

# A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT'S SECRET

## How to See the Desert in a Grain of Sand

A DIALOGUE WITH JOURNALIST

**IMMA VITELLI**

**SEPTEMBER 21, 2015 | 6:00 P.M. | VILLA SASSETTI**

*It is a mystery: how do you land in the Middle East and leave with a story in your notebook? How do you choose the people you need to talk to, and why their little story is relevant? I really understood the horror of ISIS by listening to two women explaining how in Raqqa, women police bite to death women who do not properly wear the veil. Very often, truth comes from people who do not have a voice, who don't exist. I never met a president, a sheikh or a general who spoke honestly about what is really going on in a conflict zone. But I did find an illiterate kid, in a frontline ghetto of Northern Lebanon, who told me: "This is not about religion. It's about politics".*

### **JOURNALISM WRITING WORKSHOP**

(NYU Florence students only)

**September 22**, 12:30 - 2.30 p.m., Villa Sassetti

**September 23**, time tba - Villa Sassetti

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