

Curriculum Vitae  
Donna Jo Napoli  
Prof. of Linguistics and Social Justice  
Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA 19081  
610-328-8422/ [dnapoli1@swarthmore.edu](mailto:dnapoli1@swarthmore.edu)/ [donnajonapoli@gmail.com](mailto:donnajonapoli@gmail.com)  
<http://www.swarthmore.edu/donna-jo-napoli> & <https://risevideobooks.org>  
Publications at the very end  
Updated 26 February 2026

### Education

1973-74 Visiting Scientist in Linguistics (postdoctoral year), MIT  
1973 Ph.D. General and Romance Linguistics (Romance Lgs & Lits Program A), Harvard U  
1971 M.A Italian Literature, Harvard U  
1970 A.B. Mathematics. Harvard U

### Awards and Honors

2025 Inducted as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science  
2025 The RISE project (codirected by Napoli and Mirus) won a Comenius-EduMedia-Award  
<https://comenius-award.de/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Pressemitteilung-2-Paderborn-25-15-06-25.pdf>  
2024-2027 Appointed as Fulbright Specialist in Sign Linguistics and Deaf Literacy  
2024 Victoria Fromkin Lifetime Service Award from the Linguistics Society of America  
2022 June Visiting Research Fellow Trinity Long Room Hub, Trinity College, Dublin  
2021-2025 Appointed as Maurice Eldridge Faculty Fellow, Swarthmore College  
2017-2022 Appointed as Fulbright Specialist in Sign Linguistics and Deaf Literacy  
2020 Mentoring Award from the Linguistics Society of America  
2015 Inducted as a Fellow of the Linguistics Society of America  
2014 Linguistics, Language, and the Public Award from the Linguistics Society of America for team work on informing the medical profession about the acquisition of sign language  
2012 Visiting Research Fellow Trinity Long Room Hub, Trinity College, Dublin  
2010 Leverhulme Visiting Professor, University of Newcastle, UK  
1992 S.W. Brooks Visiting Lecturer, University of Queensland, Australia

### Teaching and research areas

modality effects in language, bodily communication, structure of ASL and other sign languages, syntax, making bimodal-bilingual video-books to aid in deaf literacy, language matters with respect to Deaf people, taboo language and linguistic creativity, sign language literature from a linguistics perspective, oral and written language, narrative in language compared to dance/theater/ceramics and other arts, (dis)abilities in perceiving and producing music, field linguistics, morphology, mathematical and linguistic analysis of folk dance, fiction writing workshops (USA and abroad)

### Employment and Professional Experience since coming to Swarthmore (in 1987)

1987–present Swarthmore College, Professor of Linguistics (chair 1987–2002), Professor of Linguistics and Social Justice as of fall 2018  
2013-present Co-director (with Gene Mirus of Gallaudet U) of RISE, an online initiative producing bimodal-bilingual books for deaf children: <https://risevideobooks.com>  
2024 Dec Visiting Professor in Linguistics University of Salzburg, Austria  
2024 June Visiting scholar on the ERC-funded project NONMANUAL at the University of Bergen in Norway

2020-2023	Workshop leader for the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women in the Telling Feminist Stories Initiative
2023 Nov-Dec	Visiting Research Professor, Università di Roma Tre, Italy
2022 June	Long Room Hub Fellow, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland (under awards)
2022 May	Visiting Scholar, Ca'Foscari, Università di Venezia, Italy
2019 Dec	Visiting Professor in Linguistics University of Salzburg, Austria
2019 spring	CNPQ Visiting Prof. at Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina in Brazil.
2018 summer	Fulbright Specialist at the Universiteit Göttingen in Germany
2015-16 summers	Faculty at New York- St. Petersburg Institute of Linguistics, Cognition and Culture (collaboration of Stony Brook U and St. Petersburg State U in St. Petersburg, Russia)
2015 spr-sum	Visiting Professor, Ca'Foscari, Università di Venezia, Italy; Fulbright Scholar, Siena School for Liberal Arts, Siena, Italy
2014 October	Visiting Scholar, Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, Brazil (under CNPQ)
2013 fall	Creative Writing Program, U Pennsylvania
2009–2013	Center for Bioethics, U Pennsylvania (Visiting Scholar 2008-9, Asso. 2009-13)
2012 May-July	Long Room Hub Fellow, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland (under honors)
2011 May-July	Visiting researcher, Fondation Brocher, Hermance, Switzerland (informal research in residence – not a formal fellow)
2011 summer	Directed 3 interns, meta study Cochlear Implants, UPenn Center for Bioethics
2010 summer	Directed 3 interns, Sign for Families project, UPenn Center for Bioethics
2010 spring	Leverhulme Visiting Professor, U Newcastle, UK (under honors)
1997 summer	Taught at Capital Normal U, Beijing, China
1995 summer	Taught at U Witwatersrand & U Stellenbosch, South Africa
1994 summer	Taught at San Francisco State U
1993summer	Taught at U Geneva, Switzerland
1992 summer	U Queensland, Australia, S.W. Brooks Visiting Lecturer (under honors); also U Sydney, Australia, First Australian Linguistic Institute

### **Teaching and Professional Experience (prior to coming to Swarthmore)**

1980–87	U Michigan, Professor of Linguistics (promoted to associate in 1981; promoted to full professor in 1984)
1975–80	Georgetown University, Assistant Professor of Linguistics
1974-75	U North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Lecturer in Mathematics and in Romance Lgs & Lits
1973–74	Smith College, Lecturer in Philosophy and in Romance Lgs & Lits
1973–74	Harvard U, Committee on Extension Courses, Lecturer in Italian
1971–72	Educational Testing Service, Princeton, NJ, Linguistics Consultant
1970–73	Harvard U, Teaching Fellow in Linguistics, Mathematics, and Romance Lgs & Lits
1970	Concord Public Schools, Concord, MA, Instructor of Italian
1970	Berlitz, Seattle, WA, Instructor of Italian

### **Teaching in writing (workshops/lectures in public & private schools and writer associations)**

Annually	around the USA
2019	India (Bengaluru)
2015	Turkey (Istanbul), Italy (Milano and Siena), Germany (Bonn)
2014 & 2011	summer Chautauqua Writers Center at Chautauqua, NY
2011	Germany (Munich)
2009	India (Mumbai and New Delhi)
2009 & 2006	summer Highlights Foundation Writers Workshop at Chautauqua, NY
2007	Japan (Tokyo, Yokohama), Taiwan (Taipei), Thailand (Bangkok), Bangladesh (Dhaka)

**Keynote Speaker and Special Invitations since coming to Swarthmore:** Invited presenter at Formal Linguistic Approaches to MultiModality (FLAMM) workshop, Dublin (Dec. 2025), Invited presenter at Seminar Souds et Langues des Signes Université Paris 8 & CNRS (Dec. 2025); Invited presenter at Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona (Dec. 2025); invited presenter at Università di Venezia Ca’ Foscari (Dec. 2025); Invited presenter at two events at Yale U., Center for Language Study and Linguistics Dept. (Sept. 2025); Presentation to the STAL international network on creativity in sign taboo (26 May 2025); Participant in the Historical Fiction Panel at Saint Peter’s University in Jersey City, NJ (2 April 2025); Symposium with Gene Mirus at the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention annual conference (9 March 2025); Presentation at the Center for Research on Atypical Development and Learning and The Center for Research on the Challenges of Acquiring Language and Literacy at Georgia State U (16 Feb 2024); Presentation at the World Literacy Summit in Oxford UK (4 April 2023); Plenary lecture at the winter annual meeting of the LSA (7 Jan 2023); Willson Center for Humanities lecture at U Georgia at Athens (10 Nov 2022); Annual Linguistics Pedagogy lecture at the Ohio State U (2 Sept 2022); National Council for Special Education, Ireland (15 June 2022); Long Room Hub, Trinity College Dublin (22 June 2022); Annual meeting of CLASTA (Communication & Language Acquisition Studies in Typical & Atypical Populations) (14 May 2022); United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women’s launch of the book *Awake not Sleeping: Reimagining Fairy Tales for a New Generation* (18 Nov. 2021, Istanbul); 45<sup>th</sup> Austrian Linguistics Association Conference (6 December 2019); Book Week U Minnesota (November 2019); Form-Meaning Units Workshop Radboud U Nijmegen, the Netherlands (June 2019), 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Linguistics Conference at U Georgia (October 2018); TEDx Swarthmore 2012; Siena School for the Liberal Arts “Through the looking glass: Movimento e comunicazione” 2010

### Grants and Fellowships

2024-2025	Engaged Humanities Studio of the Lang Center for Civic & Social Responsibility
2023-2024	Engaged Humanities Studio of the Lang Center for Civic & Social Responsibility
2021-2023	Tri-Co Philadelphia Engagement Grant and Adeylote Curricular Grant (both internal to Swarthmore College to support RISE activities and campus visits between Swarthmore and Gallaudet)
2019-2022	International scholar participant in CNPQ grant to the Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina in Brazil (Director, Ronice Müller de Quadros)
2017-2020	Dolfinger-McMahon Foundation Grant to support RISE campus visits
2014-2015	Fulbright U.S. Scholar, Siena, Italy
2013	ITS SEED Grant, Hungerford Faculty Support Grant, Lang Center for Civic and Social Responsibility Curriculum Grant, Swarthmore Foundation Grant (all internal to Swarthmore College to support RISE campus visits)
2009 & 2013	Mellon Foundation conference grants (via AALAC)
1997 & 1995	Mellon Foundation, research grants
1990–91 & 1979-80	National Endowment for the Humanities, fellowships
1989–91	National Science Foundation, Co-Project Director, Instrumentation and Laboratory Improvement, grant
1988	Sloan Foundation, summer research grant
1981-83	National Science Foundation, research grant
1976	Nederlandse Organisatie voor Zuiverwetenschappelijk Onderzoek, Amsterdam, summer research grant

## Other Scholarly Experience

### Organizer of multiple events, including national and international conferences, a few being:

- 2025 Jan William J. Cooper Foundation Event (hereafter “Cooper”) – Serendipity funded, Presidential racial funded, Center for Innovation and Leadership funded, Mellon funded: Flying Words Project: An ASL Poetry Performance. A two-day event of workshops and performance, including spending a day with the students at the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf (hereafter “PSD”)
- 2024 Nov Lang Center funded, Mellon funded: Rick Guidotti “Change how you see, see how you change”, presenting on Positive Exposure, a photography effort to change how we look at disabilities. An evening event, after spending the day at Children & Adult Disability & Educational Services in Swarthmore, PA.
- 2024 Oct Cooper Serendipity funded, Mellon funded: Ian Sanborn, deaf sign language poet-dancer-naturalist. A three-day event of workshops and performance, including spending a day with the students at the PSD
- 2024 March Cooper Event: Antoine Hunter and the Urban Jazz Dance Company, a black-deaf dance troupe. A three-day event of workshops and performance, including spending a day with the students at the PSD.
- 2024 Feb Sager Series Event: Ian Sanborn, deaf sign language poet-dancer-naturalist. A three-day event of workshops and performance. (This was scheduled to include spending a day with the students at the PSD, but school closed on 13 Feb for snow, so we brought him back in October.)
- 2023 March American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Symposium: Science, storytellers, educators join hands: Preliteracy skills & deaf children (<https://aaas.confex.com/aaas/2023/meetingapp.cgi/Person/42207>)
- 2022 April Presentation to the Philadelphia area community by Ellen Mansfield: “How visual art can represent deaf experience and culture”, with workshop for students from the PSD.
- 2022 Feb AAAS Symposium: Sign language data empower new approaches to the study of cognitive architecture (<https://aaas.confex.com/aaas/2022/meetingapp.cgi/Person/37184>)
- 2021 fall (Cooper Event) Dois Pontos, two workshops and a performance by this dance-theater deaf and hearing troupe from Brazil
- 2021 Feb AAAS Symposium: Language development and health: Focus on deaf children during a quarantine. (<https://aaas.confex.com/aaas/2021/meetingapp.cgi/Session/26808>)
- 2018 spring LIASE lecture: “West to East: Mercury biomagnification in fish food webs from selected Chinese & Tibetan sites”. (For 4 days I hosted Linda Campbell of St. Mary’s College, who gave lectures and workshops at Swarthmore and at the PSD.)
- 2018 spring (with the Deaf and Hearing Communication Center (DHCC), Swarthmore) Deaf & Gay
- 2017 spring (Cooper event) Disrespected Literatures (3-day)
- 2017 spring (co-organizer) Interpreting the Gestures of Orchestral Conductors (3-day)
- 2017 spring (behind the scenes helper) Virtual Center for Applied Sign Linguistics (2-day)
- 2017 spring (with DHCC) Coining New Signs: Why? How? Who?
- 2016 spring (with DHCC) An Evening with Carol Padden & Tom Humphries
- 2014 spring (behind the scenes helper, Cooper event) Sign Language Pragmatics: Round Table Discussion (2-day)
- 2013 fall (with DHCC) Mark Drolsbaugh presentation
- 2013 spring (Mellon event) Workshop on Deaf across the Curriculum (3-day)
- 2012 spring (behind the scenes helper, Cooper event) Signing Hands across the Water (Deaf poetry) (3-day)
- 2011 fall (with DHCC) Eugenics and Civil Rights (Deaf issues)

2009 fall (Mellon event) Workshop on Linguistics in the Liberal Arts Setting  
2009 spring (Cooper event) Comedy: A Defining Force in Group Identification  
2008 spring (Cooper event) Around the Deaf World in Two Days: Sign Languages, Social Issues/Civil Rights, Creativity (2-day)  
2004 (Cooper event) Signs and Voices: Language, Arts, and Identity from Deaf to Hearing (4-day)

**Member of External Evaluation Committees for:** Languages, Cultures and Linguistics Dept at Bucknell U (2019 – head of committee); Linguistics Dept. at Reed College (2018- head of committee); Linguistics & Cognitive Science at Pomona College (2014); Linguistics Program at Emory U (2009); Linguistics Dept. at Macalester College (1998 – head of committee)

**Member of editorial board, reviewer committee, or associate editor** at various times of *Language, Sign Language & Linguistics*, *Journal of Italian Linguistics*, *Probus*, the book series *Lingue dei segni e sordità* Edizioni Ca'Foscari, Venice (<https://edizionicafoscarei.unive.it/it/edizioni4/collane/lingue-dei-segni-e-sordita/info#comitati>).

**Member of advisory board for** Ventris Learning; Innovations in Language & Literacy: MIND THE BOOK series, dedicated to producing materials to improve the literacy skills of children, including those with communication disorders (<https://www.ventrislearning.com/mind-the-book/mind-the-book-advisory-board/>)

**Referee for articles submitted to academic journals:** *African Studies*; *Brain and Language*; *Canadian Journal of Linguistics*; *Cognition*; *Cognitive Science*; *ERIC*; *Frontiers in Communication*, section *Language Sciences*; *Frontiers in Psychology*; *Journal of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education*; *Journal of Linguistics*; *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research*; *Language*; *Language, Cognition and Neuroscience*; *Language Learning*; *Languages*; *Linguistic Inquiry*; *Linguistics and Philosophy*; *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory*; *PLOS ONE*; *Rivista di Psicolinguistica Applicata/Journal of Applied Psycholinguistics*; *Sign Language & Linguistics*; *Sign Language Studies*; *Tout Moun: Caribbean Journal of Cultural Studies*

**Referee for articles submitted to medical journals** (all since 2016): *Maternal and Child Health Journal*; *Pediatrics*; *Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology*

**Referee for manuscripts submitted to:** Blackwell Publishers, Cambridge U Press, Edward Arnold Publishers, Ltd., Hodder Headline PLC, Indiana U Linguistics Club, M.I.T Press, Oxford U Press, U Chicago Press

**Grant/Fellowship Reviewer for:** LEaDing Fellows Postdoc Programme of the Netherlands, Israel Science Foundation, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Science Foundation, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, REPRISE/Italian Ministry of Education, Universities and Research (MIUR)

**Referee of abstracts for national conferences:** Eastern States Conference on Linguistics, Linguistic Symposium on Romance Languages, North Eastern Linguistic Society, Penn Colloquium in Linguistics, Texas Linguistic Society, West Coast Conference on Foreign Language

**Extra-mural reviewer for tenure and/or promotion committees:** Clemson U., Georgetown U, Haverford College, Indiana U, Macquarie U. Australia, Michigan State U, Pomona College, Portland

State U, Purdue U, SUNY Albany, SUNY Stony Brook, Trinity College Dublin, U Arizona, U California at Berkeley, U California at San Diego, U Chicago, U Florida, U Illinois at Urbana, U Massachusetts at Boston, U Michigan, U Missouri at Columbia, U New Mexico, U Texas at Austin, U Washington, York (Canada)

**Member of:** American Association for the Advancement of Science, Linguistic Society of America, Authors Guild, Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators.

**In the past:** LSA Executive Committee, LSA Language in the School Curriculum Committee, LSA Linguistics, Language, and the Public Interest Award Committee (chair), LSA Membership Committee, LSA Nominating Committee, LSA Status of Women in Linguistics Committee (chair), LSA Undergraduate Program Advisory Committee, Società Internazionale di Linguistica e Filologia Italiana, Società Linguistica Italiana, GLOW

**Presentations in Linguistics since 2015 (not including the keynotes and special invitations listed earlier):** Structures Formelles du Langage group at the Univ. of Paris 8 (Dec 2025); Formal Linguistics Research group and second presentation to the deaf community, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain (Dec 2025); Università di Venezia a Ca'Foscari, Venice (Dec. 2025); Linguistics Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland's (LAGB) Annual Conference at Suffolk (Sept., 2025); 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of the International Society for Gesture Studies, Nijmegen (July 2025); 24<sup>th</sup> International Congress on the Education of the Deaf, Rome (July 2025); Dept. of Linguistics and Dept. of Deaf Studies, Boston University (June 2025); Linguistics Dept, University of Salzburg, Austria (Dec. 2024); Linguistics Colloquium Harvard University (Oct. 2024); Sign Language Linguistic Society workshop, Hamburg, Germany (July 2024); Mini Sign Language Conference U. of Bergen, Norway (June 2024); OsloMet U. of Oslo, Norway (June 2024); Workshop on Infant Language Development, Lisbon, Spain (June 2024); U North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Feb. 2024); Duke U (Feb. 2024); (Università di Roma Tre (4 presentations in Dec. 2023); Duke U (Feb. 2023); Università di Venezia a Ca'Foscari (Italy, May 2022 – 2 presentations); Moderator for a panel in International Sign Language hosted by Abralín Ao Vivo (November 2021 <https://aovivo.abralin.org/lives/lingua-de-sinais-internacional/>); "Designing courses that span disciplines" at the Connecting Liberal Arts Linguists Conference, Denison U (June 2021); Webinar at U Salzburg, Austria, "Biomechanical effects of the drive for ease of articulation on sign language lexicons" (June 2021 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u8wqiA-wvc4>); Symposium on Multimodal Im/politeness: Gesture, Sign and Spatial configurations, U Zurich (23 October 2020); Organizer and moderator of panel on sign languages and linguistics for Abralín, the Brazilian Linguistics Association in with the LSA (July 2020 -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YGOhDxxZtqo>); Tri-Co Medical Humanities Network Symposium, Swarthmore College (29 February 2020); Sign-Language Research Workshop, Austrian Linguistics Association Conference, U Salzburg (7 December 2019); U College London, Deafness Cognition and Language Research Centre (January 2019), U Oslo, Norway (January 2019), Keystone State Literacy Association Annual Conference (October 2018), U Amsterdam (July 2018), Radboud U, Nijmegen (July 2018), U Göttingen (June 2018), U Stockholm (June 2018), U Vienna (June 2018), Humboldt U, Berlin (June 2018), U Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona (June 2018), Northwestern U Linguistics & Cognitive Science series (November 2017), World Federation of the Deaf (November 2017 in Budapest, Hungary), West Chester U (October 2017), Swarthmore College Faculty Lunch Series (spring 2017), Princeton U Linguistics Series (sign lg. humor, December 2017), International Conference on Computers Helping People with Special Needs (Linz, Austria, July 2016), New York-St. Petersburg Institute of Linguistics, Cognition and Culture (St. Petersburg, Russia, July 2016), Universidade Estadual de Campinas in São Paulo Brazil ANPOLL conference (July 2016), U Applied Sciences of Special Needs Education in Zurich, Switzerland (June 2016 – 2 presentations), Gallaudet U Linguistics Series (spring 2016), 2016 International Academic Conference of the National Institute of Korean Language (NIKL) Seoul (Sept.

2016), International Conference on Bioethics, Medical Ethics and Health Law (Napoli, Italy, 20-22 October 2015), Coalition for Global Hearing Healthcare Conference at Gallaudet in Washington, D.C. (9 – 10 October 2015), New York-St. Petersburg Institute of Linguistics, Cognition and Culture (July 2015), 22<sup>nd</sup> International Congress on the Education of the Deaf (Athens, Greece, 2015 – 2 presentations), Second International Conference on Sign Language Acquisition (Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 2015), Mason Perkins Deafness Fund I Venerdì del Pendola (Siena, Italy, spring 2015), Università di Venezia a Ca'Foscari (Italy, spring 2015 – 3 presentations), Universität Hamburg (Germany, May 2015– 2 presentations), Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Barcelona, Spain, February 2015 – 2 presentations)

**Selection of Presentations in Linguistics before 2015:** Cambridge U, Center for Bioethics of the U Pennsylvania, Chicago Linguistic Society, Colloquium on Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Literatures and Romance Linguistics, Columbia U, Dartmouth College, Durham U, Eastern States Conference on Linguistics, Essex U, Haverford College Linguistics Colloquium (multiple times), Heriot-Watt U, International Linguistic Association, Lancaster U (Researching and Applying Metaphor Conference), Linguistic Society of America, Linguistic Symposium on Romance Languages, Michigan Linguistics Colloquium, Milwaukee Linguistics Symposium on Historical Linguistics, MIT Linguistics Speaker Series, MIT Workshop on External Arguments, New Ways of Analyzing Variation in English, New York Academy of Sciences, Newcastle U, North Eastern Linguistic Society, Nottingham U, Oxford U, Pastoral Care Rounds at the Hospital of the U Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania State U at Brandywine, Princeton U Linguistics Speaker Series, Romance Philology Convocation, Società Linguistica Italiana, Teachers College of Columbia U Applied Linguistics Speaker Series, Tercenterary Academic Celebration in honor of Elena Lucrezia Cornaro Piscopia, Georgetown U, Tri-College Research Symposium for the Cognitive Sciences, Trinity College Dublin, U Alberta Canada “Voice-print”, U California at Berkeley, U Central Lancashire, U College London, U Delaware Linguistics and Cognitive Studies Colloquium (multiple times), Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina (Florianopolis, Brazil – twice), Universidade Federal Fluminense (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil), U Geneva Linguistics Speaker Series, U Groningen, U Manchester, U Maryland Verb Movement Conference, U Minnesota, U Montana, U North Texas Linguaging, U of Pennsylvania Cognitive Science Women's Group Series and National Science Foundation Visiting Professorships for Women Series, U Pennsylvania Disability Studies Conference, U Pennsylvania's Spirituality, Religion, and Health Interest Group, U Stellenbosch Education Department Speaker Series, U of Stellenbosch Linguistics Speaker Series, U Texas Linguistics Speaker Series (multiple times), U Witwatersrand Linguistics Speaker Series, Washington Linguistics Club

### **Teaching Recognition:**

2014 Highest rated professor at Swarthmore College, ranking done by Swat Visually (This is the only faculty ranking done in all the years Napoli has been there.)  
 1983–85 Faculty Honor Roll, U Michigan  
 1971-72 Nominated as best teaching fellow in Italian, Harvard U

### **Dissertations Chaired:**

U Michigan:  
 1989 Mutsuko Simon  
 1988 Barry Miller  
 1987 Hala Talaat  
 1986 Hitomi Oishi & Kingkarn Thepkanjana  
 1985 Michiyasu Shishido & Noriko Nagai

1983	David Strong
1982	Noriko Ue
Georgetown U:	
1980	Alexa McCray
1978	James Roberts

**External member of dissertation committees (national & international):**

- On-going Ananda Elias, Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, Brazil – doctoral work on multimodal strategies in the translation of literary narratives into Libras for young deaf signers. Napoli co-chairs her committee.
- On-going Diego Machado da Silva, Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, Brazil – doctoral work on sign languages and the education of deaf children. Napoli co-chairs his committee.
- 2024 Casey Ferrara, University of Chicago. *Iconic modification in ASL and silent gesture*
- 2023 Emma Watkins, Macquarie University, Australia, *Creative sign language, dance and screen media: A series of studies in formal integration.*
- 2021 Chiara Bonsignori, Università di Roma, La Sapienza, Italy, *L'espressione dell'azione tra segno, gesto e parola* (the expression of action in sign, gesture, and word).
- 2018 Eréndira Alejandra Cervantes Carreto, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain *Language Contact and Bimodal Bilingualism Competence in Mexican Sign Language (LSM) and Writing Spanish.* Napoli chaired only the dissertation proposal defense.
- 2016 Maria Roccaforte, Università di Roma, La Sapienza, Italy, *Studi linguistici sulle componenti orali della lingua dei segni italiana* (LIS) (on mouthing in Italian Sign Language)
- 2015 Mariana Cunha, Universidade Federal Fluminense, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, *O bilinguismo (Libras –Português) na tenra infância: Produção de uma série de livros infantis interativos para aproximação de pais ouvintes e filhos surdos* (on bimodal-bilingual ebooks for deaf children)

**Academic Publications: Books, one edited full issue of a journal, one Cambridge element**

- 19 *Taboo in sign languages.* (co-author with Jami Fisher and Gene Mirus). Cambridge Element. Cambridge U Press. 2023.
- 18 *Disrespected literatures: Histories and reversal of linguistic oppression.* (co-editor with Simona Bertacco and Rachel Sutton-Spence). Issue 22 of *Altre Modernità*, 2019.  
<https://riviste.unimi.it/index.php/AMonline/issue/view/1451>
- 17 *Primary movement in sign languages: a study of six languages.* (with Mark Mai and Nicholas Gaw). 2011. Washington, D.C.: Gallaudet U Press.
- 16 *Deaf around the world: The impact of language.* (co-editor with Gaurav Mathur) 2010. Oxford: Oxford U Press.
- 15 *Language matters*, second edition (coauthor with Vera Lee-Schoenfeld) 2010. Oxford: Oxford U Press.
- 14 *Humour in sign languages: The linguistic underpinnings.* (with Rachel Sutton-Spence) 2009. Dublin: Trinity College.
- 13 *Access: Multiple avenues for deaf people.* (co-editor with Doreen DeLuca, Irene Leigh, and Kristin Lindgren). 2008. Washington, D.C.: Gallaudet U Press
- 12 *Signs and voices: Deaf matters in language, arts, and identity.* (co-editor with Doreen DeLuca and Kristin Lindgren). 2008. Washington, D.C.: Gallaudet U Press.
- 11 *L'animale parlante.* (with Marina Nespor) 2004. Roma: Casa Editrice Carocci.
- 10 *Language matters.* 2003, Oxford: Oxford U Press.
- in Korean, Thaeaksa Publishing Co.
- 9 *Linguistics: Theory and problems.* 1996. Oxford: Oxford U Press.
- 8 *A prosodic template in historical change: The passage of the Latin second conjugation into*

- Romance (with Stuart Davis). 1994. Torino: Rosenberg and Sellier.
- 7 *Syntax: Theory and Problems*. 1993. Oxford: Oxford U Press.
- 6 *Bridges between psychology and linguistics: A Swarthmore festschrift for Lila Gleitman*. (co-editor with Judy Kegl). 1991. Hillsdale, N.J.: Lawrence Erlbaum.
- 5 *Predication theory: A case study for indexing theory*. 1989. Cambridge: Cambridge U Press.
- 4 *Linguistic Symposium on Romance Languages: 9*. (co-editor with William Cressey). 1981. Washington, DC: Georgetown U Press.
- 3 *Syntactic argumentation*. (with Emily Rando). 1979. Washington, DC: Georgetown U Press. with Teacher's guide.
- 2 *Elements of tone, stress, and intonation*. (editor) 1978. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown U Press.
- 1 *The two si's of Italian: an analysis of reflexive, inchoative, and indefinite subject sentences in modern standard Italian*. 1976. Indiana U Linguistic Club (1973 dissertation).

### Academic Publications: Articles and Three Review Articles

- 132 Avoiding unintended consequences: Science of Reading policies may harm deaf children (with 30 coauthors), *Journal of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education* (2026). 1-9.  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/jdsade/enag004>
- 131 Who's going the distance here? Fictive motion in (German) Sign Language. (with Cornelia Loos). *Cognitive Linguistics* (2025). <https://www.degruyterbrill.com/document/doi/10.1515/cog-2024-0007/html>
- 130 Expressivity in sign languages. (with Rachel Sutton-Spence). *Oxford handbook of expressivity in language*, ed. by Daniel Gutzmann and Katharina Turgay. Oxford University Press (2025) pp. 1127-1150.
- 129 An approach designed to fail deaf children and their parents and how to change it. (with Tom Humphries, Gaurav Mathur, and Christian Rathmann), *Harm Reduction Journal*. (2024) 21. 132. 10.1186/s12954-024-01039-1
- 128 An approach to path movement in the diachronic study of sign languages: Biomechanics and nonarbitrariness. (with Nathan Sanders) *Diachronica*. (2024) ISSN 0176-4225 | E-ISSN 1569-9714. <https://doi.org/10.1075/dia.23033.nap>
- 127 Dialogare con le storie di Leo Lionni: una esperienza di lettura dialogica per la scuola d'infanzia. (with Arianna Bello, Francesca Moncalli, and Paola Perucchini). *Psicologia clinica dello sviluppo*. Società editrice *il Mulino*. (2024) 3. 491-500. doi: 10.1449/113492.
- 126 Torso articulation in sign languages (with Rachel Sutton-Spence). *Sign Language & Linguistics* (2024) 27:1
- 125 Perception of the prosodic features of newscaster speech (with Byron Ahn, Z.L. Zhou, and Emily Gasser). *TABU Festschrift for Jack Hoeksema*, 203-218 (2024). University of Groningen Press, Netherlands. <https://doi.org/10.21827/tabu.2023.41266>.
- 124 Before their very eyes: Enhancing the (pre)literacy skills of deaf children. (with Melissa Curran and Gene Mirus). *Language*. (2024) Project MUSE, <https://doi.org/10.1353/lan.0.a922017>.
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**Publications in Linguistics: Reviews and Book Notices (I no longer do these – so recent ones are simply because the books were too good to pass up.)**

- 41 Review of *Introducing Sign Language Literature: Folklore and Creativity*, Rachel Sutton-Spence and Michiko Kaneko. (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016), in *Sign Language Studies* 17, 4, 516–519 (2017).
- 40 Review of *Current Directions in Turkish Sign Language Research*, Engin Arik (ed.). (Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2013), in *Sign Language & Linguistics* 18, 135–141 (2015).
- 39 Review of *Sign languages*, Diane Brentari (ed). (Cambridge: Cambridge U Press, 2010), in *Language* 87, 890–894 (2011).
- 38 Review of *The Romance languages*, Rebecca Posner. (Cambridge: Cambridge U Press, 1996), in *Journal of Linguistics* 34, 299–305 (1998).
- 37 Review of *Issues and theory in Romance linguistics*, Michael Mazzola, ed. (Washington, DC: Georgetown U Press, 1994), in *Journal of Linguistics* 31, 2 (1995).

- 36 Book Notice on *The function of verb prefixes in Southwestern Otomi*, Henrietta Andrews. (Arlington, TX: The Summer Institute of Linguistics and the U Texas at Arlington, 1993), in *Language* 70, 4, 848–849 (1994).
- 35 Book Notice on *Linguistic perspectives on the Romance languages*, William Ashby, Marianne Mithun, Giorgio Perissinotto, and Eduardo Raposo, eds. [= *Current issues in linguistic theory* 103]. (Amsterdam & Philadelphia: John Benjamins, 1993), in *Language* 70, 3, 593–594 (1994)
- 34 Review of *Interactive morphonology: Metaphony in Italy*, Martin Maiden. (London: Routledge, 1991), in *Forum Italicum* 28, 195–196 (1994)
- 33 Book Notice on *Syntax and semantics: syntax and the lexicon*, vol. 26, Tim Stowell and Eric Wehrli, eds. (San Diego: Academic Press, 1992), in *Language* 69, 4, 876–877 (1993).
- 32 Book Notice on *Mémoires de la société neophilologique de Helsinki: But, Only, Just, Focusing adverbial change in Modern English 1500-1900*, Terttu Nevalainen. (Helsinki: Société ophilologique, 1991), in *Language* 69, 3, 631–632 (1993).
- 31 Review of *Principles and parameters in comparative grammar*, Robert Freidin, ed. (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1991), in *Journal of Linguistics* 28, 2, 538–542 (1992)
- 30 Review of *The syntax of noun phrases*, Alessandra Giorgi and Giuseppe Longobardi. (Cambridge: Cambridge U Press, 1991), in *Studies in Language* 16, 1, 201–205 (1992)
- 29 Review of *The syntactic recoverability of null arguments*, Yves Roberge. (Kingston and Montreal: McGill-Queen's U Press, 1990), in *Language* 67, 3, 636–640 (1991)
- 28 Book Notice about *Current issues in linguistic theory 60: Studies in Romance linguistics*, Carl Kirschner and Janet DeCesaris, eds. (Amsterdam: John Benjamins, 1989), in *Language* 67, 1, 182–183 (1991)
- 27 Book Notice about *Noun + Verb compounding in Western Romance*, Kathryn Klingebiel. (Berkeley: U California Press, 1989), in *Language* 66, 4, 783–784 (1990)
- 26 Book Notice about *I composti nominali latini*, Renato Oniga. (Bologna: Patron Editore, 1988), in *Language* 66, 3, 648 (1990).
- 25 Book Notice about *Anaphoric relations in English and French: A discourse perspective*, Francis Cornish. (London: Croom Helm, 1986), in *Language* 65, 4, 881–882 (1989)
- 24 Book Notice about *Encouraging early literacy: An integrated approach to reading and writing in K-3*, Judith Schwartz. (Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann Educational Books, Inc., 1988), in *Language* 65, 3, 678 (1989)
- 23 Book Notice about *Ins and outs of predication*, Johan van der Auwera and Louis Goossens, eds. (Dordrecht: Foris, 1987), in *Language* 65, 3, 680–681 (1989)
- 22 Book Notice about *Les predicats nominaux en français: Les phrases simples à verb support*, Jacqueline Giry-Schneider. (Geneve-Paris: Librairie Droz, 1987), in *Language* 65, 2, 428–429 (1989)
- 21 Book Notice about *Everyday magic: Child languages in Canadian literature*, Laurie Ricou. (Vancouver: U British Columbia Press, 1987), in *Language* 65, 1, 190–192 (1989)
- 20 Book Notice about *X-bar Grammar: Attribution and predication in Dutch*, Frank C. van Gestel. (Dordrecht: Foris, 1986), in *Language* 63, 4, 916–917 (1987)
- 19 Book Notice about *Selected papers from the XIIIth Linguistic Symposium on Romance Languages*, Larry King and Catherine Maley, eds. [= *Amsterdam studies in the theory and history of linguistic science, IV: Current issues in linguistic theory*, 36]. (Amsterdam and Philadelphia: Benjamins, 1985), in *Language* 63,1, 183–184 (1987)
- 18 Review of *Word grammar*, Richard Hudson. (Great Britain: Basil Blackwell, 1984), in *Journal of Linguistics* 22, 187–194 (1986)
- 17 Book Notice about *French liaison and linguistic theory*, Jurgen Klausenburger. (Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag Weisbaden GmbH, 1984), in *Language* 62, 3, 721–722 (1986)
- 16 Book Notice about *Il dialetto lucano di Calvello*, Joseph Gioscio. (Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag

- Weisbaden GmbH, 1985), in *Language* 62, 3, 719–721 (1986)
- 15 Review of *La sintassi dell'infinito in italiano moderno. 2 vols. Études romanes de l'Université de Copenhague* [= *Revue romane*, suppl. 27], Gunver Skytte. (Copenhagen: Munksgaards Forlag, 1983), in *Romance Philology* XXXIX, 2, 249–250 (1985)
- 14 Book Notice about *Agreement and anaphora: A Study of the role of pronouns in syntax and discourse*, Peter Bosch. (NY: Academic Press, 1983), in *Language* 61, 3, 679–680 (1985)
- 13 Book Notice about *The be + past participle construction in spoken English, with special emphasis on the passive*, Sylviane Granger. (Amsterdam and New York: North-Holland, 1983), in *Language* 61, 1, 218–219 (1985)
- 12 Review of *Lexical-Functional Grammar*, George M. Horn. (Amsterdam: Mouton Publishers, 1983), in *Language* 61, 1, 180–182 (1985)
- 11 Review of *Levels of syntactic representation*, Robert May and Jan Koster, eds. [= *Studies in generative grammar* 10], (Dordrecht, The Netherlands and Cinnaminson, N.J.: Foris, 1981), in *Language* 60, 3, 605–606 (1984)
- 10 Book Notice about *Theory of markedness in generative grammar: Proceedings of the 1979 GLOW conference*, Adriana Belletti et al., eds. [= *Studi di lettere, storia e filosofia*, 33], (Pisa: Scuola Normale Superiore, 1981), in *Language* 60, 2, 449–450 (1984)
- 9 Review of *Towards an integrated analysis of comparatives*, Lars Hellan. (Tubingen: Gunter Narr Verlag, 1981), in *Language* 60, 1, 148–149 (1984)
- 8 Review of *Journal of Italian Linguistics* 5, 1/2, *The Extended Standard Theory and Italian syntax*, Giorgio Graffi, ed. (1980), in *Romance Philology* XXXVII, 1, 116–119 (1983).
- 7 Book Notice about *Studies in Language Companion Series 7, Possibilities and limitations of pragmatics*, Herman Parret, Marina Sbis, and Jef Verschueren, eds. (Amsterdam: John Benjamins, 1981), in *Language* 59, 2, 464 (1983)
- 6 Book Notice about *Linguistics in the Netherlands 1980 and Linguistics in the Netherlands 1981*, Saskia Daalder and Marinel Gerritsen, eds. (Amsterdam: North-Holland Publishing Co., 1980 and 1981), in *Language* 59, 1, 225–226 (1983)
- 5 Review of *Issues in Italian Syntax*, Luigi Rizzi. (Dordrecht, The Netherlands, and Cinnaminson, N.J.: Foris, 1982), in *Language* 59, 3, 663–665 (1983)
- 4 Review of *Sul Parlato*, Rosanna Sornicola. (Bologna, Italy: Il Mulino, 1981), in *Romance Philology* XXXVI 3, 449–452 (1983)
- 3 Review of *Issues in language: Studies in honor of Robert Di Pietro presented to him by his students*, Marcel Danesi, ed. (Lake Bluff, Ill.: Jupiter Press, 1981), in *Forum Linguisticum* VII, 2, 182–184 (1982)
- 2 Review of *Linguistic theory in America: The first quarter-century of Transformational Generative Grammar*, Frederick J. Newmeyer. (NY: Academic Press, 1980), in *Language* 57, 2, 456–459 (1981)
- 1 Review of *Passive and impersonal sentences*, Vincenzo Lo Cascio, ed., published as *Italian Linguistics* 1 (1976), in *Language* 53, 2, 442–445 (1977)

### **Publications in Fiction: Picture Books, Children's and Young Adult Novels**

See [www.donnajonapoli.com](http://www.donnajonapoli.com) for complete list.

### **Major Awards in Creative Writing in general**

- 1995 Summer fellowship from the American Association of University Women for research pursuant to writing fiction.
- 1995 Grant to Individual Women Artists from the Leeway Foundation for excellence in fiction.
- 1998 Drexel U/Free Library of Philadelphia Children's Literature Citation.

2007 Literary Lights for Children Award from the Boston Public Library.

### **Awards for particular fiction books**

#### **National:**

Golden Kite Award for STONES IN WATER, and Golden Kite Honor Book Award for BREATH  
Sydney Taylor Award from the National Association of Jewish Libraries for STONES IN WATER, and  
for STORM, and Sydney Taylor Honor Book Award for THE KING OF MULBERRY STREET  
Parents' Choice Gold Medal Award for ALLIGATOR BAYOU, and Parents' Choice Silver Medal  
Award for NORTH, and for THE KING OF MULBERRY STREET  
Anne Izard's Storytellers' Choice Award for MAMA MITI  
Frances and Wesley Bock Book Award for MAMA MITI

#### **State:**

Jerry Weiss Award of the New Jersey Reading Association for THE PRINCE OF THE POND  
Carolyn W. Field Honor Book award from the Pennsylvania Library Association for STONES IN  
WATER, for BEAST, for SPINNERS, and for FIRE IN THE HILLS  
Kentucky Blue Grass Award for ALBERT  
Nevada Young Readers Award for DAUGHTER OF VENICE  
Eureka! Silver Honor Book of the California Reading Association for TREASURY OF GREEK  
MYTHOLOGY and for TREASURY OF NORSE MYTHOLOGY

### **Publications in Creative Writing: Poetry Books**

- 6 *Bring Wine and Crusty Bread*. Chicora, PA: Bartley Press (2012) (this is a chapbook of my poems, selected by Nicole Bartley)
- 5 *Tongue's palette*. (coeditor and contributor with Andrew Sunshine). Chicago, IL: Atlantis-Centaur, Inc. (2004)
- 4 *Speaking in tongues*. (coeditor and contributor with Emily Rando and Brad Strahan) Falls Church, VA: Black Buzzard Press (1994)
- 3 *Lingua franca*. (coeditor and contributor with Emily Rando). Chicago: Jupiter Press (1989)
- 2 *Meliglossa* (coeditor and contributor with Emily Rando). Edmonton: Linguistic Research, Inc. (1983)
- 1 *The linguistic muse* (coeditor and contributor with Emily Rando). Edmonton: Linguistic Research, Inc. (1980)

### **Publications in/on Creative Writing: Stories, Poems, Essays, Reviews**

- 23 (essay) "Fish Girl's Dilemma." In Marek Oziewicz, Brian Attebery, and Tereza Dedinová (eds.) *Fantasy and myth in the Anthropocene: Imagining futures and dreaming hope in literature and media*. NY: Bloomsbury Publishing. (2022)
- 22 (essay) "On reading and writing mythological tales," *Legacy Arts 12* (2017).
- 21 (poem) "Roar." In Kenn Nesbitt (ed.) *One Minute till Bedtime*. NY: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers. (2016)
- 20 (essay) "How did Snow White survive in that glass coffin?" *Hornbook* (May/June 2015)
- 19 (poem) "BAGNA CAUDA (Louise)." In Jane Martellino (ed.) *All because of Grace*. Southbury, CT: Grace Rocks Foundation. (2010)
- 18 (essay) "Choose well." In Dan Gutman (ed.) *Recycle this book: 100 top children's authors tell you how to go green*, 246-247, NY: Random House. (2009).
- 17 (story) "So many first kisses." Cylin Busby (ed.) *First kiss (then tell)*. NY: Bloomsbury. (2008)
- 16 (poem) "Twelve." Sandy Asher (ed.) *On her way*. NY: Dutton Children's Books. (2003)
- 15 (essay) "What's math got to do with it?" *Hornbook*, 61-66 (Jan./Feb. 2001)
- 14 "Essay on the occasion of receiving the Sydney Taylor Older Children's Literature Award,"

- Proceedings of the 34th Annual Convention of the Association of Jewish Libraries, June 20-23, 275–277.* NY: Association of Jewish Libraries. (2000)
- 13 “Hurt, cloaked in silence,” review of *Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson (Farrar Straus Giroux, 1999) in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* (30 January 2000, K3).
- 12 (essay) “Learning to write for children: Experiences, mistakes, and rules learned,” *Catholic Library World* (2000). [Actually, because of an error, this paper did not get published in 2000. Instead, it appeared in the December 2021 issue.]
- 11 (essay) “On writing as an art and as a need.” In Alleen Pace Nilsen and Kenneth L. Donelson (eds.) *Literature for today's young adults*, 377, NY: Longman. (2000)
- 10 (essay) “Why I write.” In Connie Rockman (ed.) *Eighth book of junior authors and illustrators*, 392–394, Bronx, NY: H.W. Wilson, Co. (2000)
- 9 (essay) “Motivation,” appeared in a celebrity motivational book for children put out by SHINE of Trenton, NJ. It was also showcased at the Gen Art and SHINE Benefit & Celebrity Silent Auction at the Metropolitan Pavilion in New York City in June 2000.
- 8 (essay) “Fairy tales, myths, and religious stories,” *The ALAN Review* 25, 1, 6–10 (1997)  
<https://doi.org/10.21061/alan.v25i1.a.2>
- 7 (essay) “A memorable experience,” *Learning & Media: Journal of the Pennsylvania School Librarians Association* 24, 2, 13–14 (1997).
- 6 (essay) “Autobiography,” *Something About the Author Autobiography Series* 23, 161–178, Detroit: Gale Research, Inc. (1997)
- 5 (story) “Albert,” *The Philadelphia Inquirer Magazine* (June, 1996).
- 4 (story) “Little Lella,” *Diane Goode's book of giants and little people*. NY: Dutton. (1997)
- 3 (story) “Sweet Giungio,” *Diane Goode's book of silly stories and songs*. NY: Dutton (1992)
- 2 (poems) “Paesino” and “Brazil Nuts.” In William Bright (ed.) *Word formations*. San Francisco: Corvine Press. (1985)
- 1 (poem) “For Ungaretti, always.” In William Bright (ed.) *Discovered tongues*. San Francisco: Corvine Press. (1983)