

Maria Elena Gutierrez's Bio

Born in Mexico and raised in California, Maria Elena Gutierrez first studied at the University of California in Santa Cruz and then at Stanford University, where she received her masters in 1990 and her doctorate in 1995. Since then she has taught Italian Literature and Cinema at the State University of New York (SUNY) in Buffalo. She began as an assistant professor from 1994-2000 and then in 2000 she became an associate "tenured" professor. Throughout her career she has received numerous awards and acknowledgements, including the Cesare Pavese award for her doctoral thesis and the Milton Plesur Award of Excellence for university teaching. Her concentrated area of research in literature is Surrealism, a theme about which she has published many articles including a book dedicated to the work of Alberto Savinio. Aside from teaching courses in the area of visual arts, she has put together in Buffalo, New York, two theatrical productions and directed the International Women's Film Festival from 2001 to 2003. Since then she has been spending part of the year in Turin, where she teaches film at the University through a contract with the program known as "Re-entry of the Brains / Brain Re-entry." In Turin she has also taught classes at Stresa in 2004 and 2006, within the context of "Cinema Grinzane." She wrote the catalogue for the Turin International Festival of Women's Cinema in 2004 and was part of the jury for the Food in Film Festival in 2006. She has worked for numerous international conferences that deal with themes of literature, cinema and new media. She is on the jury of the International E-content Award. Since the beginning of 2005, she has been the artistic director of the Virtuality Conference and also directs the Turin edition of Resfest, the international festival of avant-garde cinema.

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