

## Visiting scholar Irene Santoro, online sessions

Dear everyone,

the Department of English and Linguistics at the University of Lleida is very pleased to welcome Irene Santoro to visit us online during the winter semester of academic year 2022-2023.

She will collaborate with two sessions in two courses in the area of Literature and Culture within the Department of English, but everyone is free to attend via the following links:

**LITERARY AESTHETICS – 27th October 11h to 12.30h:**

<https://eu.bbcollab.com/guest/f0d717008c3449809421c0610fda9122>

### **What's the Use for Beauty? A Fat Studies Perspective on Female Beauty Standards in the Western Society (27/10/2022)**

Beauty standards have changed greatly across time: testimonies of different styles and body shapes can be found in Art History and, more recently, in advertising and media contents. Yet in talking about the body, we still encounter the idea of “nature” connected to beauty and health, often used as a barrier: what is natural cannot be changed, cannot be challenged. This paradox serves the purpose of controlling women and minorities' behaviours in the public and private sphere, without them knowing or realizing. Therefore, combining the perspective of fat studies, gender and queer studies in the analyses of these phenomenon can help to shed light on the symbolic stratification that bounds bodies in rigid social categories.

**CRITICAL THEORY – 15th November 11h to 12.30h:**

<https://eu.bbcollab.com/guest/0e58fad7f9404a5691b9c19724aeae4b>

### **What's a Body, after all? Signs of Power on Female Bodies from a Fat Body Perspective (15/11/2022)**

Bodies in the western society carry a multitude of meanings, from social status to gender, race, and so on: therefore, looking at someone's body can give us much information to fit that person into a category. This mechanism rooted in racism and sexism prescribe a pyramid of acceptability for bodies, that closely recollects

the pyramid of discrimination. What can happen if we look at this pyramid from the perspective of the outcast fat female body? What can happen if we question gender and race through the questioning of mandatory thinness for women?



Irene Santoro, MSc, is an independent researcher from Italy. She Studied Art History at the University of Bologna and Gender Studies at the University of Roma Tre. Her research now focuses on the intersections between fat studies, gender studies and queer studies, exploring the symbolic use of the body and its representation in the western society, following the idea that the body, in its materiality, is a cultural and social element. Irene is also a trans-feminist activist and a cat lover.

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