



DANTE ALIGHIERI SOCIETY of WASHINGTON
presents

**History and Story:
Elsa Morante, Rome, La Storia, and the Shoah**

(English Meeting, on Zoom!)
given by

Gabrielle Orsi, PhD



WEDNESDAY JANUARY 10, 2024

ON ZOOM

[Make your reservation now to join the zoom!](#)

Please share the link above to invite others;
for zoom security, reservations are required.

Zoom Room opens at 7:00

Presentation begins 7:30

About the speaker:

A native of San Diego, California, Gabrielle Orsi earned her PhD in Italian at Columbia University in 2008, focusing on modern Italian literature and Holocaust Studies. She has taught at University of Denver, University of

Kentucky, Lexington, City University of New York, Queens College
Department of European Languages & Literatures, Barnard College,
Columbia University, Colorado Mountain College, and Bellevue College in
WA, and held fellowships at the American Academy in Rome, Northwestern
University, the Getty Institute of Los Angeles, and the Institute of
Modern Languages Research at University of London. She has published a
number of academic articles and book chapters on Italian literature and
Italian Jewish history as well as contributing original research on Italian
female authors to the University of Chicago's Italian Women Writers
Database. She currently works for the University of Washington's School
of Medicine and resides in Oregon.

Description

"History and Story: Elsa Morante, Rome, La Storia, and the Shoah"

Elsa Morante (1912-1985), Roman author and poet, drew upon her own life, including her experience as a Jewish refugee in World War II, to write her bestselling 1974 novel *La Storia*. Dr. Orsi will provide the historical context to Elsa Morante's novel-- the multiple centuries of Jewish life on the Italian peninsula, Morante's own life, and the questions surrounding the novel and its portrayal of the Holocaust which persist to this day. Elsa Morante-- hailed by her husband Alberto Moravia as a genius and the better writer of the two, and viewed by many Italian writers, including Elena Ferrante, as a major 20th century figure and lasting inspiration--remains little known to English-speaking audiences (though that may change with the 2023 translation of her first novel and masterpiece, *Menzogna e sortilegio* by Jenny McPhee as *Lies and Sorcery*.)

Join us online for this interesting presentation!

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