

Maria Concetta Calabrese was born in Taormina on 2 September 1956 and graduated under Prof. Giuseppe Giarrizzo in 1980. She continued to deepen knowledge of the political and cultural history of Sicily from the 18th century to the first half of the 19th century, participating in numerous conferences, and from 1983-1986 attended a Ph. D. course in history at Catania University. She was awarded a Ph. D. in Modern History on 28 July 1987 after presenting and discussing her doctorate thesis, "The 1774 Parliament: acts and documents" with a commission made up of Prof. A. Coco, Prof. G. Pescosolido, and Prof. G. Massafra.

As an expert in her subject, she has since carried out numerous didactic and research activities including seminars, lessons and exams in the Modern History department of the Political Science Faculty of Catania University under Prof Domenico Ligresti.

Winner of a post-graduate research grant, she spent the period from 1 April 1986 to 31 March 1998 in the Department of Historical, Anthropological and Geographic Science at Catania University.

In the same year of 1998 she was also on the technical commission for the exhibition "The Bourbons in Sicily: 1734-1860" organized by the Catania Provincial Council and Catania University (April-June 1998). The exhibition provided a useful opportunity for reflection by overriding the outdated vision of a 'separate' Sicilian History and bringing this important period of Sicilian History back into a more general European setting.

In June 1989 she won a two-year research project grant in Modern History at the Department of Human Sciences as part of the "Hierarchies and Urban Functions: Political-Administrative Institutions and Cultural Relationship Networks" project, coordinated by Prof. Giuseppe Giarrizzo.

A further two year research grant from June 2001 to May 2003 was dedicated to the role of the Court as a centre of political and administrative power and patronage management, but above all as a centre of the utmost expression of the aristocratic lifestyle.

She also took part in the scientific commission and organized the course on "The Hebrews and the Mediterranean" coordinated by Prof. Giuseppe Giarrizzo and financed by the Taormina Town Council in collaboration with Catania University in the academic year 1999-2000. She was also involved in the organisation of the follow-up course on "Mediterranean Civilisations and Empires" held in Taormina under the scientific direction of Prof. Giuseppe Giarrizzo.

She has also been an active member of the research group financed by Catania University and the National Government Education and Research Department from the mid-1990s onwards headed at local and national levels by Prof. Giuseppe Giarrizzo, Prof. Enrico Iachello and Prof. Domenico Ligresti.

From 2002 through to 2006 she taught Modern History II in the Historical and Political Science course of the Political Science Faculty of Catania University, and in March 2006 she became a researcher in the same Faculty.

Her main research area is the cultural and political history of the 17th and 18th century and in particular the history of the family and of aristocratic collecting.

She has been a confirmed researcher since March 2009.