April 12-15
- 2017 “Imagined Pilgrimages in Petrarch’s *Itinerarium*,” *Mobility and Space in Late Medieval and Early Modern Europe*, Centre for Medieval Studies, Oxford University, Oxford, June 23-24
- 2017 “Authorial Acrostics: The Vulnerability of Fra Niccolò’s Attempted Copyright,” *Vulnerability in the Middle Ages*, Medieval Studies Graduate Conference, Princeton University, Princeton, April 28
- 2017 “Petrarch’s Unfinished Pilgrimage to the Holy Land,” *Great Incompletes: Italy’s Unfinished Endeavors*, Italian Department Graduate Conference, Columbia University, New York, February 3-4
- 2015 “‘Angels in the Architecture’: The Case for a Dantean Framework in Paul Simon’s ‘You Can Call Me Al,’” *Dante and Music*, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, November 5-6

Conferences Organized

- 2026 Annual Meeting of the Dante Society of America, Mexico City, co-organized with Cosette Bruhns Alonso and Natale Vacalebre

- 2024 *Dante and the Digital Humanities: Celebrating Ten Years of Original Research and Ideas* (in Honor of the 10th anniversary of *Digital Dante*), co-organized with Laura DiNardo, Julie van Peteghem, and Teodolinda Barolini, Columbia University, October 18
- 2022 *The Undivine Comedy: Thirty Years Later* (in honor of Teodolinda Barolini), co-organized with Kristina Olson, Akash Kumar, Martin Eisner, and Laura DiNardo, Italian Academy for Advanced Studies in New York, Columbia University, October 21

Conference Panels Organized and Chaired

- 2025 *Old Texts, New Questions: Critical Approaches to Medieval Italian Literature*, 3-session Working Group, co-organized with Alberto Gelmi and Akash Kumar, Modern Language Association Annual Convention, New Orleans, January 9-12
- 2024 *Bad Examples: The Limits of Exemplarity in Medieval Literature*, Italian Studies at Kalamazoo, 59th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Michigan, May 9-11
- 2024 *Sidekicks and Side Quests from Boccaccio to Cervantes*, 55th Northeast Modern Language Association, Boston, March 7-10
- 2023 *The Future of Dante Studies: A Roundtable with Junior Faculty and Early Career Scholars*, Modern Language Association Annual Convention, San Francisco, January 4-8
- 2019 *Anti-Intellectualism in Medieval Italy*, Italians and Italianists at Kalamazoo, 54th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Michigan, May 9-12
- 2019 *We Run This Town: Dynastic Literature in Medieval and Renaissance Italian Cities*, co-organized with Tylar Colleluori, Northeast Modern Language Association, Washington, D.C., March 21-24

Conference Panels Chaired

- 2025 *Bad Bodies: Materiality and Performativity in the Medieval Mediterranean*, Italian Studies at Kalamazoo, 60th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Michigan, May 8-11
- 2025 *Boccaccio's 'Decameron' and the Persistence of the Sacred*, Italian Studies at Kalamazoo, 60th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Michigan, May 8-11
- 2024 *Dante's Reach*, Renaissance Society of America, Chicago, March 21-23

Campus Talks and Symposia

- 2024 "How to Send a Pope a Hell: A Halloween Seminar on Dante's *Inferno*," The Peucinian Society, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine, October 31
- 2024 Opening Remarks, Undergraduate Research Conference, Italian Studies Department, Yale University, New Haven, April 26
- 2023 "Rome in Hell: Dante's Infernal Urbanism," Yale Medieval Lunch Series, New Haven, December 5
- 2023 "Dante in the Age of DEI: A Pedagogical Approach," *Giornata di Studi su Dante*, Department of Italian Studies, Yale University, New Haven, April 14
- 2023 "Why Read Great Books? Liberal Education in the Twenty-First Century," faculty symposium, The Morningside Institute, New York, February 3-4

Campus Panels Organized and Chaired

- 2024 "Italians in America, Undergraduates in the Archive: Four Takes on Italians Abroad," presentation of undergraduate student research from ITAL 332, *First Annual Rossini Symposium: Italians in New Haven and Beyond*, Department of Italian Studies, Yale University, New Haven, March 1-2
- 2024 "New Directions in the Study of Petrarca," presentation of graduate student research from ITAL 552, February 5

Guest Lectures or Seminars

- 2024 Guest Lecture on Dante's *Paradiso*, Dante's *Divine Comedy* (Bernardo Hinojosa), St. Norbert College, April 12
- 2024 Guest Lecture on Dante's Francesca de' Rimini and Piccarda Donati for Women in the Middle Ages (Deborah Pellegrino), Italian Studies Department, Yale University, February 28
- 2023 Plenary Lecture on Dante's *Inferno* for Directed Studies (Literature), Humanities Program, Yale University, December 4
- 2023 Guest Lecture on Dante's *Inferno*, Great Works of Literature I (Ami Yoon), English Department, Baruch College, October 25
- 2023 Guest Lecture on Dante's *Paradiso*, The Catholic Intellectual Tradition (Carlos Eire), History Department, Yale University, September 28
- 2021 "Dante's *Purgatorio*," four-part seminar series, The Morningside Institute, New York, September 14-October 6
- 2020 "Dante's Damned Popes: Corruption and the Church in the *Commedia*," Italian Department and Honors Program, St. Joseph's University (moved to online for pandemic), Philadelphia, April 21
- 2020 "Conversions, Successful and Otherwise: Augustine, Dante, and Petrarch," three-part seminar series, The Morningside Institute, New York, February 4-19
- 2017 Guest Lecture for Dante's *Inferno* (Olivia Robbins), Milton Academy, Boston

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Bowdoin College

- Fall 2024 Elementary Italian I (two sections)
- Fall 2024 Intermediate Italian I
- Spring 2025 Accelerated Elementary Italian
- Spring 2025 Dante's *Divine Comedy*

Yale University

- Fall 2023 Dante in Translation
- Fall 2023 Italian Lyric Poetry from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance (graduate seminar)
- Spring 2024 Travelers, Immigrants, and Exiles from Italy to the Americas
- Spring 2024 Directed Studies: Literature (first-year seminar)

Columbia University

- Fall 2017 Elementary Italian I
- Spring 2018 Elementary Italian II
- Fall 2018 Elementary Italian II
- Spring 2019 Elementary Italian I

Fall 2019 Intermediate Italian I
Spring 2020 Intermediate Italian II (online)
Summer 2020 Intermediate Italian II (online)
Fall 2020 Literature Humanities I (first-year seminar, online)
Spring 2021 Literature Humanities II (first-year seminar, hybrid)
Summer 2022 Graduate-Level Writing and Research
Fall 2022 Literature Humanities I (first-year seminar)
Spring 2023 Literature Humanities II (first-year seminar)

Barnard College

Summer 2023 Theories of Leadership from Antiquity to the Present (pre-college seminar, two sessions)
Summer 2024 Theories of Leadership from Antiquity to the Present (pre-college seminar, two sessions)

DePauw University

Spring 2021 Elementary Italian II (online)

DePauw Summer in Italy (Grado)

Summer 2019 Italian Culture Through Language: Accelerated Elementary Italian (with Francesca Seaman)
Summer 2019 Italian Culture Through Language: Accelerated Intermediate Italian (with Francesca Seaman)
Summer 2019 Italian Culture Through Language: Accelerated Advanced Italian (with Francesca Seaman)

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Editorial Positions

2020- Assistant Editor, *Digital Dante*

External Reviewer

2024 *Quaderni d'Italianistica*
2024 *Humanities*
2023 *Meliora*

Conference Leadership

2024- Organizer, Italian Studies at Kalamazoo, International Congress of Medieval Studies

Mentorship Roundtables and Panels

2024 Lunch and Learn, Mellon-Mays Undergraduate Fellowship, Bowdoin College, October 4
2024 "How To Write a Dissertation in Dante Studies," *Dante Society of America Graduate Group*, April 22 (online)
2022 Pathways into Academia: Visits and Experiences, Bates College, March 31-April 2
2022 "What I Wish I'd Known About Graduate School," Bates College, April 1
2021 "Professional Development for Graduate Students," Creating Connections Consortium—Liberal Arts Diversity Officers Summit, Williams College, April 8
2019 "From Undergraduate to Graduate: Thinking About Graduate School in the Humanities?" The Morningside Institute, New York, November 13

Public Outreach

- 2024 Panel Discussion Participant for “A Slice,” Directed by Jes Mack, A Broken Umbrella Theatre Company, International Festival of Arts & Ideas, New Haven, June 17-19
- 2024 Dante Underground: Reading *Inferno* in the Times Sq.- 42nd St. Station, co-organized with Giacomo Berchi, sponsored by the Yale Dante Working Group (Whitney Humanities Center), New York, April 29 [[“Working Group Brings *Inferno* to Life in NYC Subway”](#)]
- 2021 “Paradiso 22: Looking Back at History and at Home,” with Louis J. Moffa, *Canto per Canto* video series, Dante Society of America [[link](#)]

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

Bowdoin College

- 2024- Faculty Mentor, Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship
- 2024- Mentor, Undergraduate Learning Assistants in Italian Studies

Yale University

- 2024 PhD Oral Comprehensive Exam Advising, Kamila Kaminska-Palarczyk, English Department (Topic: Chaucer and his Italian Influences)
- 2023-2024 First-Year Student Advising, Branford College

Columbia University

- 2023- Recent Alumni & Students Committee, Graduate School of Arts & Sciences
- 2022-2023 Student Advisory Committee to the Columbia Presidential Search
- 2022-2023 Search Committee for GSAS Writing Studio Assistant Director
- 2021 Literature Humanities Syllabus Review Committee, Center for the Core Curriculum
- 2019-2021 President, Arts & Sciences Graduate Council
- 2019-2021 Executive Committee of the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences
- 2019-2021 Educational Policy and Planning Committee, Faculty of Arts & Sciences
- 2019-2021 *ex officio*: PhD Council, Students of Arts & Sciences Consortium, Ivy+ Summits
- 2017-2019 Italian Department Representative to Arts & Sciences Graduate Council
- 2017-2019 Student Library Advisory Committee

GSAS Writing Studio at Columbia University

- 2018-2023 Senior Writing Consultant (2021-2023) and Writing Consultant (2018-2021)
- 2023 Workshop Designer and Facilitator, MA Thesis Workshop Series (4 workshops)
- 2022 Workshop Facilitator, Soliciting Effective Feedback
- 2022 Staff Development Workshop Designer and Facilitator, Professional Development
- 2021 Workshop Facilitator, Ford Foundation Workshop, Office of Academic Diversity & Inclusion
- 2021 Facilitator, GSAS Writing Studio New Consultant Training
- 2019-2021 Workshop Designer and Facilitator, The Prospectus Club & Jumpstart Your Dissertation

Princeton University

- 2014-2016 Peer Academic Advisor, Rockefeller College

CO-CURRICULAR EVENTS

Bowdoin College

- 2024- *Tavola Italiana*, weekly language table
2024- Bowdoin-Colby Italian Nights at the Museum, art museum exchange trips in collaboration with Toni Veneri (Colby College)

Yale University

- 2024 *Improv all'italiana*, improvisational theater workshop (in Italian) featuring Paolo Scartoni, Department of Italian Studies, April 2

Columbia University

- 2017-2020 *Caffè e conversazione*, weekly Italian conversational group, Department of Italian

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Association for Italian Studies
American Boccaccio Association
Dante Society of America
Medieval Academy of America
Modern Language Association
Renaissance Society of America

LANGUAGES

English, Italian, Spanish, French, Latin

REFERENCES

- Teodolinda Barolini Lorenzo Da Ponte Professor of Italian
Columbia University
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- Jane Tylus Andrew Downey Orrick Professor of Italian and Comparative Literature
Yale University
jane.tylus@yale.edu
- Alessandro Giammei Assistant Professor of Italian Studies
Yale University
alessandro.giammei@yale.edu
- Pier Mattia Tommasino Associate Professor of Italian
Columbia University
pmt2114@columbia.edu
- Alessandro Vettori Professor of Italian
Rutgers University
vettori@rutgers.edu