



Benedetta Bessi
Via Principe Amedeo, 323
00185 Rome, Italy
Telephone 06-4440441
bbessi@johncabot.edu
Married, with 2 children

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

- Greek and Roman Archaeology
- Cultural History and Religious Studies
- History and Archaeology of the Roman Provinces

EDUCATION

- Ph.D., Greek and Roman Art and Archaeology. University of Messina, 2002.
Dissertation: Le necropoli di Sabratha: ideologia e rituale funerario nella Tripolitania antica.
- Diploma in Arabic culture and language, Italian Institute for Africa and the Orient, Rome, 2002.
- School of specialization, Classical Archaeology, Italian Archaeological School of Athens, December 1998.
Dissertation: Le stratigrafie e i materiali ellenistici e protoromani dello scavo intorno al mausoleo B di Sabratha
- B.A. (*summa cum laude*), Classical Studies, University of Florence, April 1994.
Dissertation: La musica del simposio nella ceramica attica

TEACHING ACTIVITY

- Adjunct Assistant Professor in Classical Studies, John Cabot University Rome, 2006-2016.
- Adjunct Professor of Classical Studies at Temple University Rome, 2010-2016.
- Adjunct Professor of Roman Civilization, USAC Viterbo, 2012-2015.
- Mary Seeger O'Boyle Post-Doctoral Research Fellow Program in Hellenic Studies, Princeton University, 2005-2006.
- Lecturer in Archaeology and Classics, Rome Study Center of Richmond, The American International University of London, 2002-2009.
- Research Assistant at the University of Macerata and the Italian Archaeological School of Athens 1998-2002.

COURSES TAUGHT

Ethnicity and Identity in the Roman Empire (2013-2016)
Wine and the Culture of Drinking in Antiquity (2010-2013)
Roman Africa (2007-2015)
Death and Mourning in Ancient Societies (2007)

Roman History (2008-2015)
Ancient Rome and Its Monuments (2008 on site)
History of Greek and Roman Art (2008-2009 on site)
The Art and Archaeology of Campania (2005 on site)
The Archaeology of Rome (2002-2014 on site)
The Archaeology of a Roman Province: *Africa Proconsularis* (Spring 2008, on site)

Elementary and Intermediate Latin (2010-2013)
Greek independent reading (2012)
Literature and Society in the Roman World (2007-2012)
Greek Civilization (2007-2014)

Classical Mythology (2002-2016)
Religion in the Graeco-Roman world (2008-2015)
A Survey of Greek History (2007-2015)
Ancient Empires: Persia, Athens and Macedon (2006)
The Collapse of the Roman Republic (2006)

TEACHING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Context Tour Docent Development Workshops on Visual Learning Strategies; 101 Sharing Knowledge, Group Dynamics, Shaping Narratives.
- Use of Blackboard in the Course Management, Temple University in Rome, 2012-2014
- Cultural Project and Event Management Course, held at the Delta Communication Center, Rome, April 2011
- Teaching workshop organized by the Teaching and Learning Center of Temple University for the Temple Rome program Faculty, Spring semester 2011
- Faculty Development workshop held by Ken Bain, Montclair University, author of “What the Best College Teachers Do”, Harvard University Press 2004, John Cabot University, October 13th and 14th, 2006.
- The McGraw Centre for Teaching and Learning at Princeton University Workshop Series, Fall 2005.

EXCAVATION AND POST-EXCAVATION EXPERIENCES

- Professional collaboration with the University “Roma Tre” in the frame of the collaborative project directed by Luisa Musso and sponsored by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the implementation of an open source digital library with bibliographical and archival material pertinent to the archaeological and historical heritage of Libya, 2015
- Participation to the Red Castle and Museums of Tripolitania under the direction of Luisa Musso, University “Roma Tre”. On site survey in Tripoli, Libya in June 2014 and organization of a Libyo-Italian workshop in Zarzis, Tunisia June 2015
- Member of the Italian team working at Sabratha under the direction of Professor Antonino di Vita, 1998-2009.
 - a) Study of the ceramic material and preparation of a report of the excavations around the Punic mausoleum.
 - b) Project on the necropolis of Sabratha (mapping of monuments, store-room and archive research, drawing of grave good material).
- Trench supervisor in the excavations conducted in the area of the Greek agora of Gortyna, Crete by the Italian Archaeological School of Athens, 1995-1997.

- Assistant to the director in the excavations conducted at Arghyroupolis and Stavromenos (Rethymno), Crete by the Greek Ephorate of Chania, 1994.
- Trench supervisor in the excavations conducted at Tell Barri, Syria by the University of Florence (also in charge of pottery catalogue and drawing), 1991.
- Undergraduate member of the team excavating at Lago dell'Accesa, Tuscany University of Florence (with participation to the winter restoration lab), 1989-1991.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Death and Mourning in the Ancient World: Case Studies from Roman North Africa (in progress).

The African Adventure of Liber Pater (new project).

Articles

“The Ionian Islands in the *Liber Insularum* of Cristoforo Buondelmonti” in A. Hirst-P. Sammon (edd.), The History and Culture of the Ionian Islands, Cambridge Scholars Publishing 2014, 225-261

“Cristoforo Buondelmonti: Greek Antiquities in Florentine Humanism”, (in) The Historical Review/La Revue Historique 9 (2012), 63-76

Entries on Phoenicio-Punic religion for the Encyclopedia of Ancient History, edited by Roger Bagnall, Kai Brodersen, Craige Champion, Andrew Erskine and Sabine Huebner, Wiley Blackwell 2012

“Il Mausoleo B di Sabratha. La stratigrafia e i materiali delle fasi ellenistiche e proto-romane. Con un'introduzione di A. Di Vita e un'appendice sui ritrovamenti monetali punici di L.I. Manfredi” [in] Quaderni di Archeologia della Libia, 20 (2008), 5-113

“Due capsule bronzee da Gortina e da Sabratha: portasingilli o amuleti?” (in) Atti del Convegno Internazionale su Creta romana e Protobizantina, Iraklion, 23-30 settembre 2000 (Padova 2005), 1151-61.

“Il lagynos: una forma dionisiaca,” [nota presentata dal socio E. La Rocca], Rendiconti Morali dell'Accademia dei Lincei, s. 9, v. 16 (2005), 241-75.

“A New Sifnean Coin: an Authentic or a False Piece?” (in) Praktika tou deuterou Sifnaikou Simposiou, Sifnos, 27-30 Iouniou 2002 (Athens 2005), 207-14.

“Le necropoli di Sabratha. Le camere ipogeiche: tipologia e decorazione,” (in) XV Convegno sull'Africa Romana, Tozeur, 11-15 dicembre 2002 (Rome 2004), 1751-69.

“Sabratha. La stratigrafia e i materiali delle fasi ellenistiche e proto-romane dello scavo intorno al mausoleo B,” QAL 18 (2003), 399-402 [studi in memoria di L. Bacchielli.]

“L'emporio di Sabratha: l'evidenza del materiale ceramico proveniente dallo scavo intorno al mausoleo B,” (in) XIV Convegno sull'Africa Romana, Sassari, 7-10, 2000 (Rome 2002), 1387-96.

“Le necropoli di Sabratha: fra tradizione punica e romanizzazione,” (in) Atti del congresso Internazionale “Espacio y usos funerarios en el Occidente roman,” Cordoba, 5-9 giugno 2001 (Cordoba 2002), 335-52.

“Notiziario bibliografico di Roma e suburbio,” Bullettino della Commissione Archeologica Comunale di Roma, 101 (2000), 411 [entries marked ‘BB’].

“The Antiquities of the Island of Sifnos according to the Accounts of Modern Travellers,” (in) Praktika tou protou Sifnaikou Simposiou, Sifnos 25-28 Iouniou 1998 (Athens 2001), 141-54.

“La musica del simposio: fonti letterarie e rappresentazioni vascolari,” AION ArchStAn, n.s. 3 (1997), 137-52.

“Notiziario bibliografico di Roma e suburbio,” Bullettino della Commissione Archeologica Comunale di Roma 98 (1997), 331-98 [entries marked ‘BB’].

Reviews

Review to *Religion in the Roman Empire*, by J.B. Rives, Oxford: Blackwell Ancient Religions, 2. 2007, BMCR. 2007.09.42. <http://bmcr.brynmawr.edu/2007/2007-09-42.html>

CONFERENCE PAPERS AND LECTURES

“Libya in the Historical Periodicals and Newspapers: a Research Project” paper presented at “Red Castle and Museums of Tripolitania Workshop”, Zarzis, Tunisia, June 8-11, 2015.

“Mausoleum B of Sabratha and the Phoenician-Punic View of the Afterlife”, invited paper presented to the Conference on Comparative Views of the Afterlife held at the University of Sendai, Japan, March 19, 2015.

“Cristoforo Buondelmonti’s *Liber Insularum*: Greek Antiquities in Florentine Humanism” paper presented to the faculty and students of the Department of Art History of the University of Sendai, Japan, March 18, 2015.

“Studying Classical Mythology in the 21st century in Rome: Why It Still Matters” paper presented at the AACUPI conference "Addressing the Future of Study Abroad in Italy--How Do We Stay Relevant?" organized at Temple University on March 5, 2015.

"Greek Island Hopping: A Digital Project on the *Liber Insularum* by Cristoforo Buondelmonti", guest lecture in the course in Cultural Tourism at the American College of Greece, Athens, Oct. 22, 2014.

“Greek Islands Hopping: A Proposal for Creating an Online Learning Object across AMICAL Institutions”, paper presented at the 11th annual meeting of AMICAL, Athens, May 14-17, 2014.

“Una testimonianza” at the conference on the Italian Brain Drain Issue organized by the Antonello da Messina association, Rome October 16, 2010.

“The Ionian Islands in the *Liber Insularum* of Cristoforo Buondelmonti”, paper presented at the History and Culture of the Ionian Islands, The Durrell School of Corfu, May 16-21, 2010.

“The Cities of the Dead: Ritual and Typology in the Necropolis of Sabratha”, paper presented at the XVII International Conference of Classical Archaeology, Rome, 22-26 September 2008.

“Dionysos goes to Africa: Religious Syncretism in the Ancient Mediterranean”, paper presented at Loyola University Chicago, February 8, 2008.

“Antichità greche e romane nel museo di Princeton”, on site lecture for a group of visitors of the Italian National Trust (FAI), October 24, 2007.

“Cristoforo Buondelmonti and his *Liber Insularum*”, paper presented at the International workshop Island Cartographies: Knowledge and Power. Cartographie des île : enjeux de savoir – enjeux de pouvoir, Hermoupolis, Syros, July 16-17, 2007.

“The Archaeology of Mourning: Continuing To Think Ernesto de Martino”, John Cabot Faculty Seminars, April 3, 2007.

“The African Adventure of *Liber Pater* between Regional Culture and Globalization”, Globalism and Regionalism in Antiquity, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, March 16-17, 2007.

“I Won’t Forget To Put Roses on Your Grave: *Rosalia* and Funerary Ritual in Roman Tripolitania”, AIA, Annual Meeting, San Diego, January 4-7, 2007.

“The Archaeology of Religion in the Roman World”, guest lecture presented to the course on Roman Archaeology by Prof. Alessandro Celani, Richmond University, 26 October 2006.

“A New Approach to Cristoforo Buondelmonti’s *Liber Insularum*: the Case of Sifnos”, paper presented to the 3rd International Siphnean Symposium held in Siphnos, June 29-July 2, 2006.

“The Archaeology of Mourning: The Necropolis of Porto at Isola Sacra”, American Academy Summer School in Archaeology, June 22, 2006.

“Funerary Ideology and Ritual in Ancient Tripolitania: the Necropolis of Sabratha”, guest lecture presented to the Graduate Seminar on Roman Africa, conducted by Brent Shaw, Princeton University, March 8, 2006.

“Greek Antiquities in Florentine Humanism: The *Liber Insularum* by Cristoforo Buondelmonti”, lecture presented to the Italian Studies Symposium at Princeton University, March 4, 2006.

“Buondelmonti and the Island of Siphnos: a Case-Study,” lecture presented to the Program in Hellenic Studies at Princeton University, November 28, 2005.

“A New Siphnean Coin: an Authentic or a False Piece?” paper presented to the 2nd International Siphnean Symposium held in Siphnos, June 27-30, 2002.

“The Necropolis of Sabratha: between Punic Tradition and Romanization,” lecture presented at the Center for the Ancient Mediterranean, Columbia University, March 11, 2002.

“Le necropoli di Sabratha: fra tradizione punica e romanizzazione,” paper presented to the International Congress “Espacio y usos funerarios en el Occidente Romano,” Cordoba, June 5-9, 2001.

“L’emporio di Sabratha: l’evidenza del materiale ceramico proveniente dallo scavo intorno al mausoleo B,” paper presented to the 14th Congress on Roman Africa, Sassari, December 7-10, 2000.

“Due capsule bronzee da Gortina e da Sabratha: portasisigilli o amuleti?” paper presented to the International Congress on Roman and Early Byzantine Crete, Heraklion, September 22-26, 2000.

“The Antiquities of the Island of Sifnos according to the Accounts of Modern Travelers,” paper presented to the 1st International Siphnean Symposium, Siphnos, June 25-28, 1998.

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS AND RESEARCH GRANTS

●John Cabot University Faculty Research Grants to attend conferences abroad and cover research expenses 2006-2015.

●Antonello da Messina Award, Category “Young scholars for excellence in Research”, Rome, Oct. 15, 2010.

●Alexander Onassis research grant (Institute of Neo-Hellenic Research, Prof. George Tolias), Spring 2007.

●Annual Mary Seeger O'Boyle Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Hellenic Studies, Princeton, 2005-2006.

●Three year scholarship for doctoral research by the Italian Ministry of Education and Research, 1999-2002.

●Three year joint scholarship by the Italian Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Culture to complete the Specialization degree in Athens, 1995-1998.

●Twelve month Erasmus Scholarship by the European Community to attend courses at the Archaeological Institute of the University of Munich, 1992-1993.

TV INTERVIEWS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Contributor on the History of Roman Wine to The Wine Show, a British TV show hosted by Matthew Mode and Matthew Rhys, filmed in Rome at the end of August 2015.

Consultant for BBC and History Channel Productions on the Cult of Cybele, Caligula and S. Peter's life and preaching, Pontius Pilatus, Weather Changes in Antiquity.

Local expert (10-2-2008) for the Discovery Channel Series “Out of Egypt” hosted by Dr. Kara Cooney (UCLA) on religious and funerary practices in the Roman world.
<http://www.netflix.com/Movie/Out-of-Egypt/> or
<http://www.amazon.it/Out-Egypt-Edizione-Regno-Unito/>

On camera interview (3-11-2008) by the Associated Press Television News on Julius Caesar and his funeral.

RELATED WORK AND TRAINING

Context Tour Docent: lead customized archaeological and historical walks (Imperial Rome, Appian Way, Mithraic religion, Hidden Rome) 2013-2014

Technical translations from and into Italian, German and English for private and public institutions such as Princeton Art Museum, German Archaeological Institute of Rome, Department of Archaeology of the University of Munich, 1992-2014.

Lecturer, for Archeo magazine and Fondo Ambiente Italiano on tours to Asia Minor, Jordan, Greece, Tunisia and Libya 2006-2011.

Study Leader Smithsonian Journeys, Tour “In the Shadow of Vesuvius”, 2005.

Tour Director, EF Educational Travel, Tours to Italy, Greece and Turkey, 1999-2005.

Archaeological guide, various Italian tour operators, tours to Libya and the Middle East 1998-2002.

Internship in Tourist Activities at the European Program Leonardus, Rethymnon, Crete 1994.

Training course in teaching Italian as a foreign language at Centro Linguistico Koine, Florence, 1994.

LANGUAGES

_Italian, Native

_English, near to Native proficiency

_German, Full Professional Proficiency

_Modern Greek, Full Professional Proficiency

_French, Professional Proficiency

_Classical Arabic,

Ancient: Greek, Latin, Phoenicio-Punic