

**Karla Mallette**  
**Curriculum vitae**

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**I Personal information**

*address:* Miami University  
Department of French and Italian  
207 Irvin Hall  
Oxford, OH 45056

*email:* mallek@muohio.edu

*telephone:* 513 529 9887

*home/mobile:* 513 602 1369

*citizenship:* USA

**II University education**

***Ph.D.*** Medieval Studies, 1998  
University of Toronto  
*dissertation:* “Medieval Sicilian Lyric Poetry:  
Poets at the Courts of Roger II and Frederick II”  
*supervisor:* Professor Massimo Ciavolella

***M.A.*** Modern Thought and Literature, 1988  
Stanford University  
*study abroad:* Università di Bologna, 1986-87  
*thesis:* “The Manifesto as Literary Genre”

***Non-degree student*** Classics, 1990-93  
San Francisco State University

***B.A.*** Comparative Literature, 1985  
Hampshire College  
Amherst, Massachusetts  
*thesis:* “Textuality and Sexuality in Italian Futurist Theory”

**III Languages**

Italian (fluent)  
Arabic (reading competence)  
French (reading competence)  
Spanish (reading competence)  
Latin: Classical and Medieval (fluent)  
Old Occitan (reading competence)  
Ancient Greek (reading competence)  
German (reading knowledge)

**IV Honors, awards, and grants**

American Institute for Maghrib Studies Grant (Tunis), 2008  
 Resident fellowship, University of California Humanities Research Institute, 2007  
 Visiting scholar, American Academy in Rome, 2007  
 Assigned Research Appointment, Miami University, 2007  
 Summer Research Appointment, Miami University, 2006  
 Philip and Elaina Hampton Fund for Faculty International Initiatives, Miami University, 2006  
 Hewlett Paid Research Leave, American University of Beirut, 2004-2005 (deferred)  
 University Research Board Grants, American University of Beirut, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003  
 Ontario Graduate Scholarship, 1995-96  
 University of Toronto Connaught Scholarship, 1993-97  
 Mellon Fellowship in the Humanities, 1985-87  
 Hampshire College Threshold Grant, 1985  
 (to complete research in Florence, Italy)

**V Research**

*Monograph* *The Kingdom of Sicily, 1100-1250: A Literary History*. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2005.  
 Reviews: *Speculum* 82 (2007): 1016-18; *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 39 (2007): 150-51.

*Monograph in progress* *European Modernity and the Arab Mediterranean: Orientalist Philology in Mediterranean Europe*. Traces Orientalists' contributions to the construction of national identity in Mediterranean Europe; manuscript currently under review at University of Pennsylvania Press

*Edited volumes in progress* Co-editor (with Suzanne Akbari), *The Persistence of Philology: Rethinking the Arabic Role in Medieval Literary History*. University of Toronto Press. A collection of philological studies on literary and cultural contacts between Arabic, Hebrew, Latin, and Romance vernacular cultures in the medieval Mediterranean

Editor and translator, *Medieval Descriptions of the Afterworld*. Descriptions of the afterworld by Christian, Muslim, and Jewish writers, translated into English, intended chiefly for classroom use

*Edited special  
issue of an  
academic journal*

Co-editor (with Brian Catlos): “New Approaches to the Study of Muslims in Medieval and Early Modern Europe.” *Scripta Mediterranea* 19-20 (1998-99).

*Articles in  
journals and  
edited volumes  
(under review)*

“I nostri Saracini: Writing the History of the Arabs of Sicily.” Submitted to *California Italian Studies*, August 2008.

*Articles in  
journals and  
edited volumes  
(forthcoming)*

“Muhammad in Hell.” *Dante Studies*.

“Beyond Mimesis: Aristotle’s *Poetics* in the Medieval Mediterranean.” *PMLA*.

“Reading Backward: The *1001 Nights* and Philological Practice.” In *The Persistence of Philology: Rethinking the Arabic Role in Medieval Literary History*, University of Toronto Press.

“Mediterranean Orientalism: Enrico Cerulli and the Arab Mediterranean.” In *Italy and the Mediterranean: Transcultural Spaces*, ed. Norma Bouchard, University of Toronto Press.

“Dante as Poet of Exile and Resistance.” In *Dante’s New Life in Twentieth-Century Literature: Modern Intertextual Appropriation of Dante*, ed. Massimo Ciavolella and Amilcare Iannucci.

“Boustrophedon: Arabic Letters, Romance Letters, and Philology in the Mediterranean.” In *Mediterranean Studies*, ed. Roberto M. Dainotto and Eric Zakim. Modern Language Association of America.

Editor: “Sicilian Poetry in Italian” and “Sicilian Poetry in Arabic.” *Anthology of Italian Poetry from the Middle Ages to the Present*. Lorenzo da Ponte Italian Library, University of Toronto Press.

*Articles in  
journals and  
edited volumes*

“Insularity.” In *A Faithful Sea: Religious Cultures and Identities in the Mediterranean, 1250-1750*, ed. Adnan A. Husain and Katherine E. Fleming, 27-46. Oxford: Oneworld Publications, 2007.

“Dante e l’Islam: Sul canto III del *Purgatorio*.” *Rivista di Storia e Letteratura Religiosa* 41 (2005): 39-62.

“Orientalism and the Nineteenth Century Nationalist: Michele Amari, Ernest Renan, and 1848.” *Romanic Review* 96 (2005): 233-52.

“Misunderstood.” *New Literary History* 34 (2003): 677-97.

“Translating Sicily.” *Medieval Encounters: Jewish, Christian and Muslim Culture in Confluence and Dialogue* 9 (2003): 138-61.

“*Terra Recognita*: Excursus on the Literary History of Sicily.” *Mediaevalia* 24 (2003): 125-46.

- “Poetries of the Norman Courts.” In *The Cambridge History of Arabic Literature: Al-Andalus*, ed. Maria Rosa Menocal, Raymond P. Scheindlin, and Michael Sells, 377-87. Cambridge: University Press, 2000.
- “The Idea of Vernacular Literature in the Arabic and Romance-Speaking World during the Middle Ages.” *Scripta Mediterranea* 19-20 (1998-99): 29-44.
- “Arabic and Italian Lyric in Medieval Sicily.” In *The Future of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance: Problems, Trends, and Opportunities in Research*, ed. Roger Dahood, 81-92. Tempe: Arizona Studies in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, 1998.
- Encyclopedia article* “Arabic Literature in Italy.” In *Medieval Italy*, ed. Christopher Kleinhenz, 45-46. New York: Routledge Press, 2004.
- Reviews forthcoming* Review of Cynthia Robinson, *Medieval Andalusian Courtly Culture in the Mediterranean: Hadith Bayad wa Riyad. Fabula*, forthcoming.
- Review of *Gender in the Early Medieval World: East and West, 300-900*. Edited by Leslie Brubaker and Julia M.H. Smith. *Bulletin of the Royal Institute for Interfaith Studies*, forthcoming.
- Reviews* Review of Tommaso Astarita, *Between Salt Water and Holy Water: A History of Southern Italy. Medieval Encounters* 12 (2006): 296-300.
- Review of María Rosa Menocal, *The Arabic Role in Medieval Literary History: A Forgotten Heritage. Bulletin of the Royal Institute for Interfaith Studies* 6 (2004): 180-83.
- Review of Jareer Abu-Haidar, *Hispano-Arabic Literature and the Early Provençal Lyrics. Al-Abhath* 50-51 (2002-3): 218-21.
- Review of *Word and Drama in Dante: Essays on the ‘Divina Commedia,’* ed. Barnes and Petrie. *Rivista di Studi Italiani* 12 (1994): 76-78.
- Translations* Translator: Patrizia Onesta, “*Lauzengier-Wasbi-Index, Gardador-Raqib-Custos: The ‘Enemies of Love’ in Provençal, Arabo-Andalusian, and Latin Poetry.*” *Scripta Mediterranea* 19-20 (1998-99): 119-42.
- Translator: Antonino Pellitteri, “Reflections on the Study of Muslim Sicily: History, Politics, and 19th-century Sicilian Historiography.” *Scripta Mediterranea* 19-20 (1998-99): 109-118.
- Invited lectures* “Lingua Franca in the Mediterranean.” Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, University of California at Los Angeles, January 20, 2009.
- “The Literatures of Medieval Sicily: Greek, Latin, Arabic and Italian.” Lansdowne Lecture, University of Victoria, British Columbia, February 7, 2009.
- “The Sea of Stories: Framed Narratives and Medieval Mediterranean Poetics.” Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, University of California at Los Angeles, November 14, 2007.

- “Intellectual Geographies in the *Divine Comedy*.” Department of Italian Studies, University of California at Los Angeles, February 12, 2007.
- “Muhammad in Hell.” Dante Society of America Annual Meeting, May 20, 2006.
- “Vox Populorum: Muslims, Christians, and Sicilian Literary History 1100-1250.” University of California at Santa Cruz, February 2, 2006; Center for Medieval Studies, University of Minnesota at Twin Cities, October 27, 2005.
- “European Modernity and the Arab Mediterranean.” Department of Humanities and Center for Arab-American Studies, University of Michigan, Dearborn, March 20, 2007; Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, University of Michigan, March 2006; Seminar on Cross Cultural Rhetoric and Poetics, The Humanities Center, Harvard University, April 2005; Center for Middle East Studies, University of California at Berkeley, November 3, 2005.
- “Dante and Islam: The Last Word.” Department of Italian Studies, University of California at Berkeley, April 21, 2005.
- “Muhammad in Dante’s *Inferno* XXVIII.” Center for Medieval Studies, University of Minnesota at Twin Cities, March 2, 2005.
- “Dante, Sicily, Islam.” Centre for Medieval Studies, University of Toronto, 2004.
- “Translations, Counterfeits, and Modern Mediterranean Literature.” The Anis K. Makdisi Program in Literature, American University of Beirut, June 2004.
- “The Mediterranean/Al-Bahr al-Mutawassit.” Center for Arabic and Middle East Studies, American University of Beirut, 2003.
- “The Many Faces of Scheherazade.” Behind the Veil: The Islamic World in Western Art and Literature, Humanities West (San Francisco), 2000.
- “Arab Sicily.” Casa Italiana, Stanford University, 2000.
- “Orbits: Toward a Mediterranean Literary History.” Modern Language Association of America Annual Meeting, 2008.
- “The Nights before Globalization: Scheherazade and the Sage Yunan in Italy, 1300-1500.” American Comparative Literature Association Annual Conference, 2008.
- “Reading Backward.” The Persistence of Philology: Rethinking Comparative Literary History on the Twentieth Anniversary of *The Arabic Role in Medieval Literary History*. University of Toronto, 2007.
- “Mediterranean Orientalism: Enrico Cerulli on Dante and Islam.” Modern Language Association of America Annual Meeting, 2006.

*Conference  
papers*

“De quoi me divertir pendant les longues soirées’: The *1001 Nights* as Playground of the Western World.” Modern Language Association of America Annual Meeting, 2006.

“Philology and Fundamentalism.” International Medieval Congress, University of Leeds, 2006.

“*Parte per te stesso*: Dante as Poet of Exile and Resistance.” Dante’s New Life in Twentieth-Century Literature: Modern Intertextual Appropriation of Dante. University of California at Los Angeles, 2006.

“Insularity.” Modern Language Association of America Annual Meeting, 2005.

“Romantics, Nationalists, and the Arab Past in Malta.” Mediterranean Studies Association Annual Conference, 2005.

“Orientalist Philology and National Narrative in Mediterranean Europe.” Modernity and Modernism in the Mediterranean, University of Toronto, 2003.

“Michele Amari, Sicilian.” Modern Language Association of America Annual Meeting, 2002.

“*Translatio Siciliae*.” Modern Language Association of America Annual Meeting, 1999.

“Parklands and Preserves: Arabic Culture in Norman Sicily.” Modern Language Association of America Annual Meeting, 1999.

“Baptized Sultans, Infidel Kings: Postcolonial Sicily, 1130-1300.” Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies Conference, 1998.

“Translating Sicily.” Islam in Europe (The Twenty-Sixth Medieval Workshop), University of British Columbia, 1997.

“New Approaches to the ‘Arabic Theory’: The Case of Sicily.” Modern Language Association of America Annual Meeting, 1996.

“Arabic and Italian Lyric in Medieval Sicily.” Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies Conference, 1996.

## VI

### Teaching

“Mediterranean Modernity” (Honors course)  
Miami University, Fall 2007; Spring 2008

“Italy: Matrix of Civilization”  
Miami University, Fall 2005; Fall 2008

“Introduction to Italian Literature: Medieval to Early Modern”  
Miami University, Fall 2005; Fall 2008

“Introduction to Italian Literature: The Twentieth Century”  
Miami University, Spring 2006; Spring 2007

- “Dante’s Divine Comedy”  
Miami University, Spring 2006; Spring 2008
- “Dante’s Divine Comedy”  
Northwestern University, Fall 2004
- “Sicilian Literature: History and Theater”  
Northwestern University, Fall 2004
- “The *1001 Nights* and the *Decameron*”  
Northwestern University, Winter 2005
- “Islam and Europe”  
Northwestern University, Spring 2005
- “Elementary Italian”  
Northwestern University, Spring 2005
- “Epic: Texts and Contexts”  
American University of Beirut, Fall 2003; Spring 2004
- “Mediterranean Encounters”  
American University of Beirut, Spring 2003
- “Literature of the Middle Ages”  
English Department, American University of Beirut, Fall 2002
- “Civilization Studies 201: Ancient Culture”  
“Civilization Studies 202: Medieval and Renaissance Culture”  
“Civilization Studies 203: Modern Culture”  
“Civilization Studies 204: Contemporary Culture”  
American University of Beirut, 2001-2004
- “The Avant-Gardes of the Middle Ages”  
Departments of French and Italian and Comparative Literature,  
Stanford University, Winter 2000
- “Dante”  
Departments of French and Italian and Comparative Literature,  
Stanford University, Spring 2000
- “Latinity and Vernacularity”  
Departments of Classics and Comparative Literature,  
Stanford University, Winter 2000
- “The *1001 Nights* and the *Decameron*”  
Departments of French and Italian and Comparative Literature,  
Stanford University, Fall 1999
- M.A.-level Latin, Centre for Medieval Studies, University of Toronto  
Sole instructor and designer, M.A. Latin summer course, 1996
- Ph.D.-level Latin, Centre for Medieval Studies, University of Toronto  
Sole instructor and designer, Ph.D. Latin summer course, 1995  
Teaching assistant, 1994-96

“American Literature from 1917,” Stanford University  
Teaching assistant, 1986

“Aspects of Semiotics,” Hampshire College  
Co-designer and teacher, January term course, 1985

## **VII Academic employment**

Assistant Professor of Italian Studies  
Miami University, 2005-present

Visiting Assistant Professor of Italian  
Northwestern University, 2004-2005

Assistant Professor of Civilization Studies  
American University of Beirut, 2001-2004

Acting Assistant Professor of Italian and Comparative Literature  
Stanford University, 1999-2000

Teaching Assistant  
Centre for Medieval Studies, University of Toronto, 1994-96

## **VIII University service and professional development**

Participant, National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute:  
“The Medieval Mediterranean and the Emergence of the West,” 2008

Co-organizer, “The Persistence of Philology: Rethinking Comparative  
Literary History on the Twentieth Anniversary of *The Arabic Role in Medieval  
Literary History*,” University of Toronto, 2007

Organizer, “The *1001 Nights*: Story Without End” (film and lecture series),  
Miami University, 2006

Member, Grievance Committee, Department of French and Italian, Miami  
University, 2006-2008

Affiliated faculty member, Middle East and Islamic Studies minor, Miami  
University, 2005-2008

Member, Curriculum Committee, Department of French and Italian,  
Miami University, 2005-2007

Member, Web Site Committee, Department of French and Italian, Miami  
University, 2005-2006

Interviewed as expert on Arabo-Norman Sicily for “Rageh’s Islamic  
Journey,” starring Rageh Omar; BBC documentary, broadcast Spring 2005

Co-organizer, “Mediterranean Studies: Identities and Tensions”  
American University of Beirut, 2003

Organizer, Medievalists’ Working Group  
American University of Beirut, 2003

Director, Brown Bag Seminar Series  
Civilization Sequence Program, American University of Beirut, 2001-2003

Member, Task Team on General Education  
American University of Beirut, 2002-2003

Member, Work in Medieval Studies, 1995-1996; co-director, 1996-1997  
Centre for Medieval Studies, University of Toronto

Co-organizer, A Celebration of Medieval Poetry  
Centre for Medieval Studies, University of Toronto, January, 1995

Member, Centre for Medieval Studies Calendar Committee  
University of Toronto, 1994-1996

Co-organizer, "The Classical World and Early Christianity"  
San Francisco State University, Spring, 1993

**IX****Other information***Memberships*

Modern Language Association of America  
Medieval Academy of America  
Dante Society of America  
Middle East Studies Association  
American Institute for Maghrib Studies  
American Comparative Literature Association

*Selected  
non-academic  
publications*

*Richard Baron: Photographs* (catalogue essay). Bridge Center for Contemporary Art, El Paso, and Diverseworks, Houston, 1989.

*Memory* (catalogue essay). Mincher/Wilcox Gallery, San Francisco, 1989.

*Restraint Intent Manipulation* (catalogue essay). Mincher/Wilcox Gallery, San Francisco, 1989.

Art reviewer, San Francisco Bay Guardian, 1988-89.