

Donatella Della Ratta - Curriculum Vitae

ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS

2017: Assistant Professor of Communications and Media Studies

Department of Communications, John Cabot University, Rome

2014/2016: Postdoctoral Fellow

University of Copenhagen (affiliated to CrossCultural and Regional Studies Department, Faculty of Humanities, & Centre for Resolution of International Conflicts, Faculty of Political Science)

2013/2014 Postdoctoral Fellow

PARG (Project for Advanced Research in Global Communication), The Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania

2013 Visiting Fellow, October

University of Chicago, Center for the study of Race, Politics, and Culture

2012/2013, Affiliate

Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society, Harvard University

2012 Visiting Fellow, January/March

University of Chicago, Paris Center

EDUCATION

2013 PhD Fellow

University of Copenhagen, Faculty of Humanities, Department of CrossCultural and Regional Studies. In cooperation with The Danish Institute in Damascus.

Title of the dissertation: "Dramas of the authoritarian state. The politics of Syrian TV serials in the Pan Arab market"

1998 MA (honors)

Mass Communication, Faculty of Sociology, University of Rome La Sapienza, cum laude

Title of the dissertation: "Modelli di produzione, strategie di distribuzione, tecnologie di trasmissione nelle nuove televisioni arabe"

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Italian (native speaker); fluent in English, French, Arabic (Modern Standard Arabic), Syrian colloquial Arabic.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (selected)

TEACHING AND MEDIA TRAINING (focus: media studies; digital media cultures; social media and social movements; Arab world; Syria)

Seminars, talks, workshops, and training sessions at, among others: University of Copenhagen; University of Chicago Paris Center; The Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania; Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society, Harvard University; Università La Sapienza Rome; Università di Milano IULM; Università del Mediterraneo di Reggio Calabria; Università di Siena; University of Amman; European Journalism Observatory Ejo, Lugano, Switzerland; Counsel of Europe; European Parliament, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Brussels,

Belgium; Euromed Parliament, Apem Committee, Brussels, Belgium; Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

BLOGGING AND INTERNET COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT (focus: Arab world)

2012-present

Cofounder and board member of web portal on Syria's creative resistance *Syria Untold*

<http://www.syriauntold.com/> (Arabic/English)

recipient of the "Digital Communities" award at Ars Electronica Festival 2014

2008-present

Author of the blog Mediaoriente, with a focus on Arab media issues www.mediaoriente.com (English/Italian)

2008/2013

Arab world community manager for international NGO Creative Commons

www.creativecommons.org

JOURNALISM AND TELEVISION

1998-present

Freelance journalist and occasional contributor to Italian and international publications, such as: Al Jazeera English website, Hyperallergic, Open Democracy, Wired UK, D di Repubblica, Internazionale, Il Sole 24 ore, il Manifesto, Corriere della Sera, Arab media report.

1998-2006

TV author and producer of programs, series, and documentaries at Rai Television (Italian public broadcaster) with a focus on the Arab world

FESTIVALS/ART EXHIBITIONS/GRANTS

2016

Co-curator of "*Immagine Irrequieta. Filmare il mondo arabo nel post 2011*", Cineteca di Bologna, 11-13 November

Curator of "*Image Politics-Politics of the Image: contemporary documentary filmmaking from the Arab world*", Cinematek Copenhagen, 27-29 August

2015

Curator of *Syria off Frame*, an art exhibition featuring 140 Syrian artists in the framework of the Venice Biennale, 31 August- 5 November

2014

Awarded by the Prince Claus Funds with a grant from the "*Culture in defiance*" call for support 2014-2015 for the project "*Workshop Syria*"

2013

Co-curator of *Syria's art of resistance*, art exhibition, Copenhagen, March-May

Curator of *Creative Syria*, art exhibition, XXIII African, Asian and Latin America Film Festival, Milan, 4-10 May

2012

Co-curator of *Culture in defiance: continuing traditions of satire, art and the struggle for freedom in Syria*, art exhibition, June-November, Prince Claus Foundation Gallery, Amsterdam

2008

Curator of *West by the Arab media*, festival, screenings and conferences, 26-27 January, Rome

2005

Curator of the Arab media section for *Occidente desde Oriente*, international art exhibition, Centre of Contemporary Culture, Barcellona (CCCB)

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

Della Ratta, Donatella (2017). “Expanded places: Redefining Media Production in the Age of Networked Violence”, *International Journal of Cultural Studies* (in press)

Della Ratta, Donatella (2016). “The unbearable lightness of the image. Unfinished thoughts on filming in contemporary Syria” (currently under peer-review)

Della Ratta, Donatella (2016). “Visual Economy of the Arab Uprisings and Contemporary Middle Eastern Conflicts: a critical perspective” (currently under peer-review)

Della Ratta, Donatella (2015). “Violence and Visibility in contemporary Syria: an ethnography of the “Expanded Places”. *CyberOrient*, vol. 9, Iss. 1 <http://www.cyberorient.net/article.do?articleId=9557>

Della Ratta, Donatella (2014). “Making Real-Time Drama: The Political Economy of Cultural Production in Syria’s Uprising”, *The Annenberg School for Communication, Pennsylvania University, PARGC Press, PARGC Paper 2, Fall*
http://media.wix.com/ugd/86a19a_7aa1c99fd6c14105a2fe1f80fc0a8300.pdf

Della Ratta, Donatella, and Enrico De Angelis, (2014). “Mind the gap: bridging knowledge and practices of activism at the Fourth Arab Bloggers Meeting”, *Jadaliyya*, 7 June
http://www.jadaliyya.com/pages/index/18040/mindthegap_bridgingknowledgeandpracticesofan

Della Ratta, Donatella, and Augusto Valeriani (2012). “Remixing the Spring!: Connective Leadership and Read-Write Practices in the 2011 Arab uprisings”, *CyberOrient*, Vol. 6, Iss. 1

<http://www.cyberorient.net/article.do?articleId=7763>

Della Ratta, Donatella (2012). Syrian hands raised: user generated creativity between citizenship and dissent, Jadaliyya, 31 October 2012
http://www.jadaliyya.com/pages/index/8125/syrianhandsraised_usergeneratedcreativitybetw

Della Ratta, Donatella (2012) “Dramas of the authoritarian state”, Middle East Report online, February <http://www.merip.org/mero/interventions/dramasauthoritarianstate>

Della Ratta, Donatella (2012). “The Syria leaks”, Jadaliyya, 22 February
<http://www.jadaliyya.com/pages/index/4460/thesyrialeaks>

Monographs

Della Ratta, Donatella (2014). “La fiction siriana. Mercato e politica della televisione nell’era degli Asad”, Arab Media Report edizioni, Roma

Della Ratta, Donatella (2005). “Al Jazeera. Media e società arabe nel nuovo millennio”, Bruno Mondadori Editore, Milano

Della Ratta, Donatella (2000). “Media Oriente. Modelli, strategie e tecnologie nelle nuove televisioni arabe”, edizioni Seam, Roma

Book Chapters and edited books

Della Ratta, Donatella, and Augusto Valeriani (2017). “Just a bunch of Arab geeks? : How an elite of “techies” shaped digital culture in the Arab region and contributed to the making of the Arab uprisings”, in Sabry, Tarik and Ftouni, Layal (eds), “Arab Subcultures: Transformations in Theory and Practice”, I.B. Tauris, London.

Della Ratta, Donatella. (2016) “On the narrative of the Arab D.I.Y. Revolutions and how it fits into our neoliberal times”, in Bennet, Pete and Julian McDougall (eds.) “Popular culture and the austerity myth: Hard Times Today”, Routledge

Della Ratta, Donatella, Naomi Sakr, and Jakob Skovgaard Petersen (eds.) (2015). “Arab media

moguls”, I.B. Tauris, London.

Della Ratta, Donatella (2015). “Tarek Ben Ammar: the networked entrepreneur”, in Della Ratta, Donatella, Naomi Sakr, and Jakob Skovgaard Petersen (eds.), “Arab media moguls”, I.B. Tauris, London pp. 129-146.

Della Ratta, Donatella (2015). “The whisper strategy: how Syrian drama makers shape television fiction in the context of authoritarianism and commodification”, in Salamandra, Christa and Stenberg, Leif (eds.), “Syria from Reform to Revolt”, Volume 2: Culture, Society, and Religion, Syracuse University Press, Syracuse.

Della Ratta, Donatella, and Augusto Valeriani (eds.) (2009). “Un Hussein alla Casa Bianca. Cosa pensa il mondo arabo di Barack Obama”, Odoja, Bologna.

Della Ratta, Donatella (2009). “NonWestern Media and the EU: Perspectives from Al Jazeera”, in Lucarelli, Sonia and Fioramonti, Lorenzo (eds.) “External perceptions of the European Union as a global actor” Routledge, London.

Della Ratta, Donatella (2009). “Occidente dai media arabi”, in Nunnari, Domenico and Milella, Ornella (eds.) “Media arabi e cultura”, Gangemi editore, Roma.

Della Ratta, Donatella (2007). “E’ possibile la cooperazione audiovisiva nel Mediterraneo?”, in Zolo, Danilo (ed.) “Mediterraneo” ,Feltrinelli

Della Ratta, Donatella (2004). “La televisione digitale nei paesi arabi”, in Frezza, Gino and Sorice, Michele (eds.) “La tv che non c’è. Scenari dell’innovazione televisiva in Europa e nel Mediterraneo”, Edizioni 10/17, Salerno

Della Ratta, Donatella (2004). “Perchè Al Jazeera è un network glocal”, in Sedda, Franciscu (ed.) “Glocal. Sul presente a venire”, Luca Sossella editore, Roma.

Della Ratta, Donatella (2004). “Le news televisive nel mondo arabo prima e dopo la guerra in Iraq”, in A. Medici (ed.) “Schermi di guerra”, Annali dell’Archivio Audiovisivo del Movimento Operaio, Roma