



STANFORD UNIVERSITY
DIVISION OF LITERATURES, CULTURES, AND LANGUAGES

Home → People → Robert Pogue Harrison

PEOPLE



Contact:

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Office Hours:

Monday 3-4; Tuesday 2:00-3:00 and by appointment

Focal Groups:

User is not a member of any group.

Research Groups:

Philosophical Reading Group
Tangible Thoughts

Affinity links:

Dante

Phenomenology
Vico
Humanism
The Italian Lyric
literary theory
renaissance

Links:

Entitled Opinions

Faculty **French and Italian**

Robert Pogue Harrison

Professor of Italian

Rosina Pierotti Professor in Italian Literature

Chair of Undergraduate Studies, Italian

Professor Harrison received his doctorate in romance studies from Cornell University in 1984, with a dissertation on Dante's *Vita Nuova*. In 1985 he accepted visiting assistant professorship in the Department of French and Italian at Stanford. In 1986 he joined the faculty as an assistant professor. He was granted tenure in 1992 and was promoted to full professor in 1995. In 1997 Stanford offered him the Rosina Pierotti Chair. In 2002, he was named chair of the Department of French and Italian. In 2014 he was knighted "Chevalier" by the French Republic. He is also lead guitarist for the cerebral rock band Glass War.

Professor Harrison's first book, *The Body of Beatrice*, was published by Johns Hopkins University Press in 1988. A revised and elaborated version of his dissertation, it deals with medieval Italian lyric poetry, with special emphasis on Dante's early work *La Vita Nuova*. *The Body of Beatrice* was translated into Japanese in 1994. Over the next few years Professor Harrison worked on his next book, *Forests: The Shadow of Civilization*, which appeared in 1992 with University of Chicago Press. This book deals with the multiple and complex ways in which the Western imagination has symbolized, represented, and conceived of forests, primarily in literature, religion, and mythology. It offers a select history that begins in antiquity and ends in our own time. *Forests* appeared simultaneously in English, French, Italian, and German. It subsequently appeared in Japanese and Korean as well. In 1994 his book *Rome, la Pluie* *Quoi Bon Littérature?* appeared in France, Italy, and Germany. This book is written in the form of dialogues between two characters and deals with various topics such as art restoration, the vocation of literature, and the place of the dead in contemporary society. Professor Harrison's next book, *The Dominion of the Dead*, published in 2003 by University of Chicago Press, deals with the relations the living maintain with the dead in diverse secular realms. This book was translated into German, French and Italian. Professor Harrison's book *Gardens: An Essay on the Human Condition* appeared in 2008 with the University of Chicago Press, and in French with *Le Pommier* (subsequently appeared in German and Chinese translations). His most recent book [Juvenescence: A Cultural History of Our Age](#) came out in 2014 with Chicago University Press. In 2005 Harrison started a literary talk show on KZSU radio called "Entitled Opinions." The show features hour long conversations with a variety of scholars, writers, and scientists.

EDUCATION

1984: Ph.D., Romance Studies (Dissertation: "A Phenomenology of the *Vita Nuova*"), Cornell University

1976: B.A., Humanities, University of Santa Clara

COURSES

COMPLIT 235E **Dante's "Inferno"** (ITALIAN 235E)

Winter 2017-18

COMPLIT 236E **Dante's "Purgatorio" and "Paradiso"** (ITALIAN 236E)

Spring 2017-18

FRENCH 199 Individual Work

Autumn 2017-18

Winter 2017-18

Spring 2017-18

Summer 2017-18

FRENCH 399 Individual Work

Autumn 2017-18

Winter 2017-18

Spring 2017-18

Summer 2017-18

FRENCH 802 TGR Dissertation

Autumn 2017-18

Winter 2017-18

Spring 2017-18

Summer 2017-18

ITALIAN 199 Individual Work

Autumn 2017-18

Winter 2017-18

Spring 2017-18

Summer 2017-18

ITALIAN 235E Dante's "Inferno" (COMPLIT 235E)

Winter 2017-18

ITALIAN 236E Dante's "Purgatorio" and "Paradiso" (COMPLIT 236E)

Spring 2017-18

ITALIAN 399 Individual Work

Autumn 2017-18

Winter 2017-18

Spring 2017-18

Summer 2017-18

ITALIAN 802 TGR Dissertation

Autumn 2017-18

Winter 2017-18

Spring 2017-18

Summer 2017-18

PUBLICATIONS

Harrison, Robert. *Juvenescence: A Cultural History of Our Age.* Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2015.

Harrison, Robert. *Gardens : an essay on the human condition.* Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008.

Harrison, Robert. *Il dominio dei morti.* Roma: Fazi, 2004.

Harrison, Robert. *The dominion of the dead.* Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003.

Harrison, Robert. *Roma, la pioggia... : a che cosa serve la letteratura?.* {[S.l.]}; Garzanti, 1995.