

Curriculum Vitae

Grazia Pulvirenti



First Name	Grazia
Last Name	Pulvirenti
Affiliation	University of Catania, Department of Human Studies, Catania, Italy Visiting Fellow Warburg Institute Visiting Professor University College London
Highest Degree	PhD
Job Title	Professor of German Culture and Neurohermeneutics
Research Fields	German Literature, Cognitive Poetics, Neurohermeneutics, Cultural Studies, Visual Culture
Educational Institutions and Qualifications	PhD at the University of Vienna Professorship with tenure track at the University of Catania
Academic Career, Achievements & Honors	
School of Advanced Studies London	
Fellow	2022-present
UCL	
Fellow	2022-present
University of Catania, Italy	
Professor of German Literature with tenure	2005-present
University of Catania, Italy	
Reader in German Literature	2002-2005
University of Catania	
Associate Lecturer in German Literature	1993-2002
University of Vienna	
Lecturer in Comparative literature	1990-1993
Academic Service	
Co-Director of the International Network for Neurohumanities Studies (www.neurohumanitiestudies.eu)	2011-present
Director of the Doctoral School in Cultural Heritage	

University of Catania	2015-2018
Director of the Interdepartmental Research Center	
NewHums-Neurocognitive and Humanities Studies	2016-2022

Membership in well regarded Academies and Associations

ASECS – American Society for 18th Century Studies since 2025
ISECS - International Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies since 2025
English Goethe Society since 2023
Goethe-Gesellschaft Weimar since 2023
Internationale Heinrich von Kleist Gesellschaft since 2021
International Association for German Studies IVG since 2015
International Association for Poetic and Linguistics Association (PALA) since 2012
Goethe Society of North America since 2018
Cognitive Futures in the Arts and Humanities (<https://cognitive-futures.com>)
American Association for Literature Studies NEMLA
Italian Association for German Studies AIG since 1998
Italian Association for Studies about the 18th Century since 2012
Forschungszentrum Gotha für Kultur - und Sozialwissenschaftliche Studien der Universität Erfurt since 2008

Editorial responsibilities

Co-Editor of the Book series «Wunderkammer» (Milan, Mimesis) starting 2018
Editorial Board, International Journal of Literature and Arts
Editorial Board, Cognitive Philology
Editorial Board, Osservatorio critico della germanistica
Editorial Board, Critica letteraria e linguistica (Milan, Franco Angeli)
Editorial Board, Mitteleuropa. Identità letterarie (Milan, Franco Angeli)
Editorial Board, L'Albatros (Catania, Algra editore).

Awards

Award “L’Iguana” 2019 for the book:
La mente narrative di Heinrich von Kleist, Mimesis, Milan 2018 (Co-author Renata Gambino).
Award “Anna Maria Ortese” 2020 for the book
Non dipingerai i miei occhi. Storia intima di Jeanne Hébuterne e Amedeo Modigliani, Jouvence, Milano, 2020.
Award Nomination: Premio Strega 2021

Focus of research

She is particularly interested in endeavoring to bridge neurosciences, cognitive sciences and humanities, fostering the linkage among studies on the mindbrain and literature. She has worked on German literature and culture, Austrian culture, literature of the 18th Century, Cognitive poetics, Performativity, Visual Culture, Ekphrasis.

Recent International Projects

Literature, Cognition and Emotions (LCE) – University of Oslo since 2019

EUROPEAN COST Action IS1404 “Evolution of reading in the age of digitalization” (E-READ): expertise in quali-quantitative studies on literary reading as fellow of the Institute for Neuroimaging of Emotion (D.I.N.E.), Freie Universität Berlin, Germany, directed by prof. Arthur Jacobs, together with prof. Anne Mangen (University of Stavanger, Norvegia) and prof. Orsolya Papp-Zipernovsky (University of Szeged, Hungary).

International Partner of DARIAH-PL, Team 2. Multimodal and Mediatized Communication: Digital Culturological Analysis (MuCoDiCA), directed by prof. Silvia Bonacchi University of Warsaw (Polonia).

“An Atlas for Research in Cognition and Poetics”, directed by Prof. Mark Turner (Case Western University).

Red Hen Lab directed by Prof. Mark Turner (Case Western University).

Recent funded Research Projects

Impact - CREA-CULT-2021-COOP (European Cooperation projects) 2021 (Principal Investigator)

Piaceri 2020 (Member)

Prometeo 2019 (Principal Investigator).

Chance 2019 (Principal Investigator).

Prometeo 2018 (Principal Investigator).

Chance 2017 (Principal Investigator).

FIR 2017 (Principal Investigator).

FIR 2015 (Principal Investigator).

European Founding 2010-2012 - Eacea cultura (2007-2013) - Strand 1.2.2 (2010-2012) for the project “Der Raum des Anderen und andere Räume. Europäische Identitätsbildung im Dialog mit anderen Kulturen” (Principal Investigator).

International Conferences - Organizer/Steering Committee:

Steering Committee – Cognitive Future in the Humanities – 2021-present

1st NHS Dialogue: Neuroaesthetics and Cognitive Poetics, 6-7 June, 2014, Catania

Keynote speaker: Michael Burke (University of Utrecht); Semir Zeki (UCL)

2nd NHS Dialogue: Metaphors as Source of Creative Thought, 4-6.06.2015

Keynote Speakers: Anjan Chatterjee (University of Pennsylvania) and Gerard Steen (University of Amsterdam)

3rd NHS Dialogue: Ars et Ingenium. The Processes of Imagination, 26-28.05.2016

Keynote Speakers: Arthur M. Jacobs (Freie Universität Berlin), Deborah Jenson (Duke University), Helmut Leder (University of Vienna), Gabrielle Starr (New York University), Mark Turner (Case Western Reserve University) and Semir Zeki (University College London)

4th NHS Dialogue: Space and Time in the Brain, 29-30.05.2017

Keynote Speakers: Arthur M. Jacobs (Freie Universität Berlin), Patrick Colm Hogan (University of Connecticut), Raoul Schrott and Semir Zeki (University College London)

5 th NHS Dialogue: What is what? Focus on Transdisciplinary Concepts and Terminology in Neuroaesthetics, Cognition and Poetics 31.05-01.06 2018

Keynote Speakers: Semir Zeki (University College London), Arthur M. Jacobs (Freie Universität Berlin), Helmut Leder (University of Vienna), Mark Turner (Case Western University), Alan Richardson (Boston University)

6th NHS Dialogue: Beauty and Embodiment in the Arts, 24-25 May 2019

Keynote Speakers: Semir Zeki (University College London), Pier Luigi Sacco (IULM), Monika Fludernik (University of Freiburg), Vittorio Gallese (University of Parma)

International Conference: *Weltkultur gestern und heute*, Catania 8-9 Novembre 2019, Palazzo Sanguiliano, Catania, UNICT, Roma TRE.

A choice of recent invited presentations in Internationally organized Conferences and/or Advanced Schools

Lectio magistralis “Neuroesthetics: humanities meet hard sciences”, Meeting of the Dipartimento di medicina Legale “Neuroestetica e sicurezza delle cure. La prescrizione sociale nella pratica clinica – Arezzo 17 September 2026

Talk on Neuroesthetics and Neurohermeneutics, Cognitive Futures in the Arts and Humanities, Lisbon, 15-17 July 2026

Lecture “The Neurohermenutic of Suspicion”, UCL – London, 8 Dicembre 2024

Lecture “Sublime and Beautiful, UCL – London, 19 Novembre 2024

Talk Ambiguity as the Sparkle to Imagination, Third Annual International Interdisciplinary Seminar on Neuroesthetics, University of Alicante, 22 Novembre 2025

Lecture “The Sublime as a Brain-Body Sensory Experience, London Aesthetic Forum, 13 Novembre 2024

Lecture “The Ellipsis of Action: The Role of the Witness in Heinrich von Kleist's *Penthesilea*, University of Naples Suor Orsola Benincasa and Federico II, 18-19 April 2024.

Lecture “The Sublime in a Neuroaesthetic Perspective, UCL – London, 5 December 2023.

Lecture “From Neuroaesthetics to Neurohermeneutics”, UCL – London, 28 November 2023.

Lecture “The Earth from Space. Ballooning in German Culture from 1783 to 1840” – Space in Time. From the Heavens to outer Space. International Conference of The Warburg Institute, 12-13 October 2023.

Lecture “The Gorgon-Effect. Multimodal Emotional Responses and Rhetoric Strategies” – International Symposium “Empathy and the Aesthetics of Language, Neuroscience & Humanities, University of Parma, Aix Marseille Université, The University of Texas at Austin, 5-6 October 2023.

Lecture “The Suspicious Reader: a Neurohermeneutical Approach to Literature” – Cognitive Future in the Humanities, University Catolica, Lisbon - 2 April 2023

Talk at the workshop “Superstimolo,” Italian Academy for Advanced Studies in America, Columbia University, 26 april 2023

“The Debate about the Sublime as a Sensory Brain-Body Experience during the 18th Century through the Romantic era in the light of Aby Warburg’s *Ergiffenheit*, Warburg Institute London – 7 June 2023

Lecture “The Sublime as a Brain-Body experience” – Institute for Advanced Studies – University College of London – 15 November 2022

Talk “The Boots are made for walking.” Ludwig Tieck’s Puss in the Boots – International Conference “The Role of Fantastic Animals in Fairy Tales and Children Literature. Collodi Foundation – 26 October 2022.

Lecture - Neuroermeneutic and Cognitive Poetic – University of Milan – Department of Languages, Literatures, Cultures, and Mediations – 10 November 2022.

Talk for the series “The expressive body. Performativity, Embodiment, Neuroscience, held by the Neuroscience & Humanities Lab, University of Parma, 4 March 2022: Gorgonen-Effekt. Performativity in Kleist’s theatre. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tqSaxeJdSE>

Lecture for the Master in Medical Humanities, University of Suor Orsola Benincasa, 11 march 2022: *Imagination Processes between the narration of the Self and the encounter with Others*.

Talk for the Brain Awareness Week Hobit 2022 organized by the Dana Foundation and the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies, 21 march 2022: Ekphrasis as Superstimulus? Heinrich von Kleist’s *Feelings before Seelandscape* by Friedrich

“Den Täumen ausgeliefert”. Falsche Mythen der italienischen kritischen Kleist-Rezeption und intermediale NeuschöpfungenInternationale. Jahrestagung der Heinrich-von-Kleist-Gesellschaft 2021 “Um einen Kleist von außen bittend”. Zur internationalen Kleist-Rezeption, Seminaris Campus Hotel Berlin, Takustraße 39, 14195 Berlin - 19-20 novembre 2021

Talk for the Scuola estiva di alta formazione filosofica. XIV edizione. Filosofia, scienze e nuovi approdi, Istituto Italiano per gli Studi filosofici, Associazione Eleonora Pimentel, 30 luglio-2 agosto 2020, Castel di Sangro.

Talk for the conference “Alchimie e linguaggi di donne”, Istituto di studi filosofici di Napoli, 17-20 settembre.

Second International Workshop of the Goethe Lexicon of philosophical concepts, Cambridge ZOOM Workshop (July 9-11, 2020), Goethe Society of North America, Goethe Gesellschaft. <https://goethe-lexicon.pitt.edu/GL>

„Das lyrische Gleichnis als poetologische Denkfigur“. Ähnlichkeit als Strukturkategorie der Lyrik. Prospektiven für die interkulturelle und komparatistische Literaturwissenschaft, Universität Trier, DFG-Kolleg-Forschungsgruppe FOR 2603, 4-7.12.2019

“Ein Gespräch über Bäume”. Europäische Naturlyrik nach 1945, Università di Bergamo, Universität Trier, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, DFG-Kolleg-Forschungsgruppe FOR 2603, 22-23.10.2019.

Demokratie 1.0: Die Weimarer Medienrepublik und die Folgen für die europäische Kultur (II.) XII. Fachtagung der Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung für europäische Germanisten, 19. – 21. September 2019, Akademie der Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Berlin, VA-Nr.: BK-190919-1

Qualitative and quantitative research. Humanities meet Neuroscience.

Lecture at the “Phd Advanced School *Humanities and Technologies: an integrated research path*, University Suor Orsola Benincasa, Napoli”, 17.04.2019

Conference

“Nessuno può querelare il diavolo. Le brocca rotta di Heinrich von Kleist”. Verso Antigone Teatro Mercadante, Napoli, 16 aprile 2019

“Wunderkammer.” “La germanistica e l’editoria”, Istituto di Studi germanici di Villa Sciarra, Roma, 9 maggio 2019.

Conference

“La Mente narrativa di Heinrich von Kleist”, Castello Sforzesco, Bookcity Milano, 17.11. 2018
Conference

Narrative Mind and Neurohermeneutics.

Lecture at the “Phd Advanced School in Scienze umane dell’Università di Parma”, 16.10.2018.

Feelings before a painting of the Romantics: about immersion and emotion in the aesthetic experience, International Conference “Habiter les territoires immersifs: perspectives écologiques, neuroscientifiques et esthétiques sur la littérature, les arts et le jeu vidéo à l’ère de l’Anthropocène”, 22.6.2018, Institut du monde Anglophone, Université Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris

(together with Renata Gambino, Federica Abramo, Daniela Giordano, Jana Lüdtke, Teresa Sylvester, Shuwei Xue, Orsi Papp-Zipernovszky, Anne Mangen, Art Jacobs) “Reading Shakespeare’s sonnets: a combined qualitative-quantitative study”. International Meeting E-READ/SHARP, Vilnius LT, September 27-29, 2017.

Kleist’s Empfindungen vor Friedrichs Seelandschaft, “Literatur und Malerei”, International Conference, University of Varsavia (1st-2th april 2017);

Chair

Neurohumanities Conference, Paris Sorbonne Nouvelle, 2.06.2016

Qualitative Analysis, Cost-Meeting, Eread WE3 aesthetic cluster, Freie University Berlin. 14-15.12.2016

Stream of Consciousness, “Le monologue intérieur entre neurosciences, littérature et linguistique,” Paris, Sorbonne Nouvelle, 1 June 2015

RESPONDENT: “The Science of Beauty”, la Royal Society Edinburgh, 10-11 November 2015, University of Edinburgh, University College London. (<https://www.rse.org.uk/event/the-science-of-beauty/>)

Figuring Consciousness: Shadows and Zombies in German Literature, The 2nd International Conference “Cognitive futures in the Humanities”, Durham University, 24-26.04.2014

- *The Future of Neurosciences and Literature. A Transdisciplinary Approach*, “Neurosciences – théâtre – littérature: approches appliquées. Séance spéciale du séminaire Science et Littérature”, Sorbonne Nouvelle Paris 3 (19-20 maggio 2014);

- *Different Approaches to transdisciplinary humanistic Neuro-cognitive Research*, lezione presso la Summer School “Neurohumanities Research Group” della Duke University (USA) in Paris (20-21 maggio 2014).

Die Lebens- und Schreibwelten des Adelbert von Chamisso, Internationale Chamisso-Konferenz: Phantastik und Skepsis, Humboldt Universität, Berlin, 29-31.05.2013

Imagining Imagination, Cognitive Poetics 2013, University of Osnabrück, 11.04.2013

Neurohermeneutics, “Cognitive futures in the Humanities”, University of Bangor, 4-6.04.2013

Foreign language Certification

PhD in German language (1992)

“First Certificate in English” - University of Cambridge (1980)

“Certificate of Proficiency in English” - University of Cambridge (1981)

“Certificat de langue française” - Sorbonne (1984)

Among her last co-authored publications:

(co-author Renata Gambino), “Reading against the Grain”. For a Neurohermeneutics of Suspicion.“ *Zeitschrift für Literaturwissenschaft und Linguistik*, 2021; (co-author: Renata Gambino). “‘What it is like to be a tree?’. Diegetische Bäume anhand einiger Beispiele aus der Gegenwartlyrik.“ In Braun M./Valtolina A. (edit. by), *Bäume lesen. Europäische ökologie Lyrik seit den 1970er Jahren* (Könighausen und Neumann: Würzburg 2021, 119-138); (co-author: Renata Gambino). “‘The boundless Realm where all Form lies’. Representing Imagination at the Crossway between literary and neurocognitive Studies,” *Frontiers in Integrative Neuroscience*, 2020. *Goethe’s Italy*, in *Goethe in Context*, ed. by Charlotte Lee, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2024: 245-253. “Interpreting Warburg’s Theory of Expression through a Biocultural Perspective”, in *Pathographies of Modernity with Aby Warburg and Beyond: An Astral Map of Warburgian Constellations*, ed. by Daniela Padularosa, Cambridge University Press, 2024, pp. 66-83; (co-author Taylor Enoch, Samuel Rashe, Renata Gambino), The Gorgon Effect: The Witness’s Report as a Device for Multimodal Emotional Engagement, in *Texas Studies in Literature and Language*, vol. 66 no. 4, 2024, p. 422-450. *Project MUSE*, <https://muse.jhu.edu/article/950611>; Aby Warburg’s *Ergriffenheit/Ergriffen sein*: The Force of Emotions, in *Studi Germanici – I quaderni dell’AIG*, 6 (2023-2024), 2025, pp. 243-254; (co-author Renata Gambino), Embodied Sublime. A Case-Study from German Romanticism: Heinrich von Kleist’s Ekphrasis *Feelings about a Seascape by Friedrich*, in *Narrative and Cognition in Literature and Science*, a cura di Michael Sinding e Aura Heydenreich, De Gruyter, Berlin, 2025, pp. 331-359; *Elektra di Hugo von Hofmannsthal: femme fatale o femme fragile?* In Renata Gambino, Grazia Pulvirenti (a cura di), *Streghe, stregoni e altri cattivi soggetti. L’alterità tra storia e narrazione*, Mimesis, Sesto San Giovanni, 2025, pp. 65-80; (co-author Alice Gaglio), “Ponti di senso sopra abissi di insensatezza”. *L’autopatografia come rimedio*, in *Patografie e autopatografie italiane nel XXI secolo : Riflessioni interdisciplinari sulla scrittura della malattia*, a cura di Giuliana Pias e Alessandro Benucci, PU de Paris Nanterre, Nanterre, 2025, pp. 77-107.

Among her last books:

(co-author Renata Gambino), *La mente narrativa di Heinrich von Kleist*, Mimesis (Milan: 2018)

(co-author Renata Gambino), *Storie, Menti, Mondi: approccio neuroermeneutico alla letteratura*, Mimesis (Milan 2018)

(co-author Renata Gambino), *Mind the Text! Neurohermeneutics for Suspicious Readers*. Cambridge Scholars, 2024

<https://www.cambridgescholars.com/product/978-1-0364-0760-5>

(co-author Renata Gambino), *Mind the text! Neurohermeneutics for Suspicious Readers*, Cambridge Scholars, Newcastle Upon Tyne, 2024

(co-editor Renata Gambino), *Streghe, stregoni e altri cattivi soggetti. L'alterità tra storia e narrazione*, Mimesis, Sesto San Giovanni, 2025.

Bermúdez, V.; Gambino, R.; García-Valero, B. y Pulvirenti, G. “Editorial: Imagination, Cognition, and the Arts”, *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience*, 18:1523760, disponibile su <https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/human-neuroscience/articles/10.3389/fnhum.2024.1523760/full>

Non dipingerai I miei occhi. Storia intima di Jeanne Hébuterne e Amedeo Modigliani, Mimesis, 2020
<https://www.amazon.it/dipingerai-occhi-Storia-H%C3%A9buterne-Modigliani/dp/887801737X>