

Antonella Appiano

Antonella Appiano is a journalist, specialized in Middle East issues and Islamic culture. She is an analyst, independent researcher and scholar of Arabic countries and the topics of Islam and Arabic culture. She is also an author and writes scripts for TV. She shares her time, work and leisure, between Oman and Italy (preferably Oman). She studied Oriental Languages and Culture at *Università La Sapienza* in Rome, and Islamic Studies at the *Pontifical Institute of Arabic and Islamic Studies (Study and Research Center)*.



In her role as a reporter, she followed the Syrian revolts from their earliest moments and observed their development into civil war and proxy wars, in Syria and other Arabic and Gulf countries, as well as the situation in Egypt during the presidency of Mohammed Morsi. She spent time in Iraqi Kurdistan, reporting on the stories of the refugees and Iraqi Peshmerga after the defeat of Mosul by ISIS (working for various media sources including Lettera43, Il Mattino, Radio24, l'Espresso and online newspaper L'Indro).

She has written for Il Sole24Ore on the issues of society and work in the Middle East, immigration, 2G (second generation immigrants), women in the workplace, women and power, and women and the media, both in Italy and Arabic countries.

She has worked as a TV journalist for Mediaset channels, as a reporter and presenter of TV programmes and special reports.

In 1995, her novel "Sabbie d'oro" ("Golden Sand") was published by Antea Editore, a historic drama set in Ethiopia before and during the Italian "conquest". In 2014, it was re-published by Eiffel Editore in e-book format with the title "L'Oro d'Etiopia, il sogno di un frengi" ("Ethiopia's Gold: the dream of a Ferengi"). In 2005 she wrote the theatrical comedy "No budget! Due cuori e una TV" ("No budget! Two hearts and a TV"), which was produced by Cubatea and staged at Rome's Teatro Due. In November 2010, the book "Le Italiane" was published by Castelvechi Editore, comprising her essay chapter on Grazia Deledda. In November 2011, the book "Clandestina a Damasco – Cronache di un Paese sull'orlo della guerra civile" was published by Quintadicovertina ("Clandestine in Damascus – stories of a country on the brink of civil war"). This e-book was entered in the first Librinovando event, during the Bookcity Festival in Milan, 2013. As the author of e-book "Qui Syria - Clandestino ritorna a Damasco" ("Syria here – Clandestine returns to Damascus"), she was invited to speak at [Salone del Libro di Torino](#), at the round table "Se

[Montanelli avesse avuto un Tablet - Book to the Future](#)". In May 2016 is released «Syria Calling», Quintadicotertina Publisher (in English and Italian).

She has been invited to speak at many conferences and lectures, including the 2015 “Western duplicity? Views on the Arab-Islamic World between history and politics” at the international conference “Islam In/and/of/ Europe- Perspectives from the Middle Ages to the Post-Secular Age, University of Trento, Italy, and University of Tubingen, Germany. In 2014, she held a masterclass on “The women’s role in Syria, Palestine and Israel” at the University of Pavia, Italy. In the same year, she spoke on “Perspectives on the Syrian conflict: the reporter’s role” at the Civic Center of Pesaro, Italy, and again on “Women and Spirituality” at the ADMI (Muslim Women’s Association in Italy), in Rome. Regarding Islam, she spoke in 2013 on “Radical Islam in Africa” at the Institute of Political Studies in Rome, and in 2012 on “Women and Islam” at the University of La Sapienza in Rome. In 2007, she participated in a masterclass on “TV and Radio Journalism”, at Roma Tre University in Rome.

She received the Premio Orta award in 1997 for her TV work, the Premio Castagna d’oro award in both 2002 and 2005, and the Premio Alfieri di Asti award (presented each year to notable figures in the Piedmont panorama of culture, showbusiness and journalism). In May 2012 she was nominated as an Ambassador of the Italian helpline for women “Telefono Rosa”, thanks to her work as a journalist and writer which has helped bring women from the West and Middle East closer together. Again in 2012, she won the Journalism Award for Civic Engagement at the NettunoPhotoFestival event. She is also a volunteer nurse for the Italian Red Cross (Disaster and Humanitarian Relief).

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