



**Public Screening
of *Fughe e approdi*:**

March 24, 8:00pm
B-122 Wells Hall

Michigan State University is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting the Department of Romance and Classical Studies at (517) 353-8350 by 5:00 PM, March 11th. Requests received after this date will be honored whenever possible.

Elena Past

Wayne State University

Giov vs. the Volcano: Itinerant Cinema, Gendered Ecologies, and the Aeolian Islands

As one of the most dramatically visible testaments to the fact that our earth is on the move, volcanoes have a privileged relationship to the kinetic language of cinema, the art of moving pictures. Return to the Aeolian Islands (*Fughe e approdi*, 2010) chronicles director Giovanna Taviani's journey to the Aeolian Islands, a volcanic archipelago off the coast of Sicily and setting for a host of films, Italian and non. The film is a voyage in memory and cinematic history, as Taviani, whose father and uncle are among the most celebrated living Italian directors, charts her past as actress, daughter and niece, cinephile, and film scholar. Juxtaposing contemporary shots of the islands with past films' portrayals of these same landscapes, Return also documents the archipelago's geological past in a study of ecological, and not just cinematic history. This talk begins to unravel the threads of a magmatic Aeolian landscape where volcanoes, cinema, and memory collaborate in the creation of what we might call a posthuman biography.

March 25, 2016
Wells Hall
B-243 4:00 PM

Elena Past is Associate Professor of Italian at Wayne State University in Detroit. Her research interests encompass modern and contemporary Italian literature and film, and in particular crime fiction, the eco-noir, and ecomedia studies. She is the author of *Methods of Murder: Beccarian Introspection and Lombrosian Vivisection in Italian Crime Fiction* (2012), and co-editor, with Deborah Amberson, of *Thinking Italian Animals: Human and Posthuman in Modern Italian Literature and Film* (2014). She has published articles on the toxic waste crisis in Naples, Mediterranean cinema, and Italian crime fiction and film.



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