



[Maria Carla Rota](#)

Reporter-section editor, [Libero](#), Italy (LSJ summer school + short course 2010)

Lorna on Maria Carla: I'm always telling people to work out what the journalism system is and to work from this point to find a way in. There will always be a way. Maria Carla arrived with her mind set on finding that way in. It's difficult to help students who are full of 'buts' because that means dealing with their mental blocks. Maria Carla had no 'buts', instead she only asked 'how?'. I can work with 'how?' because I can work with trust. She had total trust in my advice and that's really saying something because I don't speak Italian. I can, however, somehow read Italian. I could show her where the media is similar, and how she could take British formats and ways of working back to Italy.

It's very common for overseas journalists to insist their media is terrible and the British media is fabulous; their media has no opportunities, whilst the British media is nirvana. This is a limiting attitude. Maria Carla focused on what she could learn and how she could take that back to Italy. I didn't doubt that she would achieve her ambitions because she has an extraordinary capacity to listen.

Maria Carla on Lorna: I was most interested in Lorna's attitude to writing human stories, her sensibility for people, her capacity for finding people to interview from everyday life right through to entrepreneurs and bankers. I was also fascinated by her very focused goals. I realised that attitude and focus are essential qualities in journalism, especially with increasing competition, fewer paid positions and low rates for freelance journalists.

I appreciated Lorna's comparison between Italian and British press and her in-depth analysis of Italian magazines as this helped me work out my personal goals. Her advice helped me make the decision to give up my old job which I really hated when I got back to Italy.

I started freelancing and wrote for press agencies for a couple of years and then got a position on an online newspaper reporting on [Italian news](#), as well as writing features about [men and women](#). I'm now looking forward to project managing and writing for a new section my newspaper is planning called Society as this is what I've been working towards.