

# Curriculum Vitae

## INFORMAZIONI PERSONALI

**Nome** MICHELE  
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## AMBITI DI RICERCA

Michele Cometa has studied German literature and Aesthetics at the Universities of Palermo and Cologne (Germany), and has taught at the Universities of Düsseldorf (Germany), Catania, Cosenza and Cagliari.

He is Professor of Comparative Literature, Cultural Studies and Visual Culture at the University of Palermo.

He was Dean of the Faculty of Education of the University of Palermo (until December 2013).

He was the President of the bachelor course "Foreign Languages and Literatures" of the University of Palermo from 1998 to 2001 and Director of the Department of Arts and Communication from 2001 to 2007.

He was the Director of the national research groups: *Literature and Visual Culture*: (Italian Ministry for University and Scientific Research, PRIN 2011-2013); *Literature and Visual Culture: from the pre-photographic era to the era of cinema*: (Italian Ministry for University and Scientific Research PRIN 2005-2007); *Cultural Studies: New methodologies and study instruments of Goethe's Age* (Italian Ministry for University and Scientific Research PRIN 2000-2002).

He directed the Master in *Visual Culture and Communication* (2004 ff.) and directs the *Italian Research Group of Cultural and Visual Studies* ([www.studiculturali.it](http://www.studiculturali.it)) (2008 ff.).

He is the Coordinator of the International PhD.-Program *Studi Culturali Europei/Europäische Kulturstudien* (Partner Universities: Heinrich-Heine-Universität, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Academy of Science in Zagreb).

He was visiting professor at the Gesamthochschule Essen (Germany) (1997) and at the Universidad de Murcia (Spain) (1991). He was guest fellow of Prof. Alain Montandon at the Wissenschaftskolleg Berlin (2007) and fellow of the DAAD (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst) (1980-1981; 1980) and of CNR (Consiglio nazionale delle ricerche) (1986).

He has held many conferences at the Freie Universität (Berlin), at the Heinrich-Heine-Universität (Düsseldorf), at the Dartmouth College (Hanover) at the Universities of Valencia, Barcelona and Murcia, at the Maison de Science de l'homme, at the Collège internationale de Philosophie (Paris), at the University of Zagreb, at the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (Belo Horizonte), at the Internationales Forschungszentrum für Kulturwissenschaften (Vienna), at the Circulo de Bellas Artes (Madrid), at the CRASSH (Cambridge), at the Fondazione Collegio San Carlo (Modena) etc.

He is valuator for the *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft*, for the FWF - *Fonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung*, for *Villa Vigoni. Centro italo-tedesco per l'eccellenza europea* and for the *Italian Ministry of Education, Universities and Research (MIUR)*.

He recently received the Beinecke Fellowship at the Clark Art Institute (Williamstown) and is currently fellow at the Italian Academy (Columbia University) in New York.

His research focuses on German cultural history and aesthetics (especially in the age of Goethe), literary theory, and visual culture. Recent publications include works on ékphrasis, literature, and visual culture: *Descrizione e desiderio. I quadri viventi di E. T. A. Hoffmann* (2005); *Vedere: Lo Sguardo di E. T. A. Hoffmann* (2009); and *La scrittura delle immagini. Letteratura e cultura visuale* (2012). His book on the *Triumph of Death* fresco in Palazzo Abatellis in Palermo and his first work on the biological meaning of fiction (*La letteratura necessaria. Narrazione e biologia*) are in press.

For further informations: [www.michelecometa.it](http://www.michelecometa.it)