

**SEAN COCCO**  
Department of History  
Trinity College  
300 Summit Street  
Hartford, CT 06106

## **EMPLOYMENT**

- 2015-Present Associate Professor of History and Co-Director of The Center for Teaching and Learning, Trinity College
- 2011-15 Associate Professor of History, Trinity College
- 2005-2011 Assistant Professor of History, Trinity College
- 2004-2005 Lecturer, University of Washington
- 2002-2005 Italian Language Teacher, Seattle Academy of Languages

## **EDUCATION**

- 2004 Ph.D., History, University of Washington  
Dissertation: "Vesuvius and Naples: Nature and the City, 1500-1700"
- 1997 M.A., History, University of Washington
- 1994 B.A., History, Western Washington University  
Minor: French
- 1992 *Certificato di Studio*, Scuola di Lingua e Cultura Italiana per Stranieri, Siena, Italy, *magna cum laude*
- 1992 Libera Università Internazionale per gli Studi Sociali, Rome  
Examinations: Italian post-war politics, international relations and cultural anthropology (High Pass)

## **GRANTS AND AWARDS**

- 2019 Faculty Research Grant: "The Octopus and the Others: Sea Life in an Eighteenth-Century Metropolis"
- 2014 Sustainability Grant for Course Development, "Planet Earth", Trinity College

- 2009 Dibner History of Science Fellow, Huntington Library, San Marino, CA
- 2008 Best Lecturer, Student Government Association, Trinity College
- 2006 Fellow, Institute for the Study of Secularism in Society and Culture, Trinity College  
Project: “European Exploration and Science, 1300-1700”
- 2005 Fellow, Institute for the Study of Secularism in Society and Culture, Trinity College  
Project: “Science, Religion and Nature in the Age of Galileo”
- 2003 Dissertation Fellowship, Walter Chapin Simpson Center for the Humanities, University  
of Washington
- 2002 Costigan Fellowship in French and Italian History, University of Washington,
- 2000 Fulbright Fellow, Italy  
Vesuvius Observatory and National Library, Naples; Vatican Library, Rome
- Western Europe Dissertation Travel Grant, University of Washington
- Rondeau Evans Fellowship, University of Washington (declined, 2000)
- 1994 History Department Undergraduate Excellence Award, Western Washington University

### **SINGLE-AUTHOR BOOKS**

*Watching Vesuvius: A History of Science and Culture in Early Modern Italy* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2012)

*The Octopus and the Others: Sea Life in an Eighteenth-Century Metropolis* (current book project in progress)

### **EDITED BOOKS**

Alfonso Tortora, Domenico Cassano, and Sean Cocco, eds., *L'Europa moderna e l'antico vesuvio. Sull'identità scientifica italica tra i secoli XVII e XVIII* (Battipaglia: Laveglia e Carlone, 2017)

### **ARTICLES AND ESSAYS (PEER-REVIEWED)**

“Riflessioni e visioni a distanza, allora e adesso” in Antonino De Natale and Antonino Pollio, *I disegni inediti di Domenico Cirillo nella Società dei Naturalisti di Napoli* (Naples: Società dei Naturalisti di Napoli, forthcoming)

“Possible Ecologies of Vesuvian Nature and Arts,” in Frank Fehrenbach and Joris van Gastel, eds., *Nature and the Arts in Early Modern Naples* (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2020)

“Baroque Tectonics: Eruptions and Disruptions in the Vesuvian City”, *The Open Arts Journal*, Issue 6, Winter 2017/2018 (Co-authored with Alfonso Tortora)

“Abbozzo di nuovi studi sul Vesuvio,” in Alfonso Tortora, Domenico Cassano, and Sean Cocco eds., *L'Europa moderna e l'antico vesuvio. Sull'identità scientifica italiana tra i secoli XVII e XVIII* (Battipaglia: Laveglia e Carlone, 2017)

“Locating the Sciences in Early Modern Naples,” in Tommaso Astarita, ed., *A Companion to Early Modern Naples* (Leiden: Brill, 2013)

“Contesting Vesuvius, Claiming Naples: Disaster in Print and Pen, 1631-1649” in Michael Halverson and Katherine Spierling, eds., *Defining Community in Early Modern Europe* (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2008)

“Natural Marvels and Ancient Ruins: Volcanism and the Recovery of Antiquity in Early Modern Naples,” in Victoria Gardner Coates and John L. Seydl, eds., *Antiquity Recovered: The Legacy of Pompeii and Herculaneum* (New York: Oxford University Press and Getty Trust Publications, 2007)

## REVIEWS

Review of *New Approaches to Naples c. 1500—c. 1800: The Power of Place*. Calaresu, Melissa and Helen Hills, eds., (Farnham: Ashgate, 2013). In *Sixteenth-Century Journal*, Volume XLV, No.4, Winter 2014, 1015-1016.

Review of David Hawkes and Richard Newhauser, eds., *The Book of Nature and Humanity in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance*. Arizona Studies in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance (BREPOLS, 2012). In *Renaissance Quarterly*, Vol. 67, No.3, 979-980.

Review of Alessandra Foscati, *Ignis sacer. Una storia culturale del 'fuoco sacro' dall'antichità al Settecento* (Firenze: SISMEL, 2013). In *Aestimatio* 10 (2013), 344-351.

Review of Jordan Lancaster, *In the Shadow of Vesuvius: A Cultural History of Naples* (New York: I.B. Tauris, 2005). In *Journal of Modern Italian Studies*, Vol. 12, Issue 2 (June 2007), 238-237

Review of Thomas Allison Kirk, *Genoa and the Sea, 1559-1684* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005). In *Sixteenth-Century Journal*, Vol. 38, No. 2 (Summer 2007), 546-548.

## PAPERS

“The Shallows and the Sickly Coast: A History of Menace and Reassurance on an Italian Coast” (Casa Italiana, New York University, April 2017)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YITel2ik360>

"Locating the Natural Sciences in Naples", Society for Italian Historical Studies (Chicago, 2012)

“*Trattare naturalmente come storicamente: Philosophical and Historical Approaches to Vesuvius Between the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries*”, The Arts and Sciences in Naples (Clark Library, February 2010)

“The History of Venice: A Thousand Years in One Hour” Academy of Lifelong Learning (Trinity College, November 2009)

“Vesuvius in the View South” Program in the History and Philosophy of Science Stanford University, April 2009.

“Castelli Was Tired (and How do I Know)” Writers on Writing Series, Trinity College, April 2008.

“Arduous Terrain from Afar: Pietro Castelli’s Investigation of Nature.” New England Renaissance Conference, Brown University, October 2007.

“From Mars to Jupiter’s Moons: Italy’s Century Between the Renaissance and Baroque.” Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, CT (April, 2007)

“Science and Religion in the Age of Galileo.” Institute for the Study of Secularism in Society and Culture Teaching Conference, Lenox, MA (May, 2006)

“Reflections on an Early Modern Ethic of Nature.” International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture; University of Florida (April, 2006)

“Natural Marvels and Ancient Ruins: The Campi Flegrei and Vesuvius in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth centuries.” Paper presented at *Antiquity Recovered: Pompeii and Herculaneum in Philadelphia Collections*; Arthur G. Ross Gallery, University of Pennsylvania (October, 2002)

“Vesuvius Buried and Reborn: The Eruption of 1631.” Paper presented at *The Ways of Death in the Ancient World*, University of Washington (October, 1998)

Introductory Lecture for the *Savonarola Symposium*, University of Washington School of Music (April, 1998)

## **COURSES**

FYS 142 Italian Cities  
HIST 113 Early Modern Europe  
HIST 219 Planet Earth  
HIST 220 Possible Earths  
HIST 221 Science, Religion, and Nature in the Age of Galileo  
HIST 266 War and Peace in Early Modern Europe  
HIST 299 Historiography  
HIST 300 Age of Uncertainties  
HIST 300 Nighttime in Early Modern Europe  
HIST 304 Renaissance Italy  
HIST 325 Italy and the Mediterranean

## College Service

2013-14

Trinity College President Search Committee

2010

Faculty Conference

Trinity Rome Campus Advisory Committee

Trinity Triathlon and Cycling Club (Faculty Mentor)

2009

Grossman Research Grants Committee

2008

Trinity Elderhostel Director Search Committee

2007

Paris Campus Steering Committee

## Languages (besides English)

Italian

French

Spanish (reading)

Latin (reading)