ROCCO MANGIERI

Professor and researcher in semiotics, performing arts and media

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PROFILE

Semiotician, architect and stage designer with more than four decades of teaching and research in semiotics, the performing arts and media. Emeritus Researcher at the Universidad de Los Andes (ULA, Mérida, Venezuela), where he directs the Laboratory of Semiotics and Socio-Anthropology of the Arts and promoted and coordinated the creation of the Faculty of Arts. Trained at DAMS (University of Bologna) with Umberto Eco and Omar Calabrese; PhD *summa cum laude* from the University of Murcia with a thesis on space in Eco's novels. Author of more than fifteen books and over sixty chapters and articles published in Europe and Latin America; visiting professor at Sapienza University of Rome (2024) and the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia (2020–2021).

EDUCATION

1998 – 2001	**PhD in Philology and Semiotics**, University of Murcia, Spain. Thesis: *La semiotica dello spazio nei romanzi di Umberto Eco* — *summa cum laude*, thesis award. Advisors: G. Manetti and O. Calabrese (University of Siena).
1990 – 1993	**Studies at DAMS**, University of Bologna. Courses and seminars: Semiotics (U. Eco, O. Calabrese), Semiotics of the Arts (O. Calabrese), *Semiotica dello spettacolo* (F. Ruffini), *Teoria della forma* (P. Magli), *Filosofia del linguaggio* (U. Volli), *Storia del cinema* (A. Costa).
1986 – 1987	**Postgraduate programme in Social Sciences: Discourse Analysis**, Universidad Central de Venezuela (UCV), Caracas.
1970 – 1976	**Architect and Urban Designer**, Universidad del Zulia, Maracaibo. Thesis: "Space, Design and Media in an Open University System" — *summa cum laude*, undergraduate thesis award.
1967 – 1970	**Diploma in Visual Arts** (design and painting), Centro Experimental de Artes Visuales, Caracas.

ADVANCED TRAINING

1992, 2013	**Performing arts and theatre anthropology** — seminars and workshops with Eugenio Barba, Julia Varley and Roberta Carreri. Odin Teatret / ISTA, Holstebro, Denmark.
1996	**Semiotics of taste** (Eric Landowski) and *Sémiotique et identité visuelle* (J.-M. Floch). Centro Internazionale di Semiotica, University of Urbino.
1992	**Advanced seminar in Visual Semiotics** (Omar Calabrese). DAMS, University of Bologna.
1992	**Semiotics of film** (Francesco Casetti). Centro Internazionale di Semiotica, University of Urbino.
1992	**Advanced seminar in Aesthetics** (Jean-François Lyotard). Accademia di Belle Arti di Bologna.
1983	**Semiotics of film**: *Cinéma, roman et narrativité* (Christian Metz). CETSAS, Paris.
1982	**Advanced seminars in Semiotics** (Umberto Eco). DAMS, University of Bologna.
1980	**Advanced postgraduate seminars in History of Art** (Giulio Carlo Argan). Sapienza University of Rome.
1980	**Advanced seminar in Graphic Design for TV and media** (D. Seligman). Open University, London.
1974 – 1978	**Contemporary dance and theatre** — seminars, residencies and laboratory with Víctor Fuenmayor (Dance & Performance, Paris).

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

1995 – present	**Full-time professor and researcher**, Department of History of Arts, Faculty of Arts, ULA, Mérida. Director of the Laboratory of Semiotics and Socio-Anthropology of the Arts.
2006 – 2018	**Professor of Semiotics of Theatre and Dance**, Laboratory of Dance and Visual Arts, School of Performing Arts, Faculty of Arts, ULA.
1996 – 2013	**Head of the Department of Theory and History of Arts**, School of Visual and Performing Arts, ULA.
2002 – 2008	**Full-time professor of Visual Semiotics and Semiotics of Film**, Faculty of Humanities, ULA.
1995 – 1998	**Lecturer in History of Design**, Department of Theory and History, ULA.
1985 – 1988	**Researcher**, Department of Semiology of Film and Television, Radio Caracas Televisión (RCTV).
1984 – 1989	**Full-time professor of Image Theory**, Universidad Central de Venezuela (UCV), Caracas.
1980 – 1989	**Lecturer in Semiology of Film**, National Academy of Film, Caracas.

ARCHITECTURE, DESIGN AND CULTURAL MANAGEMENT

1982 – 2018	**Architect and stage designer for cinema and theatre**, National Academy of Film and Television; Ministry of Culture, Venezuela.
1991 – 1993	**Visual designer**, project *Emigrazione emiliano-romagnola nel mondo*, Regione Emilia-Romagna, Bologna.
1989 – 1992	**Director, Regional Theatre of Lara State**, Ministry of Culture, Venezuela.
1989 – 1991	**Audiovisual designer**, Department of Teaching Media, Universidad Politécnica, Venezuela.
1980 – 1986	**Architect and visual designer**, National Academy of Film and Television, Caracas.
1979 – 1987	**Architecture and urban design**, Menéndez & Bemergui Studio; Mangieri & Mariño Associates, Caracas.
1979 – 1982	**Director, Graphic Design Department**, Open University programme, Caracas–London.
1973 – 1977	**Visual designer for television programmes and audiovisual projects**, Media Department, Universidad del Zulia, Maracaibo.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- Promoter and coordinator of the creation of the Faculty of Arts, Universidad de Los Andes.
- Acting Dean of the Faculty of Arts on several occasions since 1995; member of the Faculty Council.
- Head of the Department of Theory and History for four terms.
- Director of two schools of the Faculty: Visual Arts and Performing Arts.
- Member of the University Council; advisor to the Research Council for the humanities and semiotics.

VISITING PROFESSORSHIPS

2024	**Sapienza University of Rome**, Dipartimento di Comunicazione e Ricerca Sociale. Project: *The Rhythm of the City of Rome: Starting from Michel de Certeau's Sociosemiotics*.
2020 – 2021	**University of Modena and Reggio Emilia (Unimore)**, Dipartimento di Comunicazione ed Economia. Elective courses: «Spazi personali e arti performative», «A partire da *No Logo* di Naomi Klein», «Sociosemiotica della comunicazione: forme di vita, corpi, spazi liminali».
2017	**Universidad Nacional de Colombia**, Bogotá.
2013	**Odin Teatret / ISTA**, Holstebro, Denmark (Eugenio Barba).
2012	**University of Genoa** (chair of R. Pellerey).
2011	**Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB)**, Master en Arts Vivants.

2010	**Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Morelos (UAEM)**, Mexico.
2007, 2008	**Universidad Nacional de Colombia**, Bogotá — including the Maestría en Artes Vivas (2008).
2005	**Universidad de Buenos Aires (UBA)**, Argentina.
2000	**University of Alicante**, Spain.
1998	**University of São Paulo**, Brazil.
1985 – 1986	**Universidad Central de Venezuela (UCV)**, Caracas.

INVITED LECTURES AND CONFERENCES

2026	International congress *Inheritage Umberto Eco*, University of Bologna.
2019	International Congress of the IASS (International Association for Semiotic Studies), Buenos Aires.
2002 – 2016	Invited lectures at the international congresses of FELS, Federación Latinoamericana de Semiótica (Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, Venezuela, Colombia).
2010	International Congress of the AISV (International Association for Visual Semiotics), Venice.
2007	International Congress of the AISV, Istanbul.
2005	International Congress of the AAS, Asociación Argentina de Semiótica, Buenos Aires.
2000	International Congress of the AES, Asociación Española de Semiótica, Valencia.
1998	International Congress of the AISV, Siena.
1996	International Congress IASS–FELS, São Paulo.
1992, 1995	Semiotics summer seminars, Centro Internazionale di Semiotica, University of Urbino.
1991	International Conference of OISTAT (International Organisation of Scenographers, Theatre Architects and Technicians).
1987	International Congress of the AVS, Asociación Venezolana de Semiótica.

RESEARCH

Since 1994, design and direction of more than 30 research projects (types A and AA, the group-project categories of the ULA research council, CDCHTA). These inter- and transdisciplinary projects have brought together sociologists, anthropologists, semiologists and students of the arts.

The most recent projects, carried out in Venezuela, Colombia, Mexico and Italy, focus on the semiotics and socio-anthropology of the city and its forms of life, with particular attention to the environmental soundscape and quality of life.

Current projects. *Caribbean Semiotics: Film Narratives and Cultural Polyrhythms*, with INTEC University (Santo Domingo) and the Ministry of Science and Technology; *The Mediterranean and the Culture of Hospitality*.

TEACHING AND SUPERVISION

- Since 1980, over some 45 years, more than 2,000 students taught and trained in teaching and research, with consistently positive student feedback.
- Supervisor of more than 100 undergraduate theses and 20 postgraduate theses, available in the thesis repositories of the Universidad Central de Venezuela (UCV) and the Universidad de Los Andes (ULA).
- Lecturer, workshop leader, guest lecturer and visiting professor at numerous universities in Latin America and Europe.

AFFILIATIONS

- **IASS**, International Association for Semiotic Studies — staff member.
- **FELS**, Federación Latinoamericana de Semiótica — member of the scientific committee.

– **CISECO**, Centro Internacional de Semiótica e Comunicação (with Eliseo Verón; Universidad de Buenos Aires, Universidade Federal de Alagoas) — staff member.
– **National System of Researchers**, Venezuela — Emeritus Researcher in social sciences and semiotics.
– **Laboratory of Semiotics and Socio-Anthropology of the Arts**, National Council for Scientific Research, Venezuela — Director.

AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS

2024 **Emeritus Researcher**, Universidad de Los Andes (ULA), Mérida.

2018 **Annual Award for Social Science Research**, Regional Council, Ministry of Science and Technology of Venezuela.

2014 **Award and honours** for the book *Online Telepolitics: for a semiotics of the media* (Monte Ávila Editores), Ministry of Culture, Caracas.

2012 **Honours and academic recognition**, VII International Congress of Semiotics, AVS, Venezuela.

2007 **National Award** for the book *Three ways, three subjects: Eco, Lotman, Greimas* (Biblioteca Nueva, Madrid), Council of Culture and Arts, Ministry of Culture, Caracas.

2004 – 2014 **Awards for research projects in social sciences and visual arts**, CDCHTA, Mérida.

2001 **Doctoral thesis award**, *summa cum laude*, University of Murcia, Spain.

1997 – 1998 **Award for Social Science Research**, Regional Council for Scientific Research, Mérida.

1976 **Award and honours for the undergraduate thesis in Architecture**, *summa cum laude*, Universidad del Zulia.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

2026 *El cine que se repite: narrativas polirrítmicas del Caribe*. Laboratorio de Semiótica–INTEC, co-edition Venezuela–Santo Domingo (in press).

Los ecos de Eco: el pensamiento de Umberto Eco en América Latina y el Caribe. Grafofeel Editions, Roma (in press); Feria Internacional del Libro de Guadalajara, México.

Semiótica de los entornos performativos. Ministerio de la Cultura, Compañía Nacional de Teatro, Caracas.

2023 *Isole, mappe, labirinti. Lo spazio nei romanzi di Umberto Eco*. Morlacchi Editore.

2020 *Pablo Agudelo: huellas del arte moderno colombiano y su proyección internacional*. Latin American Visual Arts Research, Alvarez Gallery Editions, Stanford, USA.

2017 *Multimediality, art and literature* (ed.). Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Morelos, México.

2014 *Online Telepolitics: for a semiotics of the media*. Monte Ávila Editores, Ministerio de la Cultura, Caracas.

2007 *Manual de Semiótica*. Consejo de Publicaciones, ULA, Mérida.

2005 *Semiosis and pragmatics of color: the banner*. J. L. Caivano (ed.), Ed. UBA, Buenos Aires.

2004 *Three ways, three subjects: Eco, Lotman, Greimas*. Frónesis / Biblioteca Nueva, Madrid.

Imagografía: elementos de semiótica visual. Cuadernos de Investigación y Documentación 14, EADG, Mérida.

2000 *Las fronteras del texto*. Universidad de Murcia.

1998 *El objeto cultural y sus sentidos*. Consejo de Publicaciones, ULA, Mérida.

La arquitectura en el film: géneros, estilos, poéticas. Ediciones Solar, Dirección de Cultura de la Gobernación, Mérida.

1992 *Per una semiotica degli oggetti*. Eurocopy, Bologna (DAMS thesis).

1990 *Semiotics of space and comedian*. CONAC, Maracaibo.

1989 *El saber de la imagen*. Ediciones de la Universidad Central de Venezuela, Caracas. Reissued: Ed. Pablo de la Torriente, La Habana, 1992.

1984 *The architecture of film*. Ediciones de la Universidad Politécnica, Barquisimeto.

Book chapters

2026 "Corporeidad", in *Manual de Semiótica*, Julio Horta (ed.), Ediciones Universidad Autónoma de México.

2024 "Double bind cities", in *Immagini di città*, Cocco–Montanari (eds.), Università di Teramo.

2023 "Kinesferas expandidas: danza y performance en tiempos de confinamiento", in *Las artes del cuerpo*, Universidad del Rosario, Bogotá.

2021 "Relendo a semiosfera pandêmica a partir da teoria corpo-rede de Eliseo Verón", in *Livros CISECO*, special issue, Japaratinga, Universidade Federal de Alagoas, Brasil (based on an interview with Pedro Russi).

2020 "Pandemics semiosphere and global networks: the space turn in Lotman's model of culture", in *La sémiotique et son autre*, Amir Biglari (ed.), Éditions Kimé, Paris.

"The semiotics box", in *Estudios semióticos y abordajes metodológicos*, Universidad de Antioquia, Colombia.

2014 "Il corpo e il dono", in *Episteme* 6, Center for Cultural Applied Sciences, Seoul University.

2013 "The anthropology of the body in Eugenio Barba", in *Interdiscipline et arts vivants*, Éd. St. Honoré, Arts Vivants–ULB, Paris.

2011 "Dreams, delirium, filming: *Spellbound* by Alfred Hitchcock", in *Cine e intermedialidades*, UAEM, Cuernavaca; Ed. Itaca, México.

"As transfigurações do corpo presidencial através do entorno das mídias", in *Mediatizaciones del cuerpo presidencial*, CISECO, Difusão Editora, Brasil.

"Retrobus, metafore del tatuaggio", in *Retorica del visibile* 1, Aracne Editrice, Roma.

"Pittura e retorica: gesti, indici, vettori", in *Retorica del visibile* 2, Aracne Editrice, Roma.

2007 "Smetti di soffrire: raptus e messa in scena", in *Mediamerica*, Cartman, Torino.

2001 "L'architettura del buon gusto", in *Sociosemiotica del quotidiano*, E. Landowski, R. Marro (eds.), Testo & Immagine, Torino.

"Puppets and mannequins: the sacred dimension in the work of Tadeusz Kantor", in *The Theater and the Sacred*, Universidad de Murcia.

1998 "The architecture of good taste: rhetoric and style". EDUC, São Paulo. Italian translation: *L'architettura del buon gusto*, Testo & Immagine, Torino, 2000.

1997 "Lector in urbis", in *Architecture, sémiotique et sciences humaines*, Josep Muntañola (ed.), UPC, Barcelona.

Articles and papers

2025 "Semióticas acusmáticas: escucha, cuerpo y propioceptividad en el podcast de ficción", *deSignis* 42, La Crujía, Barcelona.

2023 "Atlas Spielraum: a partir del site-specific como espacio de maniobras personales", *deSignis* 38, La Crujía, Barcelona.

2022 "A semiosfera pandêmica como agenciamento de sentido, formas de vida e turbossemiose", CISECO, São Paulo.

2021 "El verdadero rostro de los Libertadores", *deSignis*, issue on the semiotics of digital faces in Latin American culture, Massimo Leone, Cristina Voto (eds.), Università di Torino; FELS, La Crujía, Buenos Aires.

"Semiotics as a transdisciplinary field: about description and sensitivity", *Degrés*, special issue "The semiotics and...", André Helbo (ed.), ULB, Bruxelles (in press).

"Cuerpos suspendidos: una pequeña silueta al borde del abismo", *Actual*, Dirección de Cultura, ULA, Mérida.

2020 "El cuerpo situado y extendido en la poética de Oskar Schlemmer en la Bauhaus", *DeSigno*, CDCHTA–ULA, Mérida.

2019 "I can't breathe: contagio, revuelta y artificación", Quaderni dell'Istituto Italiano di Cultura di Córdoba, Argentina.

"Al alcance de mis dedos", Proceedings of the X conference IASS, Buenos Aires.

2018 "Embodiment and presence in performing arts: the semiotics turn", Laboratorio de Semiótica de las Artes, Facultad de Arte, CDCHTA–ULA, Mérida.

"New approaches to kinesics and proxemics in urban environments", *LISA*, UBA, Buenos Aires.

"Gainsborough effect: sobre la fotografía de guerra", *deSignis*, La Crujía, México–Buenos Aires.

"Samurai dance: the semiotics and aesthetics of action in Japanese videogames", *Tonos Digital*, Universidad de Murcia.

"Tokio postures: gestuality, kinesis and style in high-speed city", *DeSigno* 3, Facultad de Arquitectura, ULA, Mérida.

"Proxemics and kinesics in social mass movements", *LISA* 13, UBA, Buenos Aires.

2017 "The Lotman model and geopolitics of time-space", *LISA* 12, UBA, Buenos Aires.

"Para una semiótica de los objetos", Museo Miguel Urrutia, Consejo de Cultura de Bogotá.

2016 "Semiótica del transmedia: *Prison Valley*", Proceedings of the conference Transmedialidad, UAEM, Morelos, México.

2013 "Semiótica y diseño gráfico en Venezuela", *deSignis* 21, La Crujía, Buenos Aires.

"Sémiotique des arts vivants", Proceedings of the Congrès des Arts Vivants, ULB, Bruxelles.

2010 "Continuo y discontinuo: para una semiótica de la danza", *deSignis* 16, La Crujía, Buenos Aires.

"Bodies in action: theater, dance and multiculturalism", *Actual*, Mérida.

"Lector in urbis", Fundación Cultura Urbana, Caracas.

2008 "Hermetic Venus: secret codes in *The Birth of Venus* by Sandro Botticelli", *La Torre del Virrey*, Madrid.

"Labyrinths, encyclopedias, islands: space and narrativity in the work of Umberto Eco", co-edition ULA–Sociedad de Filosofía de Murcia, Murcia.

"Labyrinths, islands, pendulums: the semiotics of space in Umberto Eco", La Crujía, Buenos Aires.

2007 "El cuerpo del Che: el gesto que indica", *deSignis* 11, Gedisa, Buenos Aires–Barcelona.

2006 "Modi di produzione segnica nell'*Isola del giorno prima* di U. Eco", *Signa*, UNED, Madrid.

"Rituales de contacto a través de las maneras de mesa", *deSignis* 9, Gedisa, Buenos Aires–Barcelona.

2004 "Unfolded bodies: theory of the interface and virtual realities", *Visio* 8, Marie Carani (coord.), IAVS, Québec.

"Figures of begging: the immobility" (with F. V. Gómez), Asociación Española de Semiótica, Universidad de Valencia.

"Dematerialize-repeating-collecting", *Estética* 7, CIE–ULA, Mérida.

"Towards an Experimental Faculty of Art", *Investigación* 9, CDCHTA, Mérida.

2003 "Weisen des Bettelns", *Zeitschrift für Semiotik*, Roland Posner (ed.), Berlin.

"Nature as an encrypted text", A. Gimate-Welsh (coord.), Gedisa, México–Buenos Aires.

2001 "The war in the film and in the human imaginary", *Malleus* 10, Universidad de Murcia / Sociedad Murciana de Filosofía. Reissued: *Estética* 8, CIE–ULA, 2004.

"The figure of the animal in Rubens", *Visio* 6 (1), IAVS, Québec–Paris.

2000 "Six isotopies for the next millennium: Black-Hermes", *Voz y Escritura* 10, Instituto de Investigaciones Literarias, ULA.

"Brief philosophy of the Monster", *Malleus* 9, Universidad de Murcia / Sociedad Murciana de Filosofía.

1998 "Semiotics in Venezuela: perspectives and trends", *Signa* 7, Asociación Española de Semiótica, UNED, Madrid.

"From *The Name of the Rose* until *The Pendulum of Foucault*", Cuadernos de Investigación y Documentación, ULA, Mérida.

1995 "Reproductibility and allegorical arts: semiotics of fake", *Objeto Visual* 1, CONAC, Caracas.

1994 "Elements of urban semiotics", Fundarte, Caracas.

1992 "Il corpo cieco: semiotica dello spazio nell'*Odissea*", Eurocopy, Bologna (DAMS term paper).

"Teoria e finzione nei romanzi di Umberto Eco", Eurocopy, Bologna (DAMS term paper).

1990 "Architecture and meaning: the metaphor of language", Consejo Nacional de la Cultura (CONAC), Caracas.

1989 "Gestuality and proxemics in ethnic dance: the Tamunangue", *Imagen*, CONAC, Caracas; also in the proceedings of the International Seminar, Universidad del País Vasco, 1990.

"Rhetoric of the landscape: postcards I–II", *Comunicación* 67, Centro Gumilla, Caracas.

1986 "The dance of shapes: the objects", Ateneo de Caracas, Serie 5, I Simposio de Antropología y Semiótica de la Cultura, CONAC.

1979 "Architectural codes in latinoamerican city" (with Andrés García), CONICIT, Caracas.

1978 "Code and message in Frank Lloyd Wright", Facultad de Arquitectura, Universidad del Zulia, Maracaibo.

Editorial work and translations

2017	*Intermedialità: arti visive e letteratura*. Editor and author of the foreword. UAEM / Juan Pablos Editor, México.
1998	Director and editor of the series *Cuadernos de Investigación y Documentación* (14 issues published), Departamento de Teoría, Escuela de Artes Visuales y Diseño, ULA, Mérida.
1994	Umberto Eco, "Imaginary cities, real characters". Editor and translator. Serie Imágenes Urbanas, Fundarte, Caracas.

ONLINE PROFILES AND REFERENCES

Google Scholar	scholar.google.com · "Rocco Mangieri"
Academia.edu	ula.academia.edu/ROCCOMANGIERI
ResearchGate	researchgate.net/profile/Rocco-Mangieri
Dialnet	dialnet.unirioja.es/servlet/autor?codigo=15255
deSignis (FELS)	designisfels.net/publicaciones.php
Blog	roccomangieri.blogspot.com

Citations and references to this work can be found in the SABER-ULA research repository, the LISA archive (Universidad de Buenos Aires), the Umberto Eco online bibliography and the AISV pages, and in the catalogues of Gedisa (*deSignis*), Biblioteca Nueva, Testo & Immagine, Aracne, Cartman and *Signa* (UNED).

A dossier summarising the work is available on request: rocchinomangieri@gmail.com