

CALANDRA  
ITALIAN  
AMERICAN  
INSTITUTE

# *il Bollettino*

*dedicated to the history and culture of Italians in America*

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## LETTER FROM THE DEAN

Welcome to the fifth issue of the Calandra Institute newsletter, *il Bollettino*! Since I last wrote, numerous things have occurred in these intervening months, and you will read about many of them in this issue.

One of our best-attended events was, as expected, the institute's thirtieth anniversary this past November. Celebrated in the law offices of John J. Calandra, son of the late senator whose legacy the institute honors, there were close to 200 people in attendance. Two of the previous five directors were present to share their memories of years past; and we bestowed upon three individuals the newly minted distinguished service award, which will recognize those people who have truly had a positive, indelible impact on society at large. You can read more about this event on the facing page.

Among the many things you will read in this edition of *il Bollettino* is an entry dedicated to "italianità alternativa," or, loosely translated, alternative Italian (read, Italian/American) culture. Most of us have surely recognized the diverse and multifaceted nature of Italian America. For the most part, it is indeed met with acceptance, if not, at the very least, tolerance. One of our events, just this past January, a colloquium on "guidoism," met with both approbation on the part of many as well as disapproval on the part of a select few. It is this second minority that articulated truculent and vituperative comments as well as calls for what we can only categorize as censorship, comments so vile that we found it necessary to have security present. The colloquium, which was a response to the reactions to the pseudo-reality show "Jersey Shore," was also oddly read as support of the show, in spite of the fact that it was publicized as a presentation of a scholar's research on this subculture. The event, I am happy to say, went off without a hitch, was attended by more than 120 people, and was live cast on our Internet channel ([www.livestream.com/italics](http://www.livestream.com/italics)), where one can still view the colloquium in its entirety. All views on "guidoism" were expressed, creating a dialog of the sort in which we should all engage, regardless of our differences of opinion. Namely, we witnessed a process of dialog and not, as we have seen often times in the past in our community, denigration and dismissal.

Problematic questions are what we as a community at large have not addressed. We have,

instead, let others take possession of these issues—Italian Americans and non Italian Americans in the media, for example—and we have been left to react. We have rarely, as a community, had our own forums on this and other matters that have arisen in the past once we have gone through that primary phase of reacting to the issue, something valid by all means but only a first step.

We have not, that is, engaged in any profound examination and investigation of the "whys" and "what-fors" of any of the hot-button issues that have troubled members of the Italian-American community.

This is our task that lies ahead; and it is a long-term commitment that asks us to gather as a community of Italian Americans at large (NIAF, NOIAW, OSIA, UNICO, other national Italian-American organizations such as AATI and AIHA, scholars, teachers, and writers) and investigate the myriad of topics such as those mentioned above that others have defined for us. Other ethnicities have done so; I especially have in mind the so-called "town-gown" combination of, for instance, Bill Cosby and Professor Alvin Poussaint. The Italian and Italian-American communities here in the United States have not done so, and I would submit to you that, as much of a stretch as it may seem in this context, the current situation of the Advanced Placement Exam in Italian is symptomatic of such an absence of these practices.

The Calandra Institute shall indeed continue to engage with representatives of the above-mentioned organizations. So, keep your eyes and ears open for future announcements.

We continue to enjoy great support from all. Our colleagues and friends within CUNY continue to be most helpful; many of the Italian-American community of the greater New York metropolitan continue to be most encouraging. Much still needs to be done, and our future activities will continue to explore the multifarious sectors of our extended community as we move forward. So, be sure to join our electronic and postal mailing lists.

As I have stated before, we continue to benefit from the unyielding support from both Chancellor Matthew Goldstein's Office of CUNY and President James Muysken's Office of Queens College. They and their staff have cleared many a path throughout these first three and one-half years.

### PERSONAGGI



ROSE PASCALE (1916-2009)

Rose Pascale was a community activist in New York City's East Harlem neighborhood for sixty years, devoting her life to assisting mothers and children, securing housing for the homeless and seniors, and guaranteeing that new immigrants received the social services they desperately needed. Rose was born in New Brunswick, New Jersey, to Elizabeth and Louis Capaldo, immigrants from Melfi, Potenza province, Basilicata. The family moved to East Harlem when Rose was three years old. While in the eighth grade, Rose was required to quit school in order to work to contribute to the family finances. She later married civic leader Pete Pascale, whose mentor was Congressman Vito Marcantonio. In 1949, Rose volunteered at Harlem House located on East 116th Street, a settlement house now known as SCAN/LaGuardia Memorial

House. During her years of volunteer work, Rose created a Young Mother's Club for East Harlem residents that provided parent education as well as opportunities to visit museums and theatrical productions. She worked closely with her husband for the Fresh Air Fund, sending more than 50,000 inner-city youngsters on summer vacations in the country. From 1969 until her retirement in 1986, she served as community liaison for the Manhattan borough president's office. Pascale also worked for years with the Greenwich Village community board. In 1997, she received the Governor's Award for Community Leadership, and in the following year, she was awarded a proclamation from Manhattan borough president C. Virginia Fields in recognition of six decades of community activism in East Harlem and the city at large.

## GRAMSCI AT LAGUARDIA

Who was Antonio Gramsci and what is his legacy? This May a series of events at LaGuardia Community College will investigate the influence of the Italian political theorist.

The Calandra Institute houses one of the largest collections of writings by and about Gramsci (1891-1937), who endured long years of incarceration under Mussolini. It was generously donated by Professor John Cammett (John Jay College) in 2008.

Artists, academics, and activists will work with students from LaGuardia Community College to expand our understanding of Gramsci's key concepts of culture and power.

Two acclaimed visual artists, Thomas Hirschhorn and Hong-An Truong, will collaborate with the LaGuardia community to realize artworks that reactivate the questions that Gramsci posed in his seminal *Prison Notebooks (Quaderni del carcere)*.

An exhibition on Gramsci's life and work, which includes materials from the Calandra Institute, will be curated and displayed at LaGuardia.

Two talks about Gramsci, culture, and power will be held at the College on May 21, 2010:

- 2:00–4:00 pm: Presentation by Thomas Hirschhorn
- 5:00–7:00 pm: Roundtable Discussion with CUNY faculty, including David Harvey (Graduate Center), Vinay Gidwani (Graduate Center), Benedetto Fontana (Baruch), and Kate Crehan (Staten Island).

This event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Professor Charity Scribner at [charity.scribner@gmail.com](mailto:charity.scribner@gmail.com).

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# CALANDRA INSTITUTE CELEBRATES THIRTY YEAR JOURNEY OF COUNSELING, RESEARCH, AND SERVICE

It was thirty years ago that Senator John Calandra took the lead role as chairman of the Italian American Legislative Caucus. Working together with Italian-American elected representatives in the New York State Senate and Assembly, and then Lieutenant Governor Mario Cuomo, Senator Calandra was the chief architect and principal organizer of the Italian American Institute to Foster Higher Education which was established in 1979. Three decades later, on November 12, 2009, elected officials, CUNY administration, staff, and friends of the Calandra Institute gathered to pay homage to those individuals whose collective efforts over time inspired and nurtured its growth and development.

Opening the program, Dean Anthony Tamburri's initial greetings highlighted the journey of the institute, which he noted "gives testimony to the true spirit of the university's will to acknowledge and respect multicultural diversity." Dean Tamburri acknowledged the continued support of CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein and Queens College President James Muyskens and subsequently introduced John J. Calandra, Esq., son of the late senator. Speaking at this occasion, Calandra expressed pride in hosting the anniversary gathering at his law office and recalling the advocacy work begun by his father to create an institute supportive of CUNY students and faculty. He stated, "My dad would be proud knowing that the institute, named especially in his honor, continues some three decades later to enrich and benefit the Italian-American community."

Congratulatory greetings were also offered by Chancellor Goldstein, President Muyskens, and Tony Avella, Chair of the Italian American Caucus, New York City Council, each of whom acknowledged the value of and appreciation for the pioneering work and long-standing accomplishments of the institute. To celebrate thirty years of documenting and preserving Italian experiences in America, the institute recognized three outstanding Italian Americans, as examples of the spirit of active involvement in public service, with Distinguished Service Awards.

First, Matilda Raffa Cuomo, creator of Mentoring USA, was honored for launching the New York State Mentoring Program and a collaborative initiative with the Calandra Institute, entitled AMICI, designed to address the psychoeducational needs of at-risk Italian-American high school students. The second honoree, Diane Savino, New York State Senator and community affairs and education advocate, addressed the need for educators to provide effective educational opportunities for all students. The final recipient, former Governor Mario Cuomo, was recognized for his unwavering support and, most notably, for his role in signing a bill into law which renamed the Italian American Institute to the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute (July 7, 1987). In doing so, he established the Calandra Institute as a permanent feature of the university system. The Governor congratulated the institute on its continued success in promoting student achievement and cultural programs. He shared poignant reflections of growing up Italian, the son of immigrants, and the values engendered to be the best he could be, especially in his career in the service to others.

As part of the celebration of the institute's thirty years of accomplishment, previous directors, including the Honorable Judge Joseph Giamboi and Dr. Joseph V. Scelsa, were each recognized for their leadership contributions. Giamboi thanked Dean Tamburri for the recognition and expressed gratitude in having "played a role in the emerging development of the institute." Scelsa provided the audience with a historical perspective, recounting the evolution of the institute and the struggle to "define our place at the City University."

The celebratory program would not have been complete without remarks from Dr. Fred Gardaphé, Distinguished Professor of Italian American Studies. Dr. Gardaphé, scholar and educator, spoke passionately about his commitment to expanding the Italian American Studies program at Queens College and concentrating additional efforts to bring such coursework to other CUNY colleges.

Throughout the evening's program, guests were offered a constant visual reminder of the institute's history. The staff of *Italics*, the institute's cable television program, under the direction of William Schempp, assembled a montage of video and photographs of the myriad activities that have taken place over the years.

Closing comments by Dean Tamburri expressed heartfelt gratitude to recent and long-standing members of the institute's staff. Tamburri also pledged his continuing effort and leadership in helping guide the institute to a new and more comprehensive mission in years to come. \*



*The Honorable Mario Cuomo and Matilda Raffa Cuomo*



*Queens College President James Muyskens, CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein, New York State Senator Diane Savino, Calandra Institute Dean Anthony Tamburri*



*Dr. Fred Gardaphé, Distinguished Professor of Italian American Studies*



*Tony Avella, New York City Council*



*Maria Tamburri and Anthony Julian Tamburri*



## ITALICS DOCUMENTS ITALIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE MONTH AND THE CALANDRA INSTITUTE'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Throughout the fall 2009 season, the *Italics* team covered several significant events in the Italian-American community in New York City and Washington, D.C. Early season coverage highlighted Dean Anthony Tamburri's presentation at a conference on the status of Italian language studies (grades K-16), convened at the Italian Embassy in Washington, D.C. The conference, hosted by the Honorable Giovanni Castellaneta, Italian Ambassador to the U.S., expounded on the proactive work of the Italian government, the Italian Embassy in Washington, and various consulates and institutes that foster Italian language studies in the United States.

*Italics* viewers were treated to an in-depth interview with Cav. Joseph Sciamè, Chairman of the Italian Heritage and Culture Month Committee, N.Y. Sciamè invited *Italics* viewers to partake of, and participate in, the numerous activities offered throughout October. Many events celebrated the work of the two great men chosen for this year's dual theme, *Galileo Galilei: Father of Modern Astronomy* and *Giuseppe Petrosino: Saluting an Italian American Crime Fighter*. A symposium held at John Jay College, *Joseph Petrosino and the New Sicily*, co-sponsored with the Honorable Francesco Maria Talò, Consul General of Italy in New York, included panelists from Palermo,

Sicily, who discussed the first Italo-American police agent sent on mission to Italy to investigate mafia crime between Sicily and New York. In addition, the Calandra Institute, in collaboration with Giovanni Avanti, President of the Regional Provincial Administration, Palermo, Italy, mounted a pictorial exhibit with full historical documentation regarding Petrosino's brief stay in Palermo and the complex investigation into his assassination.

Also in October, *Italics* documented a presentation by author Suze Rotolo, the legendary muse and girlfriend of Bob Dylan, who read excerpts from her autobiography, *A Freewheelin' Time: A Memoir of Greenwich Village in the Sixties*. Featured in this segment were Cav. John Cavelli, Secretary of the National Italian American Foundation, who had the special honor of Grand Marshall in the Bronx Columbus Day Parade, and New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli, renowned for his more than twenty years of support of Italian heritage and culture.

*Italics* was on hand to document the thirtieth anniversary celebration of the Calandra Institute's founding and long-standing contributions to CUNY students, faculty staff, and the Italian-American community. It was especially fitting that the event took place at the law offices of John J. Calandra, Esq., son of the late senator John D. Calandra (Bronx, N.Y.) who dedicated his career to public service and for whom the institute is named. Attendees included institute staff and distinguished guests CUNY Chancellor Dr. Matthew Goldstein, Queens College President Dr. James Muyskens, and New York City Councilman

Tony Avella, Chair of the Italian American Caucus. Service awards were presented to Matilda Raffa Cuomo for her mentoring initiatives, as well as New York State Senator Diane Savino and former Governor Mario Cuomo, for their continuing commitment to Italian Americans throughout the state of New York. The evening concluded with special recognition of former institute directors, Judge Joseph Giamboi and Dr. Joseph V. Scelsa.

Concluding coverage of fall events, *Italics* traveled back to Washington, D.C., to capture highlights of the National Italian American Foundation's annual conference and gala dinner. Special honorees included Lidia Mattichio Bastianich, Massimo F. D'Amore, Carla Gugino, Janet Napolitano, and Antonello Venditti, each cited for their commitment in helping to preserve and document Italian culture and heritage.

Archival episodes of *Italics* can be viewed at [www.cuny.tv/series/italics](http://www.cuny.tv/series/italics) and selections from the program on [www.i-italy.org](http://www.i-italy.org). Subscribe to ItalicsTV via YouTube at [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com), and become an *Italics* fan on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ItalicsTV](http://www.facebook.com/ItalicsTV).

This past season, *Italics* inaugurated live streaming versions of the show: *Italics 2.0* and the Italian language edition *Italics TU*. Both can be viewed at [www.livestream.com/italics](http://www.livestream.com/italics). *Italics* premieres the last Wednesday of every month at 10 am, 3 pm, and 11 pm, and repeats Saturday at 8 pm and Sunday at 10 am on CUNY-TV, cable channel 75 in the New York City area.

Be sure to join us for an exciting new season of Italian-American cultural events and academic inquiry on *Italics*. \*

### CUNY NEWS

#### Antonietta D'Amelio, Italian Professor at Baruch College Receives the Presidential Excellence Award for Distinguished Teaching

Each year two Baruch College faculty members are selected to receive the Presidential Excellence Award for Distinguished Teaching. In May 2009, Antonietta D'Amelio, a native-born Italian from Lioni, in the Campania region of Italy, was one recipient. She was nominated by her peers for her Italian language instruction in the Department of Modern Languages and Comparative Literature during the 2008-2009 academic year. The selection committee, convened by

Provost James McCarthy, selected Professor D'Amelio to receive this prestigious award at the 2009 commencement ceremony held at Madison Square Garden. Professor D'Amelio holds a B.A. and M.A. in Italian from Hunter College with post-graduate work at New York University. She teaches elementary to advanced Italian language courses as well as contemporary Italian literature of the nineteenth and twentieth century. Her research interests include the Italian Renaissance, the works of Italo Calvino, Italian-American immigrant literature, and foreign language pedagogy. Congratulations to Professor D'Amelio for her outstanding accomplishment.

#### Alyssa Amatulli Receives NIAF Grant to Study in Italy

Alyssa Amatulli, who graduated from Baruch College in May 2009, was the recipient of a grant from the National Italian American Foundation (NIAF). The generous grant helped facilitate Ms. Amatulli's participation in a summer program of study at the Università degli Studi di Siena, with a focus on Europe in a changing world. Ms. Amatulli majored in business administration and international marketing and is currently a research associate at Argyle Executive Forum in New York City.

FRED GARDAPHÉ recently published "Importato dall'Italia e altre storie," a collection of his short stories translated into the Italian by Silvana Mangione and produced by Idea Graphics. He also presented a paper at the Italian Association of North American Studies (AISNA) in Torino, and delivered lectures at various colleges including Seton Hall University, Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute, St. Johns University, College of Staten Island, and Drew University.

JOSEPH SCIORRA was invited to lecture on "Built with Faith: Place Making and the Religious Imagination of Italian New York" on September 23, 2009 as part of the Benjamin Botkin Folklife Lecture Series at the American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. He also presented this paper at the Associazione Internazionale per gli Studi di Lingua e di Letteratura Italiana conference in Philadelphia. Dr. Sciorra presented "'Why a Man Make the Shoes': Southern Italian Material Culture, Folk Aesthetics, and the Philosophy of Work in Rodia's Watts Towers" at the American Folklore Society's annual conference in Boise, Idaho, and "Mediated Renderings and Diasporic Musings: 'Core 'ngrato,' a WOP Song" at the American Italian Historical Association annual conference in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

## CALANDRA INSTITUTE SPONSORS

Thank you to all the people and organizations whose generous support extends the reach of the important work produced by the Calandra Institute. Contributions from the following sponsors, in the years 2006-2009, totaled in excess of \$125,000.

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## ITALIAN AMERICAN FACULTY STAFF ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Italian American Faculty Staff Advisory Council works to ensure that Italian Americans are treated fairly in accordance with their affirmative action status at CUNY. The Council raises awareness about the position of Italian Americans through its presence on each campus in the work of its campus delegates. Additionally, delegates and alternates attend monthly meetings to discuss issues of concern to the Italian American community, plan campus events and, working with the Dean, solidify a network of colleagues and students to pursue the mission of the Council and the goals of the institute.

To learn more about the council, or if you are interested in becoming a campus delegate, contact Dr. Donna Chirico, Chair of the Italian American Faculty Staff Advisory Council, by telephone at 718-262-2687 or by email at [chirico@york.cuny.edu](mailto:chirico@york.cuny.edu).

### IAFSAC Campus Delegate Spotlight: LaGuardia Community College



Patricia (Tamburino) Dillon  
DELEGATE

Professor Patricia M. Dillon is the Deputy Chair of Nursing Programs. She is a graduate of Lehman College, has licensure as a registered nurse, and a masters degree in nursing from NYU. Professor Dillon has taught nursing and health science courses at LaGuardia Community College for twenty years. She received two prestigious awards from the New York State Nurses Association, the 2001 Distinguished Service Award for Excellence and Leadership and the 2004 Student Choice Award. She also developed the web pages for the college nursing program and natural and applied science department. In addition, Professor Dillon is a founding member of the LaGuardia Theater Ensemble, and sang "The Star Spangled Banner" at Madison Square Garden's Paramount Theater for a LaGuardia Community College commencement. Pat and her husband Patrick have been executive producers of their daughter Katie's film company, Beautiful Lady Productions, Inc. She and her daughter co-wrote the award-winning short film *How to Ride a Train*, directed and edited by Katie. Ms. Dillon's daughter Leigh Ann also plays a part in the film company and, as an accomplished graphic designer, maintains the company web site at <http://www.bladyp.com/>. Professor Dillon has been the LaGuardia campus delegate to the council since 1998 and served on the executive board from 2005 to 2008. Her grandparents were immigrants from Naples and Sicily. Professor Dillon is proud to say she is Italian American.



Pauline M. Spatafora  
ALTERNATE DELEGATE

Professor Pauline M. Spatafora is a longtime faculty member of the English department and has extensive experience in the corporate world, public speaking, and theater including music and dance, as well as education. She has designed and taught specialized programs in communication skills, and speech and accent correction, and has developed workshops for healthcare professionals. Professor Spatafora was a founder and partner of the Adult Learning Center, Inc., and president of P.S. Communications. For the past twenty-three years, Professor Spatafora has been a CUNY faculty member teaching communications, literature, and writing courses. In 1996, Professor Spatafora was appointed by President Raymond C. Bowen to serve as liaison between the Calandra Institute and LaGuardia Community College. After working with the institute for several years, Professor Spatafora devoted time and energy to the craft of writing, and recently completed two books, *A Psycholiterary Study of Virginia Woolf* and *Pronunciation Made Easy*. Her third book, *Dear Sister*, is soon to be published. This latest endeavor provides unique insight into the lives of Italians and Italian Americans during the tumultuous years of World War II, and is based on letters written by her mother to her aunt in Sicily. Professor Spatafora's son, Nicholas, is also a faculty member of LaGuardia and has just completed his first novel, *Hurt*. Pauline is pleased to be reconnected to the Calandra Institute as a council member.

## STUDENTS AND COUNSELORS CELEBRATE ITALIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE MONTH

In observance of the 33rd annual Italian Heritage and Culture Month, CUNY students celebrated their pride and acknowledged Italy's place in history with a wide range of cultural activities.

Italian-American students hosted various events with the support and guidance of five Calandra Institute counselors who work with students on their campuses throughout the year providing counseling, career guidance, and academic and study abroad advisement. Student-counselor connections culminated during the month of October with an array of cultural, academic, and social programming.

At Brooklyn College, more than fifty attendees gathered at an open house to learn about the Center for Italian American Studies, its activities throughout the year, and the two student clubs that thrive on campus. Students also coordinated an annual dinner to conclude the month's festivities. Società Italiana at Baruch College hosted several events, including a slideshow presentation of Italian-American feast day celebrations in the tri-state area, and Giuseppe Tornatore's 1988 film *Cinema Paradiso*. The Italian Club at Hunter College continued its long tradition of literary studies with a lecture by Dr. Paola Baseotto, visiting professor from the Università degli Studi dell'Insubria, who discussed Queen Elizabeth I's contradictory use of Niccolò Machiavelli's "mirrors for princes." Hunter students also enjoyed Federico Fellini's 1954 film classic, *La Strada*, and engaged in a lively post-screening discussion regarding issues of gender and power.

At Queens College, students attended a study abroad workshop given by Roberto Dolci, Associate Professor of Educational Linguistics at the Università per Stranieri di Perugia, and enjoyed a festival of Italian films. In addition, Queens and Baruch students collaborated on two occasions, to march in New York City's Columbus Day Parade and attend the National Italian American Foundation's Youth Gala in Washington, D.C.

These student organizations have been in existence since the 1970s when counselors were appointed to work with the large influx of Italian and Italian-American students during an era of open admissions at CUNY.

The institute opened its doors in 1979 as the Italian American Institute to Foster Higher Education, Inc. Its primary mission was to provide counseling services to Italian-American students in order to help them achieve higher levels of retention at CUNY, academic integration, and career success. In January 1980, nine counselors were appointed and placed under the Italian Studies Program funded by the New York State Legislature, spearheaded by the late Senator John D. Calandra for whom the institute was later renamed. In 1985, five counselors were hired to provide college and career counseling to select New York City high schools, and articulation for students moving from CUNY's community colleges to its senior colleges. The counselors work was both novel and pioneering in its application of counseling interventions such as ethnotherapy, as well as outreach services, which preceded the profession's awareness of the multicultural counseling movement and ethnic identity development.

Today the counselors are housed at various colleges throughout CUNY, engaged in responsibilities specific to their

placement and institution. Their primary focus, however, has involved outreach to Italian-American students at CUNY and in New York City high schools. In keeping with the Calandra Institute's 30th anniversary, we highlight the work and continuity of the counseling program, which has been uniquely active since the institute's inception.

### Baruch College

Dr. Nancy Ziehler is a counselor at Baruch College Counseling Center where she provides ongoing psychotherapy to students. She also serves as advisor to the student organization Società Italiana. As club advisor, Dr. Ziehler has emphasized leadership development, coordination of cultural activities, and ongoing recruitment of new members. In addition, she offers outreach services to Italian-American high school students on Staten Island. Dr. Ziehler is currently editing an anthology, to be published by the Calandra Institute, entitled *Italian American Students in New York City: A Research Anthology*. Dr. Ziehler is a licensed mental health counselor in N.Y. and N.J. and an adjunct professor of counselor education at New York University.

### Brooklyn College

Dr. Dominick Carielli is Director of the Center for Italian American Studies at Brooklyn College. Dr. Carielli has a Ph.D. in counseling psychology, and is a N.Y.S. Licensed Mental Health Counselor. The center conducts and supports research on the Italian-American population, sponsors symposia and cultural events that focus on the Italian-American experience, and maintains a collection of scholarly books, journals, and other materials. The center works closely with the Italian American Studies program, a minor course of study at



Student members of Società Italiana, Baruch College



Professor Paola Baseotto, Università degli Studi dell'Insubria, Como, Italy, and Gabrielle Pati, President of the Hunter College Italian Club



Christine Bonanni, President of Società Italiana at Baruch College, and Tommaso Cuccia, reportage photographer and former intern at the Calandra Institute



the college. Dr. Carielli serves as advisor to two Italian-American student clubs, which are housed at the center.

### Hunter College

Dr. Maria La Russo is a pioneering member of the Calandra Institute and provides counseling services at Hunter College under the aegis of the Department of Romance Languages. Dr. La Russo also provides guidance services to Holy Cross High School and is the liaison to John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Dr. La Russo, a certified School Psychologist and Family Therapist (NY), has implemented research regarding Italian-American parents and their parenting roles. She is a parent educator at New York University, and is the mother of twin sons attending medical school.

### Queens College

Joseph Grosso works in conjunction with the Education Abroad Office, where he coordinates Queens College's summer study program in Perugia. He also created and publishes *Il Giornalino: The Italian Journal*, an annual publication showcasing the writings of college and high school students studying Italian, and *ciao-queens college*, a monthly newsletter highlighting Italian and Italian-American activities of interest to college students, faculty, and staff, and communities in Queens and Nassau County. Mr. Grosso is advisor to the Italian American Student Club on campus, plans and coordinates Italian Heritage and Culture Month activities, and is co-founder of the Association to Reunite Italian Americans (ARIA), an Italian-American faculty, staff and student advisory committee at Queens College. He also assists the Education Abroad director in planning overseas and domestic short-term, semester, and year-long programs.

Pierre Tribaudi is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who provides academic, career, and personal counseling, as well as stress management services, to students in the Center for Worker Education at Queens College and two Brooklyn high schools. He serves as co-advisor to the Italian American Student Club, is a co-founder of ARIA, and conducts research exploring stress patterns from a multicultural perspective. Special interests include stress management, wellness, and integrating counseling and psychotherapy with spirituality. Pierre is also a musician and composer, and is currently developing a recording of contemporary instrumental music.

For more information about the counseling services or student clubs on each campus, contact:

Baruch College  
Dr. Nancy Ziehler  
(646) 312-2164  
nancy\_ziehler@baruch.cuny.edu

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### ITALIAN AMERICAN STUDIES COURSES

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#### AT QUEENS COLLEGE

**ITALIAN AMERICANS: AN INTERPRETATION OF A PEOPLE** • An introduction to Italian American Studies that explores the phenomenon of Italian-American experiences from immigration to ethnicity and beyond. Studies in anthropology, history, sociology, literature, film, and culture provide historical and theoretical backgrounds of the experience of Italians in North and South America and their contributions to American culture.

**THE HISTORY OF ITALY'S SOUTH** • An analysis of the contribution that the *Mezzogiorno* has made to Italian culture since the mid-thirteenth century, and an exploration of the ways in which an awareness of such a contribution affects Italian Americans' search for identity.

**ITALIAN AMERICAN FILM/TV STUDIES** • Introduction to how Italian Americans are portrayed in the media, and analysis of major themes in film and TV programming relating to Italian Americans.

**THE GANGSTER IN AMERICAN LITERATURE** • This course uses the figure of the gangster to explore the interactions of gender and ethnicity in the literature of U.S. American writers. Authors considered include F. Scott Fitzgerald, William Kennedy, Mario Puzo, Louisa Ermelino, Anthony Valerio, Richard Vetere and others.

#### AT BROOKLYN COLLEGE

**ITALIAN AMERICAN LITERATURE AND FILM** • Exploration of the possibilities for storytelling in the genres of Italian American literature and film. The focus of discussion is character development, structure, and point of view, as well as the conflict between stereotype and anti-stereotype.

**INTRODUCTION TO ITALIAN AMERICAN LITERATURE** • Italian American tradition in literature. Discussion of language, class, assimilation, gender, literary form, and the search for a usable past.

**MODERN ITALY** • Major economic, social, political, and cultural events of Italian history from the *Risorgimento* to the present. Emphasis on Italian cultural heritage and contributions. Eighteenth and nineteenth century background to unification. Italy as a national state. Italy and the Great War, Fascism, and the new Italy.

**INTERNSHIP IN ITALIAN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES** • A three credit internship requiring 126 hours of fieldwork.



Counselor Dominick Carielli and student members of the Italian American Student Union and Italian Culture Club, Brooklyn College



Dean Anthony Tamburri and Salvatore Inzerillo, past president of Società Italiana, at the Columbus Day Parade

## ITALIANITÀ ALTERNATIVA

Author George DeStefano began a 2001 book review in the institute's social-science journal, the *Italian American Review* (vol. 8, no. 2), with a rhetorical question: "Who, or more precisely, what is an Italian American? To some self-appointed arbiters of *italianità*, the answer is: Roman Catholic, conservative, and indisputably heterosexual." If we have learned anything from the ongoing scrutiny of the Italian-American "experience" it is that it is any thing but singular. Italian-American experiences, histories, and cultures are diverse, multifaceted, and ever open to new interpretations and revisions. The institute's public programs offer an opportunity to recognize and represent the diverse expressions of an *italianità alternativa*.

On October 6, 2009, John Giorno read from his selected works *Subduing Demons in America* (Soft Skull Press, 2008) as part of the institute's Writers Read series. Giorno founded the artist collective Giorno Poetry Systems in 1968, which used technology to make poetry accessible to new audiences and influenced spoken word and slam poetry. He helped pioneer the exploration of "queer" sexuality in poetry during the 1960s. His AIDS Treatment Project, begun in 1984, set the bar for direct, compassionate action in the AIDS crisis. A practicing Buddhist since the early 1970s, Giorno has been instrumental in advancing Buddhism in North America, and in the cross-fertilization of Buddhist and poetic practice.

Among the many poems Giorno performed at the institute was "La Saggezza Delle Streghe (Wisdom of the Witches)," set in Castelmezzano, a town in Basilicata with mountain peaks resembling "big, broken, splintered teeth spiked into the sky."

Ugly and beautiful witches,  
Peaceful and wrathful witches,  
Increasing and magnanimous witches,  
Are the outer displays of wisdom,  
Witches of water, witches of earth,  
Witches of fire, witches of air,  
Witches of space  
Are the inner wisdoms,  
Witches of fabulous sex in the union  
of great bliss  
Are the secret wisdoms,  
And witches of great compassion  
and emptiness  
Are the innermost wisdoms.

Giorno—whose ancestors came from Aliano (Potenza province) and Genoa—engages with his *italianità* in life and art. He appeared in Antonello Farretta's 2007 film *Nine Poems in Basilicata*, reading poems in various regional towns.

Performance artist Penny Arcade is another Italian American associated with New York's downtown art scene. Born Susana Ventura in New Britain, Connecticut, Arcade will present her book *Bad Reputation: Performances, Essays, Interviews* (MIT Press, 2009) at the institute on May 10, 2010. Arcade's long involvement with avant-garde performance began at age seventeen, when she debuted with John Vaccaro's Playhouse of the Ridiculous and later appeared in the Andy Warhol and Paul Morrissey movie *Women in Revolt* (1971).

Arcade delves into the restrictive and stifling aspects of her Italian-American family in her tour-de-force "La Miseria." Named for the extreme poverty that was the impetus for millions of Italians leaving their homes in search of work, the 1991 production centered around an Easter dinner table and involved thirty-three performers. Arcade's family members were not "Americans" but "peasant working class Southern Italians." As a teenager who snacked on *focaccia* stuffed with pickled eggplants, she realizes that she is not the "all-American girl" but the "other American girl." When Arcade's child-self expresses her desire to be a dancer and an actress, she is chastised for being a *puttana* (whore). Characterizing her pugnacious Basilicata immigrant mother, who makes an appearance in a projected video as the "Marlon Brando of mothers," Arcade acknowledges her mother's lasting influence on her life.

Women's sexuality and conventional roles are themes found in Arcade's work as well as that of the World Famous Pontani Sisters, a dance trio at the forefront of the neo-burlesque movement. This new performance genre revives older forms of popular entertainment to reframe women's bodies within a post-feminist era. Rebecca Shapiro's documentary film about the Pontani Sisters, *Showy and 5'2": The World Famous Pontani Sisters* (2004), will be featured in the institute's Documented Italians film and video series on Wednesday, February 3, 2010. With their tattooed bodies and heavy makeup, the trio—third-generation Angie and Tara, and "adopted sister" Helen Burkett—combine tap, Las

Vegas show-girl routines, 1960s go-go dancing, and other forms in a post-modern *mélange*. The Philadelphia Weekly described the World Famous Pontani Sisters as "curvaceous punk rock Rockettes," while the Village Voice proclaimed the group "glamorous Italian Stallions that live up to the 'World Famous' part of their name." Knowledgeable about striptease's history, they present the eroticized female body within the conventions of this historically "low art" form with an ironic sensibility.

John Giorno, Penny Arcade, and the World Famous Pontani Sisters are among the many artists offering provocative and sometimes disconcerting readings of Italian-American experiences through the themes and genres of their work. By including the perspectives of an *italianità alternativa* in the institute's programs, space is made for the creative and intellectual engagement of identity within various Italian-American communities. •



John Giorno reading from his book "Subduing Demons in America."



Penny Arcade



The World Famous Pontani Sisters



## IAVANET: Italian-American Visual Artists Form Supportive Collective

IAVANET was founded in 2007 to provide a supportive network for artists of Italian heritage. This grassroots collective was conceived by artist Richard Laurenzi, who recruited artists to comprise its initial membership. Laurenzi helped formulate the organization's mission to promote and exhibit the work of contemporary artists, collaborate with Italian and Italian-American organizations, and promote collegiality and

constructive feedback among national and international artistic communities.

Membership is comprised of artists, several of whom are based in New York City, working in a range of media including design, installation, paint, photography, sculpture, and textiles. The works vary from pure abstraction to visual narratives of life in America. Membership is open to applicants who identify as Italian American.

Future projects include an archive, *Portrait of the Artist and Italian American*, to document the work of member artists

through interviews and documentary film. The ambitious collective also plans to create a U.S.–Italy exchange program with a live-work studio facility in Italy. Founder Laurenzi states that it is “critical to support the efforts of Italian-American artists and establish relationships with Italian artistic communities.” The group plans to develop a much-needed mentoring program for Italian-American art students. For more information visit <http://iavanet.com/>. To learn about upcoming exhibitions visit Richard Laurenzi's blog at: [www.i-italy.us](http://www.i-italy.us).



Sculpture, Richard Laurenzi



Sculpture, B Amore



Photography, Peter Vaccino



Painting, Rita Passeri



Installation, Karen Guancione

## AUDIENCE PROFILE



Tom Colicino, Jr., attends the Calandra Institute's monthly lecture, film, and book events to hear the narratives of Italian Americans that often go untold. “While it is good to remember people from Italian history,” he says, “it is also important to honor and celebrate people in the here-and-now.” The Astoria, Queens, native has been a regular audience member for the past five years. His ancestors emigrated from southern Italy—his

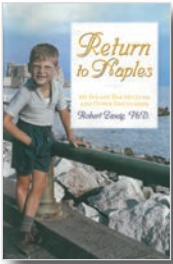
maternal grandparents from the Sicilian towns of Mussomeli and Villarosa, and his paternal grandparents from Sarno in Campania and Carolei in Calabria. Tom met his wife, Barbara, while pursuing graduate studies in Italian Language and Literature at San Francisco State University. They reside in the house where he was raised and have two children attending college, Thomas at Queensborough Community College, CUNY, and Chiara at Chapman University in Orange, California. Tom describes his interests as “eclectic” and enjoys the wide range of topics presented at the Institute. He was particularly interested in the film screening of *Louie Prima: The Wildest* (April 15, 2008) and Andrew Alpern's lecture on the life and work of architect Rosario Candela (September 10, 2009). Tom shared with us that there is “so much talent and genius in the Italian American community—and the Institute helps to heighten our awareness of such.”

## FROM THE ARCHIVES



In 1969, I was fourteen years old when I took this photograph in the living room of our house on St. Raymond's Avenue in the Bronx. My brother Charles, a Marine, had recently returned from Vietnam, and my mother Rachel is serving coffee to him and his future wife Vivian. Look at the grip of my mother's strong, Barese hand holding that full pot of coffee! The photo captures a time—with the heavy drapes and plastic slipcovers on the couch—when people visited and stopped in for coffee, when people still brewed coffee in the house. I selected this photo for the postcard advertising of my one-man show entitled “Bless Them All” which chronicles a drug addict's journey to freedom and the affect of war on family life. My father, Joseph Rocco, a Marine who fought on Okinawa during World War II, hovered like a spirit in my show, and hovers in this photo as well.

— JOHNNY LANZILLOTTO is a New York-based actor, author, and poet who wrote the screenplay “Bless Them All” ([www.blessthemall.com](http://www.blessthemall.com))



*Return to Naples: My Italian Bar Mitzvah and other Discoveries*  
Robert Zweig  
\$23.95 hardcover  
ISBN 978-1-56980-351-6  
www.stmartins.com

Robert Zweig will read from his book at the Calandra Institute Writers Read Series on March 2, 2010 at 6 p.m.

Robert Zweig is an Italian-American Jew whose memoir, *Return to Naples: My Italian Bar Mitzvah and other Discoveries*, was the basis for the talk he gave at the Calandra Institute's "Land of Our Return" conference last spring which had many people chortling. Born to a German-Jewish father and Italian mother, Zweig spent most of his childhood summers in Naples, where his mother was born and where his father convalesced after he was liberated from a Nazi concentration camp. The memoir recounts Zweig's experiences in Naples from the time he was a young boy to the present. "Nothing in Naples is bad, even for children, as long as it is diluted enough," this pertains to life experiences as well as wine, and for Zweig, the Naples he recalls today is distilled through memories.

The stories covering people and places are well written and tenderly recalled through wit and humor. The opening story, "Walking with Nono," is a wonderful entre into the world of 1960s Italy, a time when the country is rapidly rebuilding itself into a world power. We see a growing Italy through the eyes of a growing boy. Zweig's Naples is that strange intersection of the old and new, past and present. The walk is filled with street characters including cashiers, the *bombola* (gas) man, a brothel madame, a professor turned beggar, relatives and neighbors. Other characters, like Pasquale the porter to his grandparent's building, figure prominently in this coming-of-age in Italy story.

In "Revelation in Ischia" the boy learns that his father is a Holocaust survivor who lost most of his family in a concentration camp. "I Never Knew Gabriella Fabretti" presents what he learned about his mother and the reason he returned to Italy every summer. In Naples, he is the "Americano", and like an ambassador, he is the lightning rod for complaints about the U.S. and the translator for national events like Kennedy's assassination and the lunar landing. "All summer I lived in a purgatorial world,

immersed in Naples yet with one eye on the life I had left in New York."

A very funny segment comes in "Peeling Grapes and Other Mealtime Rituals" which, among other accounts, explains how much time is allotted before one is allowed to go into the water after eating or drinking—depending on what you ate: "Chocolate required eight minutes, peaches eleven minutes, nectarines ten minutes, and grapes one minute per four . . ."

There is humor in the little things that loom large as when an Italian printer adds the image of Jesus to Zweig's Bar Mitzvah invitations thinking he is doing something extra for the Jewish boy's special day. One of the great lessons he learns throughout his experiences is how people can survive just about anything, and he was aware that "back in the Bronx, I knew I would have more explaining to do about what kind of a Jew I was."

In what was to be his last trip to Italy by sea he "ran to the back of the ship to see the landscape slowly fading, and I listened to the muffled sounds from the port, the city's lungs, expanding and contracting, until Naples too its last breath. That summer, leaving Naples, I had become a different person, having learned of a past that changed my concept of who I really was."

*Return to Naples* may make you laugh more than most memoirs, but it will also have you thinking about more than this young boy's life.



*Parade (with fireworks)*  
Michael Cavallaro  
\$12.99 softcover  
ISBN 978-1-58240-995-5  
www.imagecomics.com

Michael Cavallaro will read from his book at the Calandra Institute Writers Read Series on March 18, 2010 at 6 p.m.

They are not just for kids anymore, those things we used to call comics have made their way into what is now being called graphic literature, and with such references they have no trouble walking into the front door of academia. But long before they received scholarly attention, literary comics made their way across the web and into the minds and hearts of thousands of readers young and old.

Shadowline/Image Comics got wind of Act-i-vate's web artist Mike Cavallaro's family-based webcomic *Parade (with fireworks)* and they brought it to print as a graphic novel in a beautiful paperback edition. The publication was nominated for the industry's top recognition, a 2008 Eisner Award for "Best Limited Series."

The novel tells the story of Italians caught in the struggle between socialism and fascism in 1923 Italy as Mussolini's Blackshirts begin to assert (and insert) themselves into all levels of Italian society and culture. A young Paolo is introduced, who comes from the country where his family runs an olive farm and exports oil to the United States. After military service in World War I, Paolo is sent to the U.S. to tend to family business in New York and Chicago, and the violence he experiences sends him running back to an Italy that has changed. When he and his friends happen upon a parade that is terrorized by thugs, Paolo defends himself and in the process ends up in the justice system into which Fascism has entered. Justice is delayed and the resulting tale combines history and story to create a strong sense of the injustices encountered by Italians during Fascism.

Not the usual fare for cartoons, comics or even traditional fiction, Cavallaro's story, enhanced from family tellings (much to some family members' dismay as the author notes in his "acknowledgements"), is a part of history that rarely sees the light of print, let alone the luminescence of comic art. Cavallaro's images are strong and stable, and his words keep the story moving and the reader wondering "did that really happen?"

Cavallaro knows when to pull the punches with language and let the images carry the story. There's a great tension between image and narrative, and with the fine detail included in even the broadest scenes, the artist makes it possible to get by without any of the words, as though the book was the storyboard for a silent movie. The image sequence reminded me of the edgy shots and quirky editing that came upon the scene through the television series *Hill Street Blues* and *NYPD: Blue* challenging understanding through perspective and content. Sometimes the explanation for action is in the words, sometimes in the images, and all this makes the kind of story you want to read over and over again.

—Fred Gardaphé



**PROGRAM** (subject to change)

FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 2010

**9:30–10:45 AM**  
**PUBLIC SPACES**

Architettura Sonora/Applied Acoustics, LORENZO BRUSCI, Sound and Experience Design

Social Justice and Democracy: The Significance of a Commons, CHRISTINE F. ZINNI, State University of New York at Brockport

*Another Corleone: Another Sicily* (film), ANTHONY FRAGOLA, Greensboro University

**11–12:15 PM**  
**THE TRANSNATIONALIZED NATION**

Italian America: Beyond the Imagined Nation, OTTORINO CAPPELLI, Università degli Studi di Napoli "L'Orientale"

Continental Drift: Mapping a European Italy, VINCENT DELLA SALA, Università degli Studi di Trento

Reflected Republics: Reinterpreting Italian Nationalism through Peru's Guano Boom, CHRISTOPHER J. PARISANO, Instituto Nacional de Cultura del Perú

**POINTS SOUTH AND WEST I**

Here Come the Sicilians: Another Puzzle Piece in the Making of New Orleans, GERALD T. MCNEILL, Southern Louisiana University, and MELISSA PUGLIA MCNEILL, Stuart Hall School for Boys

The Italians of the Jamestown and Virginia Colonies, GIUSEPPE DI SCIPIO, Hunter College/CUNY

The Making of Little Italies in the Appalachian Hill Towns of West Virginia, VICTOR A. BASILE, Independent Scholar

**1:30–2:45 PM**  
**GARDENING AND FORAGING**

*Memories of Repasts* (film), KARINA S. RAMIREZ, The New School Media Studies Program

Fright or Delight: The Cultural Implications of Wild Fungi as Food, SUSAN M. ROSSI-WILCOX, Independent Scholar

Gardens of the Mind: Memory, Ecology, and Justice in the Story of Tullio Inglese, PATRICIA KLINDIENST, Independent Scholar

**NARRATED LANDSCAPES**

"U Bizz' di Creanza: A Piece of Politeness," JOANNA CLAPPS HERMAN, Manhattanville College

"Mirage," PAOLA CORSO, Western Connecticut State University

"La Brigantessa: The Life of a Female Brigand," ROSANNA MICELOTTA-BATTIGELLI, Author

**3–4:15 PM**  
**SACRED SPACES**

To Struggle for a Place at the Table: Italian-American Protestants in Italy, DENNIS BARONE, St. Joseph College

Preserving History in the Old Neighborhood: Saving the Our Lady of Loreto Church, East New York, Brooklyn, MARILYN ANN VERNA, St. Francis College, and MARIO TOGLIA, Calitri American Cultural Group

Vernacular Exegesis of the Gentrifying Gaze: Hipsters, Saints, and Public Space in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, JOSEPH SCIORRA, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute

**NAVIGATING NOSTALGIA**

"Eyes Like The Ocean," NICOLA BATTIGELLI, author

Between Memory and Nostalgia: Italian Jewish Emigration to the United States During and After World War II, CRISTINA BETTINA, Ben Gurion University, and VINCENZO PASCALE, Rutgers University

Performing Nostalgia in Caterina Edwards' *Homeground* and Marco Micone's *Deja' l'agonie*, SIMONE LOMARTIRE, Leeds Metropolitan University

**4:30–5:45 PM**  
**LITTLE ITALIES**

Imagined Little Italies, STEFANO LUCONI, Università degli Studi di Padova

America's Little Italies as Visually Contested Terrains, JERRY KRASE, Brooklyn College/CUNY

Re-Membering the Neighborhood: Creating Community with Food Exchange, DANA DAVID, Pace University

SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2010

**9–9:30 AM**  
**RE-MAPPING ITALY/NORTH AMERICA**

The Complexity of Canadian Space: Two Films: *Les Enfants de la Loi 101* and *Sons and Daughters: The Italians of Schreiber*, FRANCESCA L'ORFANO, School of Canadian Studies

America as Garden of Plenty and Hell on Earth: Pre- and Post-Immigration Images of the Promised Land and their Relation to Italians of the Great Migration, JOSEPH J. INGUANTI, Southern Connecticut State University

From the Nostalgia of Origins to Creating Home: Making Place at the Leonardo da Vinci Art School, New York City, 1923-1940, FRANCESCA CANADÉ SAUTMAN, Hunter College/CUNY

**11–12:15 PM**  
**ARCHITECTURE ABANDONED, RECLAIMED, RE-IMAGINED**

Il Borgo Fortificato: Culture, Traditions, Life, JOHN C. RUSSOTTO, Independent Scholar,

and M. GABRIELLA GASBARRE, The Italian American Community Club of Rochester

The Place and the Action: The Metaphor of the Square According to the Social Enterprise, PAOLA MELONE, Institute of the National Research Council

Vernacular Architecture of the Alto Molise, JOHN CASERTA, The Design Office

**TRAVEL WRITING**

"The Dead Sang with Dirt in Their Mouths," JOSEPH P. COSCO, Old Dominion University

The Re-enchantment of the Everyday: Late-Twentieth-Century Expatriate Memories and the New Arcadian Dream "Made in Italy," LYNN MASTELLOTTO, University of East Anglia

Click to Enlarge: Connecting Memories, Places, and Cultures in the Virtual Paese, ROBERT OPPEDISANO, Editor/Writer

**1:30–2:45**  
**CONTESTED LANDSCAPES/ CONTESTED READINGS**

Speaking of Place: *Campanilismo* as Linguistic Practice in Northern Italy, JILLIAN R. CAVANAUGH, Brooklyn College/CUNY

Re-imagining the Colonial Landscape: Notions of Faith, Healing, and Prestige in Goffredo Alessandrini's *Abuna Messias*, ANNEMARIE TAMIS, New York University

The Confiscation of Mafia Lands, ANTHONY FRAGOLA, Greensboro University

**LAND IN LITERATURE**

The Transnational Origins of Antonio Stoppani's *Il bel paese*, ERICA MORETTI, Brown University

Paradise from Mud and Stone: Visions of Italy in the Work of Ignazio Silone and Iris Origo, FRED MISURELLA, East Stroudsburg University

Place and Narrative as Real and Metaphysical Catalysts in Fiction, GIOIA TIMPANELLI, Author

**3–4:15 PM**  
**POINTS SOUTH AND WEST II**

A Northern Southern Italian of the Eastern Western United States: A Topographical Analysis of John Fante's Fiction, JIM COCOLA, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Piedmont on the Pacific: Labor, Race, and Place and the Origins of Italian Winemaking in California, SIMONE CINOTTO, Università degli Studi di Torino

"Il Fuoco di Minonga": The 1907 Mine Disaster, the Landscape of Coal, and the Making of Transnational Italian Identity in West Virginia, JOAN SAVERINO, The Historical Society of Pennsylvania

**4:30–5:45 PM**  
**KEYNOTE: LUISA DEL GIUDICE, "Gastronomic Utopias, Promised Land"**





John D. Calandra  
 Italian American Institute  
 Queens College CUNY  
 25 West 43rd Street, 17th floor  
 New York, NY 10036



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PHILIP V. CANNISTRARO  
**SEMINAR SERIES**  
 IN ITALIAN AMERICAN STUDIES

Thursday, February 25, 2010 at 6 p.m.  
 Diva: Defiance and Passion in Early Italian Cinema  
 ANGELA DALLE VACCHE, Georgia Institute of Technology

Tuesday, March 2, 2010 at 6 p.m.  
 The Migrant in/and the City  
 GRAZIELLA PARATI, Dartmouth University

CANCELLED

Tuesday, April 13, 2010 at 6 p.m.  
 Entering Through the Golden Door: Cinematic  
 Representations of a Mythical Moment  
 YIORGOS KALOGERAS, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Wednesday, May 26, 2010 at 6 p.m.  
 From Gangsters to Gangstas: Blacks, Italian Americans  
 and the Culture of Crime  
 KIMBERLY SIMS, American University

**WRITERS READ SERIES**

Tuesday, March 2, 2010 at 6 p.m.  
 ROBERT ZWEIG reads from *Return to Naples: My Italian  
 Bar Mitzvah and Other Discoveries* (Barricade Books, 2008)

Thursday, March 18, 2010 at 6 p.m.  
 MIKE CAVALLARO reads from *Parade (with fireworks)*  
 (Image Comics, 2008)

Wednesday, April 7, 2010 at 6 p.m.  
 STEVEN J. BELLUSCIO reads from *The Grand Gennaro by  
 Garibaldi M. Lapolla* (Rutgers University Press, 2009)

Monday, May 10, 2010 at 6 p.m.  
 PENNY ARCADE reads from *Bad Reputation:  
 Performances, Essays, Interviews* (MIT Press, 2009)

DOCUMENTED ITALIANS  
**FILM SERIES**

Wednesday, February 3, 2010 at 6 p.m.  
*Show and 5'2": The World Famous Pontani Sisters*  
 (2004), 55 min.  
 Rebecca Shapiro, dir.

Thursday, March 4, 2010 at 6 p.m.  
*Merica* (2007), 65 min.  
 Federico Ferrone, Michele Manzolini, and  
 Francesco Ragazzi, dirs.

Thursday, April 29, 2010 at 6 p.m.  
*Le Ragazze di Trieste* (2008), 45 min.  
 Chiara Barbo and Andrea Magnani, dirs.

Tuesday, May 4, 2010 at 6 p.m.  
*Ricordati di noi!* (2007), 26 min.  
 Paul Tana, dir.  
*Ho fatto il mio coraggio* (2009), 50 min.  
 Giovanni Princigalli, dir.

> All SEMINARS, READINGS, and FILMS take place at the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, 25 West 43rd Street, 17th floor, Manhattan  
 All events are free and open to the public. Pre-register by calling 212-642-2094. Photo ID requested by building concierge.