

# FRANCESCO MARANO

## CONTACTS

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## PRESENT PROFESSIONAL STATUS

Ricercatore / Assistant professor at the University of Basilicata ([www.unibas.it](http://www.unibas.it))

## RESEARCH TOPICS

1) The **history and theories of visual anthropology** (cf. the handbook *Camera etnografica. Storie e teorie di antropologia visuale*, 2007, [Ethnographic Camera. Histories and Theories of Visual Anthropology] adopted in the courses of eleventh Italian university). The results of that topic, presented in international conferences (Paris, Neuchâtel), identified the main approaches to the audiovisual representation in the history of ethnographic film;

2) The **history of the Italian ethnographic film** (and visual anthropology) and, in general, the connections between audiovisual media, fieldwork and representation. The research has proposed a timeline of that history and discovered the seminal scholars and their roles in the visual anthropology of the Fifty. The results of this research has been published in the book *Il film etnografico in Italia* [The Ethnographic Film in Italy], 2007, adopted in ten courses in the Italian universities.

3) The **audiovisual auto-ethnographies** of groups of peasants in the Basilicata region, analyzing how the local culture is constructed and communicated through the production and the spread of videocassettes in the communities. The research is published in *Anni Cinquanta e coccinelle che volano. Video e poetiche della memoria etnografica* (2005). The book is among the publications (MacDougall, Schneider, Feld, Marano) discussed in Brutti's article "Aesthetics versus Knowledge: An Ambiguous Mixture of Genres in Visual Anthropology" (*Reviews in Anthropology*, n. 37, 2008, pp. 279-301).

4) The **connections between art and anthropology**, both as history of the exchanges between the two practices and as possibility to hybridizing the rhetorics of the discipline in the contemporary contexts. From one hand, the use of fieldwork and of ethnographic models of representation by contemporary artists engaged in the "ethnographic turn" of contemporary art require a critical reflection about the current epistemological state of anthropology. From another hand, the anthropology, "opened" by the several *turns* crossed it in the last decades (practical, visual, sensory, topographical, artistic, multimedia), is demanded to experiment ethnographies near to the contemporary artistic poetics (above all community art, public art, installations, video-installations). These arguments cross my latest book *L'etnografo come artista. Intrecci fra arte e antropologia* (The Ethnographer as an Artist. Entanglements between Art and Anthropology, 2013).

5) I have also conducted researches about the **religious festivals**. In particular, in the Ninety, I studied a class of rituals of the Eve locally called *Guglie*, ceremonies of fire-crossing where the participants getting drunk and dancing the sacred simulachrum (Saint or Virgin Mary) of the feast. These ceremonies are discovered in the area between the regions of Basilicata and Campania. The results of that research has been published in the book *La Uglia. Rituali di attraversamento del fuoco in Basilicata* [The Uglia. Rituals of Fire Crossing in Basilicata] and in the book article "Venturing Identity: Performing Ecstasy in the Rite of the Guglia", (in L. Del Giudice and N. Van Deusen (eds), *Performing Ecstasies. Music, Dance, and Ritual in the Mediterranean*, Ottawa: Institute for Medieval Music, pp. 151-165).

6) **Life stories and auto-biographies** both as narrations that offer points of view about the socio-cultural-historical contexts and as research tool in ethnographic enquires. The researches

about this topics produced several books and articles, following an Italian tradition started in the Fifties in the Basilicata region, and continued in the University of Basilicata.

#### **PARTICIPATION TO SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS**

- Editor in Chief of *Visual Ethnography* ([www.vejournal.org](http://www.vejournal.org)), patronized from University of Basilicata;
- Founder and member of the scientific committee of *Archivio di Etnografia* ([http://www.paginasc.it/libri.php?titolo=le%20riviste&id\\_collana=16](http://www.paginasc.it/libri.php?titolo=le%20riviste&id_collana=16));
- Member of the scientific committee of «Studi e Ricerche» of the Dipartimento di Studi Storici, Geografici e Artistici dell'Università di Cagliari.

#### **PARTICIPATION TO COLLECTIONS**

- Editor of the collection *Walking on the Line* (Altrimedia edizioni, [www.altrimediaedizioni.com](http://www.altrimediaedizioni.com));
- Member of the scientific committee of the collection *Etnografie* by Edizioni di Pagina ([http://www.paginasc.it/libri.php?titolo=&id\\_collana=21](http://www.paginasc.it/libri.php?titolo=&id_collana=21));
- Member of the scientific committee of the collection *Musica e cultura tradizionale della Basilicata* (Udine, Nota Editore).

#### **OTHER ROLES**

- Co-founder of ANUAC (Associazione Nazionale Universitaria degli Antropologi Culturali) ;
- Co-founder of SIMBDEA (Società Italiana per la Museografia e i Beni Demoetnoantropologici) ;
- Founder and editor of the web site VisualAnthropology.net ([www.visualanthropology.net](http://www.visualanthropology.net));
- Coordinator of the Festival dell'Antropologia e della Musica Popolare (Matera, 29 settembre-1 ottobre 2006) ;
- Scientific Coordinator of the "Festival dell'Arte, dell'Antropologia e delle Scienze", Matera 11-12 novembre 2011 ;
- Scientific coordinator of "*Rupextre*, residency for artists and anthropologists" ([www.rupextre.org](http://www.rupextre.org));
- Member of the Jury of the Festival Jean Rouch (<http://www.comite-film-ethno.net/>) edition 2009;
- Member of the Bachelor staff of Operatore di Beni Culturali [Cultural Heritage] ;
- Member of MA Staff of Tourism and Cultural Heritage;
- Member of Ph.D. in "Lingua testo e forme della scrittura: analisi linguistica, tradizioni retorico-letterarie e aspetti antropologici" (till 2011).
- Guarantor and member of the Ph.D. in "Cities and Landscapes: Architecture, Archaeology, Cultural Heritage, History and Resources" ;
- Supervisor of the Laboratorio EtnoAntropologico of the Department of European and Mediterranean Culture at the University of Basilicata.

## **ETHNOGRAPHIC FILMS**

*Il Maggio delle Mondine*

(2011, 45 min.)

Festival Jean Rouch 2011

Menzione speciale al Sardinia International Ethnographic Film Festival 2012

Eurorama 2013

*Maschere e suoni. Il Carnevale a San Mauro Forte*

(2008, 25 min.)

*Cara pianta d'oliva*

(2004, 63 min.)

Bilan du Film Ethnographique 2005

Mostra Internacional do Filme Etnografico 2005

Premio Costantino Nigra 2005

Days of Ethnographic Cinema, Moscow, 2010

Materiali di Antropologia Visiva, Roma, 2010

*Santomartino!*

(2001, 38 min.)

Festival Internazionale del Film Etnografico di Nuoro 2002

*L'arte di Rumi*

(2001, 29 min.)

Premio Nigra 2001- Antropologia visiva

*Il canestro di Canio Benedetto*

(1994, 20')

Coautore con E. Imbriani e F. Mirizzi

*La Uglia*

(1993, 29')

Menzione speciale Premio Pitre 1994

*Vjeshet*

(1992, 14')

*Laj Ndoni Tabatabit*

(1991, 29')