

GUY PLACIDO RAFFA

Department of French and Italian • University of Texas at Austin • Austin, Texas 78712

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Italian (Latin minor), Indiana University, Bloomington, IN	1991
M.A., Italian, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN	1986
B.S., Computer Science and Mathematics, Duke University, Durham, NC	1982

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Professor of Italian, The University of Texas at Austin	2021 -
Associate Professor of Italian, The University of Texas at Austin	1999 - 2021
Assistant Professor of Italian, The University of Texas at Austin	1992 - 1999
Lecturer in Italian, The University of Texas at Austin	1991 - 1992

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Dante's Bones: How a Poet Invented Italy. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2020.
370 pp.

The Complete Danteworlds: A Reader's Guide to the "Divine Comedy." Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2009. 371 pp.

Danteworlds: A Reader's Guide to the "Inferno." Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007.
155 pages.

Divine Dialectic: Dante's Incarnational Poetry. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2000. 254 pp.

Academic Articles (selected)

"Battleship Dante Alighieri (1908-1928)." Forthcoming in *Dante Studies*.

"Dante's Political Life." *Bibliotheca Dantesca* 3 (2020). 25 pp.
<https://repository.upenn.edu/bibdant/vol3/iss1/1/>

"Fragments of Freedom: Dante's Relic in the Re-United States." *California Italian Studies* 6, no. 1 (2016). 9583 words. <http://escholarship.org/uc/item/lps8s9kd>

"Bones of Contention: Ravenna's and Florence's Claims to Dante's Remains." *Italica* 92, no. 3 (2015): 565-581.

"A Beautiful Friendship: Dante and Vergil in the *Commedia*." *MLN* 127, no. 1 (Supplement)

(2012): 72-80.

“Dante’s Poetics of Exile.” *Annali d’Italianistica* 20 (2002): 73-87.

“Walking and Swimming with Umberto Eco.” *MLN* 113, no. 1 (1998): 164-185.

“Carlo Levi’s Sacred Art of Medicine.” *Annali d’Italianistica* 15 (1997): 203-220.

Book Chapters (selected)

“Calvino’s Scientific Humanism.” *Approaches to Teaching the Works of Italo Calvino*. Ed. Franco Ricci. New York: Modern Language Association, 2013. 37-41.

“Eco’s Scientific Imagination.” *New Essays on Umberto Eco*. Ed. Peter Bondanella. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009. 34-49.

“‘Io amo New York’: Calvino’s Creatively Chaotic City.” *Science and Literature in Italian Culture from Dante to Calvino*. Ed. Pierpaolo Antonello and Simon A. Gilson. Oxford: Legenda, 2004. 276-291.

Public Scholarship (selected)

“The Story behind *Dante’s Bones*.” *Harvard University Press Blog*. March 25, 2021. https://harvardpress.typepad.com/hup_publicity/2021/03/the-story-behind-dantes-bones.html

“There’s a Special Place in Dante’s *Inferno* for Wafflers and Neutral Souls.” *Zócalo Public Square*. August 31, 2020. <https://www.zocalopublicsquare.org/2020/08/31/dante-divine-comedy-2020-neutrality/ideas/essay>

“Medieval Facial Hair in Major League Baseball.” *Not Even Past*. Ed. Joan Neuberger. October 8, 2018. <https://notevenpast.org/medieval-facial-hair-in-major-league-baseball>

“George Washington in Cambridge and the Birth of a Nation.” *Process: A Blog for American History*. Organization of American Historians. February 22, 2017. <http://www.processhistory.org/gw-cambridge>

“Longfellow’s Great Liberators: Abraham Lincoln and Dante Alighieri.” *Not Even Past*. Ed. Joan Neuberger. January 18, 2017. <https://notevenpast.org/longfellows-great-liberators-abraham-lincoln-and-dante-alighieri>

“Dante at Arms.” *MHQ: The Quarterly Journal of Military History* 28, no. 4 (2016): 86-89.

“Dante and Don: The Word Made Flesh and the Word Made Cash.” *PopMatters*, Sept. 2, 2015. <https://www.popmatters.com/196534-dante-and-don-the-word-made-flesh-and-the-word-made-cash-2495495682.html>

“What the Head of Hiring at Google Doesn’t Understand About Skills.” *The Chronicle of Higher*

Education. "The Conversation." May 28, 2014. Reprinted in *The Chronicle Review*. June 20, 2014: B2.

Digital Project

Danteworlds: Inferno, Purgatorio, Paradiso. Liberal Arts Instructional Technology Services, The University of Texas at Austin, 2001-2005. <http://danteworlds.laits.utexas.edu>.

AWARDS AND HONORS (Selected)

- 2020-2021 Public Scholars Fellowship, National Endowment for the Humanities
- 2020 College Research Fellowship, The University of Texas at Austin
- 2014 Undergraduate Studies Creative Student Engagement Award, The University of Texas at Austin
- 2012 Fellowship for University Teachers, National Endowment for the Humanities
- 2011-2012 Fellowship, American Council of Learned Societies
- 2011-2012 Faculty Research Assignment, The University of Texas at Austin
- 2009 Raymond Dickson Centennial Endowed Teaching Fellowship, The University of Texas at Austin
- 2007 Innovative Instructional Technology Gold Award, The University of Texas at Austin
- 2003 Faculty Research Assignment, The University of Texas at Austin
- 2002 President's Associates Teaching Excellence Award, The University of Texas at Austin

PRESENTATIONS (Selected)

Invited Talks

- "Dante's Afterlife in 2021," Valentine Giamatti Lecture, Mount Holyoke College. Zoom presentation. March 2021.
https://events.mtholyoke.edu/event/dantes_afterlife_in_2021?_ga=2.64242411.55492855.1626818629-1777178513.1610331630#.YPdKwWaZPUr
- "Dante's Afterlife," Dr. Neil Euliano Lecture, University of Central Florida. Zoom presentation. March 2021. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YjrcrLBswuA>
- "Dante's American Comedy," Calandra Italian American Institute. Zoom presentation. March 2021.

“Translating Dante’s Body,” Dante Society of America, University of Oregon. Eugene, OR. May 2017. <http://media.uoregon.edu/channel/archives/11954>

“Danteworlds: DHing the Scholar-Teacher in the Piazza,” FL@DH: Foreign Languages in the Digital Humanities, University of Texas at Austin. Austin, TX. February 2016. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QJLBDW5u4v4>

“Dante’s Immortal Remains: From Florentine Martyr to Global Icon,” Annual Dante Lecture, Center for Renaissance Studies, Newberry Library. Chicago, IL. November 2013.

“Dante and the Popular Imagination: A Historical Perspective,” Dante Society of America. Los Angeles, CA. January 2011.

“Romancing the Tomb: Dante’s Bones and Italian History,” Annual Dante Lecture, Yale University. New Haven, CT. October 2010.

Conference Presentations

“Dante’s Festival and Funeral: Regional Rivalry in the New Nation.” Modern Language Association. Austin, TX. January 2016.

“Dante’s Web: Research and Teaching in the Virtual Piazza.” Modern Language Association. Austin, TX. January 2016.

“Barking up a Different Tree: A Digital Humanities Complement to Distant Reading.” American Association of Italian Studies, Boulder, CO. March 2015.

“Dante’s Fascist Bones.” American Association of Italian Studies. Boulder, CO. March 2015.

“Dante, Prophet of Italy.” American Association of Italian Studies. Ann Arbor, MI. April 2010.

INTERVIEWS, BOOK EVENT, AND OTHER MEDIA COVERAGE (Selected)

Interviews

Smithsonian Magazine, April 7, 2021: “Follow Dante’s Footsteps through Italy.” By Jennifer Billock. <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/travel/follow-dantes-footsteps-through-italy-180977029/>

Leeds Dante Podcast, February 7, 2021: “Conversations on Dante 13: Guy Raffa on Dante’s Bones.” Podcast audio. Interviewed by Matthew Treherne. <https://anchor.fm/matthew-treherne/episodes/Conversations-on-Dante-13-Guy-Raffa-on-Dantes-Bones-eq2r9j>

Historically Thinking, October 28, 2020: “Dante’s Bones, or, A History of the Idea of Italy.” Podcast audio. Interviewed by Al Zambone.

<https://historicallythinking.org/episode-183-dantes-bones-or-a-history-of-the-idea-of-italy>

New Books Network, August 21, 2020: “Dante’s Bones: How a Poet Invented Italy.” Podcast audio. Interviewed by Jana Byars.

<https://newbooksnetwork.com/guy-raffa-dantes-bones-how-a-poet-invented-italy-harvard-up-2020/>

Slate Magazine, August 15, 2011: “The Christian Candidate’s Guide to Infidels: Which is Worse for Evangelicals Like Rick Perry—Being an Atheist or a Muslim?” By Brian Palmer.

<https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2011/08/to-rick-perry-which-is-worse-an-atheist-or-a-muslim.html>

The Atlantic, February, 2010: “Dante Alighieri: Epic Poet, Ass Kicker.” By Benjamin Popper.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2010/02/dante-alighieri-epic-poet-ass-kicker/307936>

Book Event

Harvard Book Store, Virtual Event Series, June 9, 2020: “Guy P. Raffa presents *Dante’s Bones* with Matthew Pearl.” https://www.crowdcast.io/e/guy_raffa/

Other Media Coverage

Smithsonian Magazine, February 5, 2021: “Dante’s Descendant Wants to Overturn the Poet’s 1302 Corruption Conviction.” By Jacob Muñoz.

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/why-dantes-descendant-working-overturn-poets-700-year-old-corruption-conviction-180976937/>

Radio-Canada, “Plus on est de fous, plus on lit!”, June 10, 2020: “Dante’s Bones: How a Poet Invented Italy.” <https://ici.radio-canada.ca/premiere/emissions/plus-on-est-de-fous-plus-on-lit/episodes/465430/ratrapage-du-mercredi-10-juin-2020/9>

The New Yorker, “The Book Bench,” January 8, 2009: “Hope for Ye Who Enter Here.” By Vicky Raab. <https://www.newyorker.com/books/page-turner/hope-for-ye-who-enter-here>

Life & Letters, vol. 3, issue 2 (2003), “Imagining the Inferno: Professor Sparks Students’ Interest with Award-Winning Danteworlds Web Site.” By Dawn Cizmar. Reprinted on The University of Texas Home Page, January 5-12, 2004. https://liberalarts.utexas.edu/public-affairs/_files/pdf/life-letters/life_letters_049.pdf

COURSES TAUGHT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS (Selected)

Undergraduate Studies

Dante’s Hell and Its Afterlife (UGS 303)

Lower- and Upper-Division Italian

Introduction to Italian Literature (ITL 321)
Dante, *Divine Comedy* (ITC 348)
Dante's *Inferno* (ITL 375)
Italian Civilization (ITC 360)

Graduate Courses

Dante's Afterlives (ITL 390K)
Dante I and II (ITL 390K)
Umberto Eco and Italo Calvino (ITL 390L)
Creative Chaos from Galileo to Calvino (ITL 390L)

Plan II Honors Program

Literature and Science (TC 357)
Composition and Reading in World Literature (TC 603)

European Studies: Introduction to European Studies (EUS 305)

STUDENT ADVISING

Honors Adviser, Italian (2021 – present)
Undergraduate Faculty Adviser, Italian (2003-2009, 2019-2020)
Graduate Adviser, Italian Studies (2009-2011, 2014-2018)
Faculty Adviser, European Studies (1999-2003)
Faculty Adviser, Italian Honor Society (1998-2006)
Faculty Adviser, Plan II Honors Program (2007-2008, 2014-2015)

ADMINISTRATIVE, PROFESSIONAL, AND LOCAL SERVICE (Selected)

Departmental Service

Extended Budget Council, French and Italian, 2017 - present
Undergraduate Studies Committee, 1999-2000, 2001-2002, 2004-2009, 2019-2020
Study Abroad Course Credit Evaluator (Italian), 2019-2020
Graduate Studies Committee, Italian Studies, 2009 – present (chair 2018-2019)
Graduate Admissions and Financial Aid Committee, 2009-2011, 2014-2018 (chair 2017)

College and University Service

Eyes on Teaching: “Dante’s Hell and Its Afterlife” (UGS 303), 2019
First-Generation College Celebration Day, faculty representative, 2019
UGS Collegial Connections Exchange Program, 2016
Medieval Studies Program, adviser, 2014-2015
Humanities Research Award, selection committee, 2014

Professional Service

Elected Offices

Vice President of the Dante Society of America, 2005-2006

Councilor of the Dante Society of America, 2003-2006

Editorial Boards (current)

Bibliotheca Dantesca, Italian Culture

Editorial Advisory Boards (current)

Dante Studies, Letteratura Italiana Antica, Rivista internazionale di ricerche dantesche

Community Engagement and Local Service

“Canto per Canto: Conversations with Dante in Our Time.” Video discussion (with Arielle Saiber) of *Paradiso* 28, Dante Society of America, 2020

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pn9iffCL6KQ>

“Dante’s Bones: The Divine Poet and the Idea of Italy.” Lecture for the Oscher Lifelong Learning Institute, University of Texas at Austin, 2017

“Dante, A Poet for All Times.” Video interview for the Digital Speakers Bureau, The Center for European Studies at the University of Texas at Austin, 2015

<http://www.digitalspeakersbureau.com/speakers/guy-raffa/>

“Dante’s *Inferno*.” Lecture at St. Michael’s Catholic Academy, Austin, Texas, 2014

Katrina Evacuee Computer Assistance Volunteer, Austin Convention Center, 2005