

Carlotta Sorba

Carlotta Sorba is Professor of Cultural History at the Department of History at the European University Institute History and Professor of Modern History at the Department of History, Geography and the Ancient world, University of Padua (Italy). She gained a doctorate in Contemporary History from the University of Turin after two scholarships in Geneva and in Paris at the French CNRS.

She is the founder and since 2012 has been the director of the CSC (*Centro Interuniversitario di Storia culturale*), the result of a convention between the Universities of Padua, Bologna, Venice, Pisa, Verona and Salerno (<http://centrostoriaculturale.org>) in order to develop and enhance cultural history studies in Italy. The Centre is now part of a European network of cultural history (METIS <https://wp.unil.ch/metis/presentations-des-centres/>) which includes the *Centre d'Histoire culturelle des sociétés contemporaines* - CHCSC (Université Paris Saclay) and the *Centre des sciences historiques de la culture* - SHC (Université de Lausanne).

She has held numerous positions of responsibility at her university: she has been one of the coordinators of the Padua University Scientific Committee (2016 - 2020 for the section of History, Geography, Philosophy) and a member of numerous University Boards for Gender studies and policies. From 2016 to 2018 she was a member of the National Committee for ASN (Abilitazione Scientifica Nazionale).

She has carried out intense organisational activity in the scientific community. She has served and is currently serving on the editorial boards of several scientific journals, such as "Contemporanea. Rivista dell'800 e del 900", "Revue d'Histoire du XIX^{ème} siècle", "Revue d'Histoire culturelle". She has also worked intensely at the organization of conferences, seminar cycles, summer schools, within and outside of the framework of the CSC. In 2017 she was the coordinator of the scientific board for the biennial Sissco Conference (Cantieri di storia 2017), the main meeting for contemporary history scholars in Italy.

As a specialist in the history of 19th-century Italy, in 2021 she was appointed by the Ministry of Cultural Activities to the steering committee of the "Istituto per la storia del Risorgimento italiano" in Rome. Since 2019 she has sat on the board of the *Association for Political History* (APH) and she is organising the Eight international APH PhD Conference in Padua due to be held in June 2023 (7-9 June 2023).

She is editor of three Italian publishing collections: "Storia delle donne e di genere" (Viella); "Studi culturali. Concetti e pratiche" (ETS); "I tempi e le forme" (Carocci).

She has been visiting professor at numerous European universities: the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens; the Ecole Normale Supérieure de la rue d'Ulm, Paris; the Université Lyon 2; the Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne; the Fondation Maison de Science de l'Homme; the Université Paris Saclay; and the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes, Paris.

Since 2001, she has conducted intensive post-doctoral tutorship and supervision of doctoral theses. She currently supervises five doctoral students: three at the University of Padua, one at the University of Malta and one in co-tutorship with the Université Jean Moulin Lyon 3.

She conducts extensive historical dissemination activities. For several years she has participated in the cycles of *History Lessons* organised by the publisher Laterza. Since November 2022, she has been a member of the scientific committee of the television programme 'Passato e presente' (Rai storia).

Research areas

Carlotta Sorba is a cultural historian of 19th-century Europe with special research interests in the relationship between cultural production (music, theatre, proto-mass culture), society and politics. She has published extensively on Italian and European 19th-century history and particularly on theatre as a physical, social and imaginative space and as a breeding ground for social and cultural representations.

She has authored over 100 scholarly publications, including 4 monographs, 7 edited or coedited volumes, articles and book chapters in the area of 19th-century cultural history, theatre and society, gender history, material culture, the cultural history of politics, nationalism, history and cultural theory. Her book *Politics and sentiments in Risorgimento Italy. Melodrama and the Nation* (Laterza 2015; Palgrave Macmillan 2021) was awarded the Senior prize by the Italian Society for Studies on Contemporary History (Sissco 2016).

Her current research focuses on the material culture of politics (objects and clothing) during the 19th century. On this topic, she recently edited *The clothing of politics. Dress, appearances and political identities (19th-20th centuries)*, special issue of "Contemporanea", 4, 2017; and *Political Objects in the Age of Revolution. Material Culture, National Identities, Political Practices*, with Enrico Francia, Rome, Viella 2021.

Her scholarly work has also developed around the methodological aspects of the cultural turn in history and the relationship between history and cultural theories.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Books and edited volumes (since 2001)

Lessico della storia culturale, edited with Alberto M. Banti and Vinzia Fiorino, Rome-Bari, Laterza 2023

La svolta culturale. Come è cambiata la pratica storiografica, with Federico Mazzini, Rome-Bari, Laterza 2021.

Politics and sentiments in Risorgimento Italy. Melodrama and the Nation, London-New York, Palgrave MacMillan 2021 (italian edition Laterza 2016)

Political Objects in the Age of Revolution. Material Culture, National Identities, Political Practices, edited with Enrico Francia, Rome, Viella 2021

L'Università delle donne. Accademiche e studentesse dal Seicento a oggi, edited with Andrea Martini, Rome, Donzelli 2021

The clothing of politics: dress, appearances and political identities (19th-20th centuries), (edited) special issue of "Contemporanea", 4, 2017

Pensare la contemporaneità. Studi di storia per Mariuccia Salvati, edited with P. Capuzzo, C. Giorgi, M. Martini, Roma, Viella 2011

Il secolo del teatro. Spettacoli e spettacolarità nell'Ottocento europeo, (edited) special issue of « Memoria e ricerca », 29, settembre- dicembre 2008

Scene di fine Ottocento. L'Italia fin de siècle a teatro, (edited) Roma, Carocci 2004

Teatri. L'Italia del melodramma nell'età del Risorgimento, Bologna, Il Mulino 2001

Articles (2006-2022)

Où en est l'histoire culturelle de l'Italie contemporaine ?, avec Fabien Archambaut et Virgile Cirifice, in "Revue d'Histoire Culturelle" 6, 2023

<https://journals.openedition.org/rhc/4264>

Nobilissime logge per la Real Corte. Usi, pratiche, significati dei palchi reali nei teatri italiani del primo Ottocento, in "Chigiana. Journal of Musicological Studies", special issue on *Music and Power in the Long Nineteenth Century*, a cura di F. Della Seta e M. Locanto, 4, 2022, pp. 41-60

Faire de l'histoire politique avec les objets, in "Revue d'Histoire Culturelle", 4, 2022

<https://revues.mshparisnord.fr/rhc/index.php?id=1253>

Teatros y politica. Reflexiones sobre la esfera pública del Resurgimiento, in *Modernidad trasplantados. Los teatros d'opéra del litoral argentino: de los modelos a las técnicas*, "Tarea. Revista de estudios sobre el Patrimonio cultural", n. 5, 2018, pp. 20-31

A chi giova la storia culturale? Diverse definizioni di un campo di studi in Francia e in Italia, in "Il Mestiere di storico", 1, 2018, pp. 5-25.

Writing the history of appearances and politics, in "Contemporanea", 4, 2017, pp. 527-540

Between cosmopolitanism and nationhood: Italian opera in the early nineteenth century, in "Modern Italy" vol. 19, 1, 2014, special issue on *The Italian Risorgimento: transnational perspectives*, guest editors O. Janz and L. Riall, pp. 53-67

National theatre and the age of revolution in Italy, in "Journal of Modern Italian Studies", 17, 4, 2012, special issue on *Opera and nation in XIX century Italy*, edited by A. Korner, pp. 400-414

Le "mélodrame" du Risorgimento. Théâtralité et émotions dans la communication des patriotes italiens, in *Sociétés du spectacle* (numéro coordonné par C. Charle), "Actes de la recherche en sciences sociales" 186-187, mars 2011, pp. 12-29

Teatro, politica e compassione. Audience teatrale, sfera pubblica ed emozionalità in Francia e in Italia tra XVIII e XIX secolo, in "Contemporanea" 3, 2009, pp. 421-446

Attila and Verdi's Historic Imagination, in *An Attila Symposium* convened and co-edited by Helen M. Greenwall in "Cambridge Opera Journal", 21, 3, 2009, pp.241-249

To please the public: composers and audiences in Nineteenth century Italy, in "Journal of interdisciplinary history", XXXVI, 4, spring 2006, pp. 595-614

The origins of the entertainment industry; the operetta in late nineteenth century Italy, in "Journal

of Modern Italian Studies”, vol. 11, n.3, 2006, pp. 282-302

Books chapters (2011-2023)

Political Objects in Motion across XIXth Century Europe (with Enrico Francia), in “Reimagining Mobilities across the Humanities”, edited by L. Biasiori, F. Mazzini, C. Rabbiosi, Routledge 2023, vol.1, pp. 40-53.

Entre loges et parterre. Espaces et expériences des femmes dans les théâtres italiens du XIXème siècle, in “Spectatrices! Les femmes au spectacle de l’Antiquité à nos jours”, dir. par V. Lochert, M.Bouhaik-Gironès, Céline Candiard, Fabien Cavallé, Jeanne-Marie Hostiou, Mélanie Traversier, Paris, CNRS Editions 2022

Theatres, market and canonic implications in the italian opera system (1820-1880), in “The Oxford Handbook of the Operatic Canon”, ed. by W. Weber e C. Newark, Oxford University Press 2021, pp.207-225

Risorgimento, in *Les noms d’époque. De “Restauration” à “Années de plomb”*, sous la direction de Dominique Kalifa, Paris, Gallimard 2020

Les Etats italiens ont-ils eu une politique culturelle dans la première moitié du XIXème siècle?, in *L’administration des institutions culturelles en France et en Italie*, sous la direction de Jean Yves Fretigné, Rouen, Presses de l’Université de Rouen 2020

Teatro d’opera, in *Storia d’Italia, Annali 27*, Torino, Einaudi 2018, pp. 519-535.

Brigands, chevaliers et patriotes dans les opéras de Giuseppe Verdi et dans l’Italie du Risorgimento, in *Creation, Dissonance, Violence. La musique et le politique*, sous la dir. de M. Pandolfi et L. MacFalls, Montreal, Boréal 2018, pp.285-302

Teatro d’opera, in S. Cavazza e E. Scarpellini, *Storia d’Italia, Annali 27, I Consumi*, Torino, Einaudi 2018, pp. 519-535

Les deux Lulus. De Franz Wedekind à Alban Berg, in “Patrice Chereau à l’oeuvre”, sous la direction de M.F. Lévy et M. Tsikounas, Presses Universitaires de Rennes 2016

Melodrama in Post-revolutionary Europe: the genealogy and diffusion of a “popular” theatrical genre and experience, 1780-1830, in *Leisure cultures in Urban Europe, c 1700-1870* (ed. by P. Borsay and J.H.Furnee), Manchester University Press, pp.49-71

Londra, giugno 1847. “Ho veduto Verdi il compositore”, in *Atlante della letteratura italiana* (ed. by S. Luzzatto e G. Pedullà), vol. 3, Torino, Einaudi 2012, pp. 183-187

Ernani Hats. Italian Opera as a Repertoire of Political Symbols during the Risorgimento, in “The Oxford Handbook on the New Cultural History of Music”, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2011, pp.428-451

Parigi 1841: l’età del teatro per gli occhi, in *Pensare la contemporaneità. Studi di storia per Mariuccia Salvati*, Roma, Viella 2011 pp. 309-324

Musica e teatro nell'Italia unita, in *L'Unificazione nazionale: le istituzioni, gli uomini, le idee*, ed.by G. Sabbatucci e V. Vidotto, Roma, Istituto della Enciclopedia italiana 2011, p. 533-550

Forum discussions, reviews and other writings (2011-2022)

Blurring boundaries as an analytical perspective, in “Is There Such Thing as Political History?”, forum edited by Giovanni Orsina, “Contemporanea” 4, 2022.

Tra spettacolo e politica: la celebrità e i suoi dispositivi, in "Società e storia", 165, 2019, pp.623-628

Dove va l'Ottocento? Discussione tra Marco Meriggi, Raffaele Romanelli, Carlotta Sorba, Adriano Roccucci, a cura di Arianna Arisi Rota e Marco Rovinello, in “Il mestiere di storico” 2019

Les salles de théâtres: la société en représentation, in *L'Europe. Encyclopédie historique*, sous la direction de Christophe Charle et Daniel Roche, Arles, Actes Sud 2018, pp.1317-1319.

Storia e cultura materiale: recenti traiettorie di ricerca, edited with A. Petrizzo, in “Contemporanea” 3, 2016, pp. 439-482

Gli storici e Michel Foucault, edited with P. Capuzzo e E. Betta, in “Contemporanea”, 2, 2014, pp. 285-322

Verdi and politics, in *The Cambridge Verdi Encyclopaedia*, edited by R. Montemorra Marvin, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press 2014

Tra linguistica e storia: incroci metodologici e percorsi di ricerca, edited with F. Socrate, in “Contemporanea”, 2, 2013, pp. 285-334

Retorica e politica. I percorsi di uno storico, in *Pensare la nazione. Silvio Lanaro e l'Italia contemporanea* (a cura di M. Isnenghi), Roma, Donzelli 2012, pp. 207-216

Per una nuova storia sociale e culturale della musica, (edited) in “Contemporanea” 3, 2012, pp. 493-528