

Career details

After graduating *cum laude* at the University of Pisa, Lara Nicolini gained her PhD (Dottorato in Filologia classica) at the University of Bologna, successfully defending a dissertation on the Roman novelist Apuleius. The research was conducted mostly at the Cambridge Classics Department under the supervision of Prof. E. J. Kenney.

In January 2000, by winning a national contest, she was appointed professor of Classics at the high school; at the end of the same year, she got a post-doctoral fellowship at the Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa, where in 2006 she took a position of Researcher/Lecturer in Latin Literature (giving classes of Latin Grammar and taking part to the examination board for admission).

In December 2013 she obtained a qualification (Abilitazione Scientifica Nazionale) as Associate Professor of Latin Language and Literature, and at the end of 2014 she was appointed Researcher at the University of Genova, where she is currently Associate Professor of Latin Literature. In September 2018 she obtained a qualification as Full Professor of Latin Language and Literature and another one as Full Professor of Classical Philology.

Over all these years, first at the Scuola Normale Superiore and then at the University of Genova, she has given a range of lecture courses on Latin literature; she gave several seminars at the SNS and taught all the Latin classes available at the Genova Dept. of Classics (Propedeutica al Latino, Letteratura Latina, Filologia Latina, Storia della Lingua Latina); she regularly holds seminars for Phd students at the University of Genova and for graduated students at the IANUA- ISSUGE (Istituto di Studi Superiori dell'Università di Genova).

She has supervised several graduates for both the first dissertation (Tesi Triennale) and the advanced studies (Tesi Specialistica); she has also supervised some Phd dissertations, first at the University of Turin and then at the Dept. of Classics at Genova University. She is a member of the Committee Board of the ISSUGE (Istituto di Studi Superiori dell'Università di Genova, curriculum ISUPAC, Indirizzo Studi Umanistici: il Patrimonio Culturale) and of the "Scuola di Dottorato in Letterature e culture classiche e moderne" at the University of Genova.

She is a peer-referee for various international research institutions, for the Italian VQR (Research Qualitative Evaluation committee), as well as for several international journals (Philologus, MH, BMCR, Mnemosyne, CPh, MD, Maia, SIFC, RFIC, Vichiana and others) and for the series *Trends in Classics* (De Gruyter). She is a member of the scientific board of some international journals such as *Materiali e Discussioni per l'Analisi dei Testi Classici*, and *Studi italiani di filologia classica*. She is also a member of the international research group of the Groningen Commentaries on Apuleius, with fifteen academic members from seven different countries (Italy, France, Austria, Germany, United Kingdom, Switzerland, The Netherlands), and a fellow of the Fondazione Lorenzo Valla and she continues to collaborate to several projects with the SNS, Pisa.

Interests and scientific projects

She took part to several research projects, including some PRIN grants coordinated by Prof. G.B. Conte and eventually funded by the Italian Government (PRIN 2004 and 2007), among which the most important is definitely the one that finally resulted in producing the new Teubner edition of the *Aeneid* (PRIN 2007 - Titolo progetto *Per una nuova edizione dell'Eneide*); to this edition she collaborated actively for the following two years.

In 2007 she successfully developed a G.R. project proposal (Progetto Giovani Ricercatori) at the Scuola Normale Superiore, and obtained the funding that allowed her to complete her research on Apuleius' use of etymology and to publish a book on this subject.

She then took part to the international project led by Prof. W. Keulen and financially supported by the DFG (*Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft*), a project that resulted in the publication of the last volume of the GCA collection (*Apuleius Madaurensis Metamorphoses, Book XI, The Isis Book. Text, Introduction and Commentary*, W. Keulen ed., Brill, Leiden-Boston 2015); she is the sole author of chapters 1, 13, 14 and 25 and took part to the writing of all the remaining chapters.

She is currently responsible for some internal projects at the University of Genova, where during the last year she has organized some conferences, among which the international conference on Ovid for the Bimillenary of his death (*Omnia mutantur. Nuove letture sul lessico e lo stile di Ovidio*, Genova, 29/30 Maggio 2017) and the most recent international conference "*Fly me to the Moon. The Moon in human imagination*".

She has given many lectures in universities and research institutions both in Italy and abroad (e.g. France, Germany, Switzerland, The Netherlands, UK). She has herself organized several international seminars and conferences at the University of Genova.

Main publications and current research activities

Her main interests deal with Latin grammar, linguistics and textual criticism, but she also took some interest in literary interpretation, especially with reference to the Latin Novel.

After making some foray into the Christian Latin literature (with special attention to Augustine and Boethius) she dedicated her efforts to the difficult text of Chalcidius' Commentary on Plato's *Timaeus*, producing a book and some articles.

She has published extensively on Apuleius. Apart for many articles on intertextuality, wordplay, textual problems, interpretation of the novel etc., all published in journals classified as Classe A, both Italian and international (e.g. MD, SIFC, RFIC, SCO, Eikasmos, Humanitas, Philologus, MH, Gnomon, AN, BMCR), she dedicated many books to this author. She is the author of an in-depth commentary on a large section of the *Metamorphoses* (*La Novella di Carite e Tlepolemo*, Napoli 2000) and of an Italian translation of the novel with notes and a dense essay on interpretation (*Apuleio, Le Metamorfosi*, Milano 2005); in 2011 she published the monograph *Ad (I)usum lectoris. Etimologia e giochi di parole in Apuleio*, on Apuleius' use of wordplay (the book was financially supported by the Scuola Normale, see above). Among her last contributes, the most important studies deal with intertextuality in the *Metamorphoses* (she worked and still works on the relationship between Apuleius' style and Ovid's works), and with some aspects of Apuleius' language and style; these works too

have been discussed at some international conferences (among which the Université de Lyon and the Université de Corse).

She is currently studying Ovid, especially some peculiar Ovidian traits of style, preparing an essay on Ovid's use of syllepsis; in the meantime she is completing a new Commentary on the novel of Cupid and Psyche: the volume will be part of a four volumes complete commentary for the Italian series of classics "Fondazione Valla". For this series she is also editing the whole text and the critical apparatus. As a result of her research on the author, she is also preparing a new critical edition of Apuleius' *Metamorphoses* for the renowned *Bibliotheca Teubneriana* series (De Gruyter).

Another current field of research is the *Aegritudo Perdicae*, the mysterious Latin epyllion transmitted only by a 15th century manuscript which is conspicuous for his many errors and faults. To this puzzling poem she has already dedicated a couple of articles (recently come out on international journals) and she is now preparing a new edition of it with a completely revised text, an Italian translation and commentary and an introductory essay; the work will pay special attention to the discussion of all the textual issues and to a complete recollection of literary parallels. This volume too has been approved for publication in a well reputed Italian publishing house.