

In 1981 Paola Zito graduated in Philosophy at Naples Federico II University (final grades 110/110 *cum laude*), in 1984, she obtained a Master Degree in Art History (final grades 70/70 *cum laude*). At the same time she obtained language certificates in French, German, English at Université de Grenoble – Institut français de Naples, Goethe Institut, British School.

After a course/competition at the Scuola Superiore della Pubblica Amministrazione (in Rome), since 1985 and for 20 years, she worked at Biblioteca Nazionale di Napoli (the National Library in Naples)) essentially on manuscripts and ancient books, being in charge of bibliographic exhibitions and cultural events.

In 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 she taught History of the Book at the University of Cagliari.

In 2002-2003 she taught History of Book Illustration at Scuola Speciale per Archivisti e Bibliotecari (Archivistics and Librarianship Specialized School).

Since July, 1st 2005 she has taught Archivistics, Librarianship and History of the Book, Publishing and History of the Paratext, as associate professor (confirmed in 2008), at the Department of Literature and Cultural Heritage of the Campania University “Luigi Vanvitelli”. Since December 1st 2019 she is full Professor.

Classes in both three-year courses in Conservation of the Cultural Heritage and Literature, and in inter-departmental specialized course in Archaeology and History of Art and Classical and Modern Philology have included visits to libraries and archives, guided tours of bibliographic and documentary exhibitions.

She has tutored a number of dissertations and final exams, based on cataloging the bibliographic heritage of Terra di Lavoro, printers’ annals, compared analysis of the paratextual presentation and iconography of hand printed books in the Modern Era.

From 2008 to 2013, and again from September 2016 to October 2019 she has been the Chairman of the three-year course in Conservation of the Cultural Heritage.

She has been in charge of a number of internships at the Department.

From 2007 to 2015 she was member of the University Libraries Commissions.

From 2013 to 2017 she led the Master in Religious Bibliography and Archivistics of the Institute of Religious Sciences (Caserta).

In 2017 she participated in the Council of the Research PHD in Philosophy and Epistemology and History of Culture (XXXIII course University of Cagliari), since 2018 she has been a member of the Council of PHD in History and Cultural Heritage (University of Campania “Luigi Vanvitelli”)

In the Academic Year 2017-2018 she was one of the professors at the School of History and Philology of Manuscript and Hand Printed books directed by Andrea Mazzucchi (University of Naples “Federico II”)

Since January 2018, she has been a member of the coordinating board of the excellency project DILBEC.

Since December 2018, she has been a professor and member of the scientific organization committee of the Smart - School of the Hand Printed Book for cataloging, conservation and promotion.

Today, She is a member of the Committee for the prize La Ginestra.

Since 2013, she has been responsible for the Erasmus Project with the University of Madrid.

Her dedication to the Terza Missione (third mission) has led to collaboration and presentation of bibliographic exhibitions, interviews on papers, radio and TV, and lectures at high schools, outside Campania as well.

From 2000 to 2016 she collaborated to "Italinemo".

She has participated to various research groups and PRINs. The latest one is *The uncertain borders of Nature. Wonders and Miracles in early modern Kingdom of Naples*, coordinated nationally by F. P. Ceglia and locally by G. Sodano, and funded in 2019.

Since 2005, she has been a member of the research group on the Investigation on the Congregation of the Index (RICI).

She collaborates to various national and international periodicals, among which «Esperienze letterarie» (she has been a member of the editorialboard since 1999), «Nuovi Annali della Scuola Speciale per Archivisti e Bibliotecari», «Rivista storica del Sannio» (she has been a member of the board since 2003), «Il Veltro», «Annali di Italianistica», «Paratesto», «Rinascimento meridionale» (she has been a member of the board from the foundation), «Studi medievali e moderni», «Humanistica», «Teca». «Napoli nobilissima», «Il Bollettino AIB».

Since 2003, she has been a member of the board of Istituto Nazionale di Studi sul Rinascimento meridionale (National Studies Institute of Southern Renaissance) where she alsodirects of a series of essays. From 2011 to 2014 she was a member of the editorial committee of "Alterra" a series of essays by DILBEC. Since 2018 she has been a member of the scientific and editorial board of "Polygraphia", series and periodical on-line by DILBEC.

Since 2017 she has been a member of the directive board of "Paratesto".

She is the author of more than 135 essays.

Her main interest is the history of the book, publishing and reading, from the incunabula to the XVIII century. She has contributed to periodicals, national and international conference proceedings, miscellanies, and exhibition catalogs.

Her main interests are the diffusion of heretical ideas and the book circulation between 16th and 18th centuries (*Il veleno della quiete. Mistica ereticale e potere dell'Ordine nella vicenda di Miguel Molinos*, Napoli, ESI, 1997; *Giulia e l'Inquisitore. Santità finta e misticismo nella Napoli di primo Seicento*, Napoli, Arte Tipografica Editrice, 2000; *Granelli di senapa all'Indice. Tessere di storia editoriale 1585-1700*, Pisa-Roma, Fabrizio Serra, 2008; *L'esagono imperfetto. I libri proibiti*

della biblioteca brancacciana secondo l'inventario del 1730 circa, Pisa-Roma, Fabrizio Serra, 2012 (*Altera*, 3)

She has studied the bibliographic collections of Terra di Lavoro and the paratext of the Ancient Regime, particularly the iconography, which has inspired a number of articles and essays, such as *In carta ed ossa. Le immagini femminili nei libri a stampa del Mezzogiorno rinascimentale* (Napoli, Istituto Nazionale di Studi sul Rinascimento Meridionale /Fabrizio Serra, 2013)

Another field of research has been the form and hermeneutics of the modern manuscript, particularly in relation to autobiography. A case study has been the handwriting of Giacomo Leopardi and the tracks of his readings (notes, sketches, projects), a material in many cases unpublished. The latest publication on the subject is *Leopardi bibliografo dell'antico*, Roma, Aracne, 2016 (with Marcello Andria co-author).