



**FRIDAY,**  
**FEB 28, 2025**  
**12:15 PM (EST)**  
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**CERES Brown Bag Talk:**

**JULIET GUZZETTA, PH.D.**

**“TWO CHARACTERS IN SEARCH OF A TRUTH:  
EXAMINING GIULIANA MUSSO’S *DENTRO (INSIDE)*  
WITH A PIRANDELLIAN LENS”**



Photo credit; Federico Sigilla, *Dentro*

Giuliana Musso’s fearless play about the structures and cultures that hide sexual abuse is a Pirandellian spiral of truths that elude proof, presented through a theatrical framing that confounds reality with art. In a boldness that aims to jolt audiences to confront societal problems, Musso’s play theorizes both censorship and truth from the viewpoint of the survivor. Not unlike the questions of knowability and the limits of human compassion in classics such as *Six Characters in Search of an Author and Right You Are! (If You Think So)*, a play echoed in the subtitle of *Dentro (Inside)*, Musso

destabilizes the relationship between truth and fact to read truth as a competency, a skill. Facts are simply what happens, but truth must be learned, like most proficiencies.

**Juliet Guzzetta** is Associate Professor in the Departments of English and Romance and Classical Studies at MSU. Her first book, *The Theater of Narration: From the Peripheries of History to the Main Stages of Italy* explores a form of contemporary solo theater in its historical, political, and performative dimensions. Published with Northwestern UP (2021) it received an honorable mention from the Modern Language Association and was published in Italian with Accademia University Press (2023). In addition to numerous essays in journals and edited volumes, Guzzetta recently co-edited an issue of *gender/sexuality/Italy* on the concept of “conservative feminisms” with Ombretta Frau, and published a translation of Giuliana Musso’s *Dentro. Una storia vera se volete*. Currently she is co-editing a collection on Italian feminist thought with Graziella Parati titled *Italian Feminisms: Transnational Praxes for Today and Tomorrow*. She was recently awarded a 12-month Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities for her current monograph in progress, *Acting Class: Lessons from Franca Rame*, which centers Rame’s performances and activism as a model for political discourse, socially committed artistry, and grounded wide-ranging critique.