

# ABSTRACT PRIN 2017

## DaMA – Drawing a Map of Italian Actresses in Writing

Led by the University of Sassari (Principal Investigator Lucia Cardone), it involves the University of Catania (Research Unit Leader: Maria Rizzarelli) and the University of Napoli Federico II (Research Unit Leader: Maria Rizzarelli).

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As Stardom studies have shown (Amossy 1986, Dyer 1979), from their origins and up to the present day, film stars have engaged in self-narratives, through autobiographies, public diaries, columns in magazines and newspapers to define their *star persona*. Yet, they also engaged in proper literary practice by publishing novels, poems, memoir stories. What they have produced is a wide archipelago of writings almost completely overlooked or misrecognized by both Film Studies and Literary Studies. *DaMA – Drawing a Map of Italian Actresses in Writing*—aims at exploring the writing production of Italian actresses, by drawing on transdisciplinary methodologies and key research areas as Stardom and Performance Studies, Film Studies, Comparative Literature, Celebrities Studies, Women's and Gender Studies. DaMA has accomplished, in its three years research, an initial analysis and mapping of the varied forms of writing produced by Italian actresses which define the corpus—so far composed of about 100 texts, and still in the process of becoming—of what Maria Rizzarelli has called “divagrafie” [divagraphs] (2021).

The research work has been developed in three phases: the recognition and retrieval of texts produced by Italian actresses; their

analysis through interdisciplinary approaches; their classification and mapping through a digital platform which will be available in 2024. The open access web platform, which also explores Digital Humanities tools, will allow to have an overall view of the corpus and to access content selected according to a taxonomic classification that reflects the main themes emerged: from meta-reflections on acting to the phenomenology of women emancipation, from the practices of self-performance to the intersections with historical events, places, and persons (like writers, film directors, artists, producers).

By involving three Research Units, this study has been articulated into different approaches and analysis. The unit of Sassari explored the Italian “divagrafie” corpus in relation to the studies on stardom and performance, and the studies on women's self-narration. The autobiographies of the actresses have been the main objects of investigation, namely in the form of publications published in volume which blend stories of life and cinema with a first-person narration (Cardone 2023; Piana 2023; Simi 2021).

The Research Unit of the University of Catania focused specifically on the literary dimension of “divagrafie”, by building a theoretical approach on textual typologies and critical categories on

the side of fiction writing. The unit has mainly aimed at developing a theoretical reflection on the "double talent" concept (Cometa 2014) trying to extend this category, formulated in the field of visual culture studies, to the relationship between literature and performance so to verify its hermeneutical fertility (Pontillo 2021, 2020,2021; Rizzarelli 2021).

The Research Unit of the University of Naples Federico II investigated the most contemporary scenario, with particular attention to the last decades, by analysing the different types of actresses' production, from publications in volume up to the fluid writings of social networks (Masecchia 2020; Prospero 2023; Tralli 2023).

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