

The Grain of her Voice. Women Writers and Literary Podcasts: Critical Functions and Cultural Impacts

A media product that has today become more and more central to innovative forms of cultural dissemination, the podcast is a digital audio file that can be broadcasted, downloaded (most of the time at no cost), as well as serialised in order to constitute an organic ensemble of narratives. With the awareness that podcasting is transforming the same genre of audio storytelling (McHugh 2016), as well as the very idea of a delimited and clearly defined authorial presence, this seminar series explores the many ways in which literary podcasts (whether they are only broadcasted on the radio or also through digital media channels) bring an innovative perspective into the field of a contemporary literary criticism dedicated to Italian and international women writers.

By looking at different national contexts (Italy, Ireland, Greece, Hungary), we intend to observe and discuss how podcasts are influencing and redefining both the perceptions on texts as well as specific reading methodologies in terms of intermediality and transmediality. The speakers will bring concrete examples (first-hand experience of podcast creation), as well as close readings of podcasts that are deemed significant for specific reasons.

Throughout the seminar series, we plan to engage in a series of debates that shed light over the works of female writers and artists that are still quite marginalised and/or that come from peripheral cultural scenes (e.g. Greek or Hungarian female authors and their presence in podcasts). As we attempt to connect different mechanisms of creation and production, we also wish to explore the whole process behind podcasts, by highlighting single, significant experiences, retrievals, and scholarly analyses.

The seminar series will ideally adopt a perspective that gathers ideas and theoretical perspectives from different disciplines, such as Feminist Literary Criticism, Digital Humanities, and Feminist Media Studies. Moreover, as our title suggests, the focus of each seminar is on the highly symbolic element of the **voice**: feminine agency being also a vocal and sound one, we wish to investigate female podcasts through the uniqueness of women's voices as tools of transmission of knowledge and cultural/personal/collective memory.

Some of the questions that will be dealt with include:

1. How are feminist literary theories incorporated in the structure of a literary podcast dedicated to women's narratives and/or biographies?
2. What are the best practices, and what tend instead to become problematic choices in terms of contemporary divulging strategies connected with podcast storytelling, as well as with the different processes of digital and social sharing? How is the idea of authorship affected by this phenomenon?
3. Is it possible to popularize feminist literary theories and/or ideologies through a podcast, and what can be lost/gained in this process? What are the possible risks?
4. What could be the elements (e.g. narrative, methodological, etc.) that show possible connections between intermediality and transmediality?

Convenors: Dr Alessandra Trevisan (Università Ca' Foscari, Venice) and **Dr Serena Todesco** (independent scholar)

All are welcome to attend these online seminars, **held on zoom at 5pm BST/GMT (UK time)**. You will need to register for each one using the links below to receive the online joining link.

PROGRAMME

16 October 2025

Introduction to literary podcasts: Overview and evolution of a phenomenon

Alberica Bazzoni (Università per Stranieri di Siena) and **Alice Parrinello** (University of Edinburgh) on their podcast series "*Queer Graphics*"

Natascha Lusenti (author) on her autobiographical-literary podcast "*Mamma mia*"

Serena Todesco (independent scholar)

30 October 2025

Voices of engagement: narrating socio-political oppression

Serena Todesco (Independent scholar) and **Alessandra Trevisan** (Università Ca' Foscari, Venice) present the archive "Una come lei. Archivio di poesia per il futuro" ("One like her. A poetry archive for the future"), hosted at the Biblioteca della Donne di Bologna. The speakers are in dialogue with **Natasha Remondou** (University College Dublin) on the active presence of women producing and creating podcast platforms and contents in contemporary Greece.

13 November 2025

Interaction and community building practices: the role of podcast in the construction of critical debates

Alessandra Trevisan (Università Ca' Foscari, Venice), **Viviana Fiorentino** (Queen's University Belfast) and **Csilla Toldy** (author) in dialogue comparing Ireland and Hungary: female authorship, translation and podcasting.

27 November 2025

The future of literary podcasts: innovations and emerging tendencies

Natascha Lusenti (author), **Alessandra Trevisan** (Università Ca' Foscari, Venice), **Chiara Pini** (author-Le Ortique), **Serena Todesco** (independent scholar), and **Giovanna Iorio** (Haileybury College London) illustrating her *Poetry Sound Library* project.

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