Ethics, Politics and Justice in Dante

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Published by University College London

Gaimari, Giulia and Catherine Keen.
Ethics, Politics and Justice in Dante.
University College London, 2019.
Project MUSE. muse.jhu.edu/book/81904.

For additional information about this book
https://muse.jhu.edu/book/81904
Nicolò Crisafi is stipendiary fellow at Berlin ICI (Institute of Cultural Inquiry) in Germany, working on a new project on ‘Possibility and the Utopian Imagination in Dante, Petrarch, and Boccaccio’. At Oxford his DPhil thesis ‘Dante’s Masterplot and the Alternative Narrative Models in the Commedia’, argued for narrative pluralism in Dante’s poem by focusing on paradoxes, detours and the future as alternatives to the teleological ‘masterplot’.

Sabrina Ferrara is Associate Professor in Italian (Département Langues Étrangères Appliquées) at the University of Tours. She is also a member of the Centre d’Études Supérieurs de la Renaissance (Tours), and of the research groups ‘Recherches en Humanités – Humanités numériques’ and ‘Savoirs: théories, pratiques, circulations’. She sits on the editorial boards of several book series and journals, including Revue des études dantesques, Arzanà: Cahiers de civilisation médiévale and Dante e l’arte. Her research interests extend from Dante Studies to medieval and humanistic Latin and vernacular epistolography, and to medieval and humanist receptions of classical texts. She has published extensively on Dante and Boccaccio, especially on political themes (e.g. exile, the idea of justice), on readership and on the concept of time. She has recently published a monograph, La parola dell’esilio. Autore e lettori nelle opere di Dante in esilio (2016) and co-edited the volume Boccace. Les tensions d’un écrivain entre Moyen Âge et Renaissance (2015).

Giulia Gaimari recently completed her PhD as a Wolfson Postgraduate Scholar at University College London. Her doctoral thesis, entitled “Tutto suo amor là giù pose a drittura”. The Concept of Justice in Dante’s Works’, assesses Dante’s idea of justice by taking into account both the historical circumstances and the philosophical, rhetorical culture that contributed to shaping his texts, as well as the diverse scope of his works. Her research interests focus on Dante’s knowledge and employment of
classical philosophy, including Aristotle’s *Nicomachean Ethics* and *Politics* and Cicero’s *De officiis* and *De amicitia*; on medieval encyclopaedic and didactic culture, including Brunetto Latini’s *Tresor*; on civic rhetoric and ideals; and on the representation of souls in medieval otherworldly visions and travels. She has published articles on themes ranging from the representation of the blessed souls in the *Commedia* to aspects of Dante’s ethical and political thinking.

**Filippo Gianferrari** is currently Visiting Lecturer in Italian at Smith College. He studied at the University of Bologna before receiving his doctorate in medieval studies from the University of Notre Dame, with a dissertation on ‘Dante and Thirteenth-century Latin Education: Reading the *auctores minores*’. His research focuses primarily on Dante and medieval education and is informed by a thoroughly interdisciplinary approach, intersecting the fields of Latin palaeography, history of the book and historiography. He has published mostly on the topic of Dante’s intellectual formation, with recent essays including “‘Poca favilla, gran fiamma seconda’ (*Par*. I 34): riscrivere un proverbio tra Cino, San Giacomo e San Girolamo’ (forthcoming, *Le tre corone*, 2020) and ‘Pro patria mori: From the *Disticha Catonis* to Dante’s Cato’, *Dante Studies* (2017).

**Claire E. Honess** is Professor of Italian Studies at the University of Leeds, and Dean of the Leeds Doctoral College. Together with Matthew Treherne, she co-founded the Leeds Centre for Dante Studies in 2007 and was a co-investigator on the AHRC-funded project, ‘Dante and Late Medieval Florence: Theology in Poetry, Practice and Society’. Her research focuses especially on political imagery and ideas in Dante and on medieval poetry. She is the author of the book *From Florence to the Heavenly City: The Poetry of Citizenship in Dante* (2006) and of a translation of, and commentary on, four of Dante’s political epistles (*Dante Alighieri, Four Political Letters*, 2007). Honess has co-edited various volumes, including *Reviewing Dante’s Theology* (2013) and ‘Se mai continga … ’: Exile, *Theology and Politics in Dante* (2013). She has been an editor of the journal *The Italianist* since 1996, and was Chair of the Society for Italian Studies from 2015–18.

**Catherine Keen** is Associate Professor in the Italian Department at University College London. She is Senior Co-Editor of the journal *Italian Studies*. Her research interests cover Dante’s *Commedia* and his minor works, especially relating to his thought on politics and exile – themes
addressed in her monograph on *Dante and the City* (2003). She has also published on the early Italian lyric tradition, with a special interest in the poetry of Cino da Pistoia, and on translation and reception of classical literature in Duecento and Trecento Italy, particularly the works of Cicero and of Ovid.

**Giuseppe Ledda** is Associate Professor in the Dipartimento di Filologia Classica e Italianistica at the University of Bologna. He is Co-Director of the peer-reviewed journal *L’Alighieri*, and a senior member of the committee of *Studi danteschi*. He also sits on the Governing Committee of the Italian Dante Society, and of several research centre committees inside and outside Italy. His research on Dante focuses on various topics, including rhetorical and narrative strategies, hagiography and the Bible, medieval bestiary lore and the reception of classical literature. His research interests also include Renaissance and modern authors, such as Pulci, Ariosto and Montale. He has published and edited numerous books, including the monographs *La Bibbia di Dante* (2015) and *La guerra della lingua. Ineffabilità, retorica e narrativa nella ‘Commedia’ di Dante* (2002).

**Elena Lombardi** is Professor of Italian Literature at Oxford and the Paget Toynbee Fellow at Balliol College. She is the author of *The Syntax of Desire. Language and Love in Augustine, the Modistae and Dante* (2007), *The Wings of the Doves. Love and Desire in Dante and Medieval Culture* (2012) and *Imagining the Woman Reader in the Age of Dante* (2018). She has also co-edited volumes on Dante and medieval culture, and published several essays on medieval literature (on the Sicilian Poets, Guido Cavalcanti, Dante and Petrarch).

**Nicolò Maldina** is Lecturer in Italian at the University of Edinburgh. He was previously Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Leeds, within the AHRC-funded project ‘Dante and Late Medieval Florence: Theology in Poetry, Practice and Society’, and also worked as active member of the ERC-funded project, ‘Italian Voices. Oral Culture, Manuscript and Print in Early Modern Italy (1450–1700)’. His research interests lie in medieval and early modern Italian Studies, and especially concern the study of how Dante’s *Commedia* interacts with different textual forms produced within medieval religious movements (in particular the Dominicans and the Franciscans). He has also worked extensively on Boccaccio, Petrarch and Ariosto’s *Orlando furioso*. Maldina recently published a monograph, *In pro del mondo. Dante, la predicazione e i generi della letteratura religiosa medievale* (2017), and his several articles on

**Anna Pegoretti** is Assistant Professor at Roma Tre University. Between 2010 and 2016 she held the positions of Frances Yates short-term Fellow at the Warburg Institute (2010), Newton International Fellow for the British Academy at the University of Leeds (2011–12), Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Warwick, within the AHRC-funded project, ‘Dante and Late Medieval Florence: Theology in Poetry, Practice and Society’ (2012–16), Adjunct Professor at the University of Reading (2015–16). In 2016–17 Pegoretti was Research Fellow at the University Ca’ Foscari, Venice. Her research interests range from Dante Studies and the reception of Dante’s works to the relationship between geography and literature in medieval Italy and the history of the book and of education in medieval and early modern Italy. Among her recent publications are the monograph *Indagine su un codice dantesco. La ‘Commedia’ Egerton 943 della British Library* (2014), the journal article ‘Filosofanti’ in *Le tre corone* (2015) and the book chapter ‘Early reception until 1481’, in the new *Cambridge Companion to Dante’s ‘Commedia’* (2018).

**Justin Steinberg** is Professor of Italian Literature in the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures at the University of Chicago and Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Dante Studies*. He is the author of *Dante and the Limits of the Law* (2013) and *Accounting for Dante: Urban Readers and Writers in Late Medieval Italy* (2007). He is currently writing a book on Boccaccio and the law.

**Matthew Treherne** is Professor of Italian Literature and Head of the School of Languages, Cultures and Societies at the University of Leeds. Together with Claire Honess, he co-founded the Leeds Centre for Dante Studies and was Principal Investigator of the AHRC-funded project, ‘Dante and Late Medieval Florence: Theology in Poetry, Practice and Society’. Dante and Tasso are his primary research interests, although he has also worked on the American novelist and Nobel Prize winner Toni Morrison. Treherne has co-edited several books, including *Reviewing Dante’s Theology* (2013), ‘Se mai continga … ’: *Exile, Theology and Politics in Dante* (2013), Dante’s ‘Commedia’: *Theology as Poetry* (2010) and *Forms of Faith in Sixteenth-Century Poetry* (2009).