

CALANDRA  
ITALIAN  
AMERICAN  
INSTITUTE

# *il Bollettino*

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



2013 • VOLUME 6 • NUMBER 2

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Cari Amici,

This issue of *il Bollettino* marks six years since we resumed publishing a newsletter of the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute. This publication serves to report on our varied activities, programs, and research, and to discuss CUNY-wide issues and the concerns of our community at large.

In 2014 we arrive at thirty-five years since the inception of the Institute, initially named the Italian American Institute to Foster Higher Education. Throughout the years and numerous changes in leadership and structure, the Italian American Institute has remained steadfast in its purpose of providing counseling services for students, outreach to the community via public programming, and research and development of Italian language and Italian-American curricula. The Institute has continually expanded the methods by which these goals are met, especially in the past seven years.

The overall purpose of the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute is basic to the central mission of the City University of New York. Italian Americans represent the largest European ancestral group in New York State, New York City, and at CUNY. Thus, the primary objective of the Institute is to foster higher education among and about Italian Americans. In so doing, the Institute serves as an intellectual and cultural center, by (a) stimulating the study of Italian Americans through its research, scholarship, public programming, media outlets, counseling services, and study abroad and, ultimately, (b) bringing together a community of scholars and public thinkers who focus on and enhance the Italian-American experience both within and beyond the Italian-American community.

By engaging in such rigorous intellectual exchange, we advance the most effective forms of social and cultural activism. The myriad activities of the Institute are the channels through which we become part and parcel of the social fabric at all levels in this country and beyond. When these efforts are strengthened by the activism of Italian-American elected officials, we create a formula that guarantees success.

In recent years, we have expanded our programming with additional lectures, symposia, and an annual spring conference. Our conference has drawn numerous participants from Italy as well as Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Israel, Peru, and the United Kingdom. Such academic gatherings create international dialogue among countries that is critical to the welfare of our Italian-American community and all that it encompasses.

The Calandra Institute has also recently created two book series: one dedicated to social science and humanistic research (Studies in Italian Americana) and a second dedicated to language study (Transactions). We also revived, in 2011,

the scholarly journal *Italian American Review*, which is now a truly peer-reviewed journal that propels all things Italian American into a national and international conversation. Similarly, *Italics TV* has expanded the subject matter of its monthly broadcast and established a YouTube page of webcasts including in-depth interviews and tapings of our public programs.

Previously undeveloped at the Institute was research and outreach vis-à-vis Italian language study. In recent years, we have championed efforts to support language study and participated in the Ambassador Giulio Terzi di Sant'Agata's Osservatorio to reinstate the Advanced Placement Program in Italian, after it had been inexplicably suspended by the College Board. And we continue to conduct workshops on language-teaching development. On September 14, 2013, the Institute hosted a full-day conference on intercomprehension—the teaching of Italian to speakers of other Romance languages—with a panel of six experts from Italy and across the United States, attended by fifty K-12 and college teachers. The presentations will be published as a manual for teachers who wish to set up such courses. This project will be funded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and produced by the Calandra Institute.

How “they” (especially the Italians) see, or indeed do not see, us is fundamental to an exchange between Italy and Italian America. This became evident during my interview with Minister of Integration Cécile Kyenge, who, in being the first African-Italian minister, underscored the importance of diversity to Italy's changing mindset and the implications of sustained dialogue on immigration—past and present—between Italy and Italian America. The Calandra Institute, in fact, will lead a four-day symposium at the Rockefeller Center in Bellagio in March 2014 on the significance of Italian American Studies within an Italian university setting where, today, Italians do not study the history and culture of Italian immigrants and their Italian-American progeny.

I am delighted to say that we have succeeded in areas where others have not. We have infiltrated that national dialogue of Americana and ethnicity that has left us out, or that our own have decided not to join. In the twenty-first century, we can now speak to close to full-fledged membership in our national discourse. Great strides have been made, but there is much more work to be done, work that many of us will get done as a collegial group.

In closing, I would like to invite you to visit the Calandra Institute in the near future so you can get a more complete vision of our various programs and activities and how they relate to the Institute's multipoint mission.

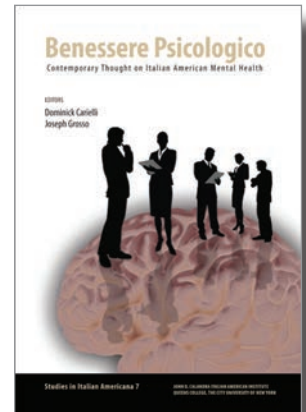
— ANTHONY JULIAN TAMBURRI, DEAN

## RECENTLY PUBLISHED BY THE CALANDRA INSTITUTE

### *Benessere Psicologico: Contemporary Thought on Italian American Mental Health*

Edited by Dominick Carielli and Joseph Grosso

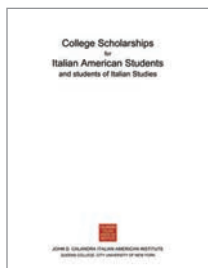
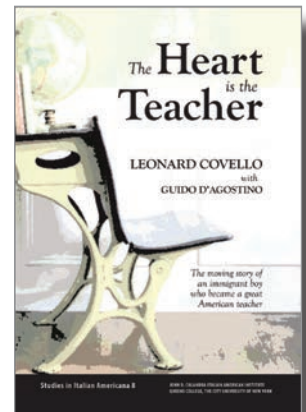
The seventh volume in the Studies in Italian Americana series is a collection of essays culled from presentations that were given at the Calandra Institute's 2010 conference on mental health and the Italian-American community. The book is divided into three parts: Culture and Identity; Personal Experiences in Therapy; and Theory and Treatment. Its dual purpose is to fill some of the void that exists in the area of multicultural counseling regarding white ethnic groups and to stimulate further research and dialogue on Italian-American mental health. It is an invaluable resource for clinicians working with Italian-American clients and for anyone conducting research on the population. While the volume was edited with the mental-health professional in mind, it is easily read and understood by a multidisciplinary or general audience.



### *The Heart is the Teacher*

by Leonard Covello

The eighth volume in the Studies in Italian Americana series is a reissue of the classic memoir by Leonard Covello, one of the more significant figures in the history of New York education. Covello's account of living and working in the city's Italian Harlem in the early to mid 1900s introduces the pedagogical challenges of the time and the Italian-American community's struggle with an American school system at odds with its southern Italian ways. *The Heart Is the Teacher* offers insight into a community-centered school system as well as the history of teaching and learning Italian language in New York. The narrative describes in eloquent detail Covello's experience as an Italian immigrant child and his success in becoming one of the most influential sociocultural figures of the first half of the twentieth century.



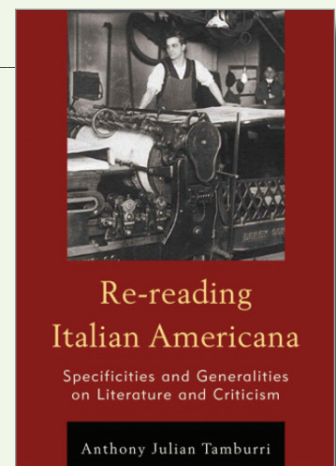
### *Scholarship Directory*

The Calandra Institute has published a 2013-2014 directory of scholarships available to Italian-American students and students of Italian studies. Listings include scholarship dollar amounts, eligibility criteria, and contact information for national and state-based scholarships. To download a copy of the directory, go to <http://www.qc.edu/calandra/>. Under the education menu, click on "scholarships," or call the institute at 212-642-2094 to have a copy mailed to you.

## NEW PUBLICATION ON ITALIAN AMERICAN STUDIES

Anthony Julian Tamburri's volume *Re-reading Italian Americana: Specificities and Generalities on Literature and Criticism* (Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 2014) examines the current state of Italian-American literature. By focusing on the works of a number of germane writers and poets (including Mario Puzo, Rina Terrarelli, and Luigi Barzini, among others) as well as their cultural, historical, and critical milieus, Tamburri develops a thoughtful and up-to-the-minute assessment of this growing field of study.

*A brilliant analysis of the status of Italian American studies in America and Italy, a powerful appraisal of critical works in the field, and a literary feast. . . Tamburri has written an indispensable book that is required reading for anyone who cares about multiethnic writing in the contemporary scene.* —JOSEPHINE GATTUSO HENDIN, New York University



Joseph Sciorra

On March 20, 1971, the *New York Times* ran the front-page headline “‘Godfather’ Film Won’t Mention Mafia.” The story reported that producer Al Ruddy of Paramount Pictures and Joe Colombo, founder of the Italian-American Civil Rights League, had agreed to strike the words *mafia* and *Cosa Nostra* from the script of the film *The Godfather*. This was a propitious deal of quid pro quo, for Colombo was the head of the Colombo crime family who had nefariously appropriated the role of Italian-American leader and spokesperson.

In exchange for script censorship, the intimidation, theft, and violence that had plagued pre-production and production ceased, and mob-controlled labor unions began cooperating with the filming. In addition, gangsters were cast as bit players and extras, and subsequently Hollywood actors began socializing with the criminals off the set. This encounter between the realities and representations of organized crime contributed to the ongoing replication of refracted imagery in a media house of mirrors.

The theme of the Calandra Institute’s seventh annual conference is “MAFIAs: Realities and Representations of Organized Crime,” and the two-day event seeks to cover a broad variety of worldwide manifestations of organized crime. As the sole university research institute for Italian American studies, the Calandra Institute is uniquely positioned to address this topic of interest to specialists including criminologists and film historians, among others. Consequently, the Calandra

Institute is partnering with the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, where Friday’s session will be held.

Given the historical association of Italian Americans with organized crime in the United States, it behooves us as scholars of Italian-American history and culture to tackle this subject with all the intellectual rigor of our various disciplinary insights. As we know, organized crime is not unique to any one country or ethnic group but rather develops out of specific economic and social conditions across the globe at different historical moments.

Thus, conference participants will speak on topics pertaining to Jewish and Polish American mobsters in the United States as well as organized crime in Colombia, India, Japan, Pakistan, and Sweden. The breadth of this conference program is in keeping with the Calandra Institute’s 2012 conference “Reimagining White Ethnicity: Expressivity, Identity, Race,” which sought a wider and deeper intellectual discourse across disciplinary fields.

Those involved in Italy’s anti-mafia movement—a topic that will be discussed by a number of conference speakers—have inspired people worldwide with their courageous strategies for confronting the silence and acquiescence that have existed for too long around criminal activities of this nature. MAFIAs, the Calandra conference, is in keeping with that sentiment of resistance inasmuch as it aims to shine a light on heinous practices that many have chosen to willfully ignore.

## ITALICS: TELEVISION FOR THE ITALIAN-AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

*Italics* began its autumn 2013 schedule with four special episodes covering Italian Heritage and Culture Month (IHCM).

In the first episode, host Anthony Julian Tamburri spoke with Joseph Sciamè, IHCM committee chairman, about the significance of the commemorations and interviewed Natalia Quintavalle, Consul General of Italy in New York.

The second program featured New York Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo, who discussed the annual New York Legislators’ conference. Later, Brooklyn College professor Robert Viscusi visited the Calandra Institute to talk about his epic poem *Ellis Island* (Bordighera Press, 2013).

The next special featured two iconic Italian-American actors, Tony LoBianco and Danny Aiello, who chatted about their outstanding careers.

The series’ final episode showcased Frank Fusaro and Louis Tallarini of the Columbus Citizens Foundation, organizers of the annual Columbus Day Parade. *Italics* correspondent Lucia Grillo interviewed Vincenzo Marra, president and founder of the Italian Language Intercultural Alliance (ILICA), together with Susy Marra and Ilaria Marra Rosiglion, and New York

State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli.

In addition, *Italics* produced four public-service announcements for IHCM that aired on Time Warner and CUNY-TV throughout October. These featured Danny Aiello, Lidia Bastianich, Michael Badalucco, and Tony LoBianco.

The next edition of *Italics* looked back at Hurricane Sandy one year later. Lucia Grillo joined journalist Anthony Rifilato to talk with Long Beach residents affected by the storm.

The subsequent program covered the National Italian American Foundation’s thirty-eighth anniversary gala as well as ILICA’s annual conference and gala.



December’s holiday special featured culinary segments on traditional Italian and Italian-American holiday meals. Lucia Grillo spoke with food historian Francine Segan and chef Jay Astafa. Lastly, Grillo visited Westchester Italian Cultural Center’s *presepio* and a spirited game of *tombola*.

# 2014 CONFERENCE: MAFIAS: Realities and Representations of Organized Crime

PROGRAM (subject to change)

## FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2014

John Jay College of Criminal Justice  
524 West 59th Street, New York NY 10019

9:30–10:45 AM

### American Origins

New Orleans, the First Capital of the Sicilian Mafia in America, STEFANO VACCARA, La VOCE di New York  
Organized Crime Groups in the US (1890-1920): Home-grown or Italian Import?, SIMON MAY, Coventry University

Searching for the Origins of Organized Crime in New York City, R. BRIAN FERGUSON, Rutgers University-Newark

### Re-imagining Mafia Narratives

Mafia Motifs in Andrea Camilleri's Montalbano Novels, ADRIANA NICOLE CERAMI, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

A Misguided Approach to Combating the Mafia by the National Defense Institute, GAETANO CIPOLLA, St. John's University

*The Godfather*, Media Excess, and Transhistorical Spectacle, MARY JO BONA, Stony Brook University, SUNY and JOANNE RUVOLI, Ball State University

11 AM–12:15 PM

**Keynote:** Mafia Emergence: What Kind of State?, JANE SCHNEIDER, The Graduate Center, CUNY

1:30–2:45 PM

### Where Are the MAFIAs?

The Paradox of Organizing Organized Crime, AMIR ROSTAMI, Stockholm University

From Old to New Mafia: From "Cosa Nostra" to "Cosa Grigia," GIACOMO DI GIROLAMO, Journalist

(Cyber) Extortion: An Assessment of the Enforcement Complications in Both Cyber and Physical Space, WILFRED BEAYE, Temple University

### Making and Unmaking the Mafia in American Media

Early Representations of Organized Crime and Issues of Identity in the Italian-American Press (1890s–1920s), MARINA CACIOPPO, Università degli Studi di Palermo

Changing Perceptions: The Manufacturing and Maintaining of Philadelphia's La Cosa Nostra History, KELLY SLATER, Temple University

An Examination of Mafia Spectatorship Phenomena from a Psychological Perspective, ANTHONY F. TASSO, Fairleigh Dickinson University

3–4:15 PM

### Race and the Gangster Pose

"There is no *Mano Nera* in North Beach!" Crime and Race in San Francisco's Italian-America, TOMMASO CAIAZZA, University Ca'Foscari di Venice

Black Caesar: Breaking into Business—At the Top, JOSEPH P. COSCO, Old Dominion University

Gangster Shtick, Ethnic Kitsch, and the Italian Americanization of College Basketball, JOHN GENNARI, University of Vermont

### Anti-Pizzo, Anti-Mafia in Sicily

Norms and Trust: Addiopizzo's Mobilization of Entrepreneurs in Palermo, CARINA GUNNARSON, Uppsala University

Standing Up to the Mob in Sicily: The Case of Capo D'Orlando, GIL FAGIANI, Italian American Writers Association

Social Media and Sicily's Anti-Mafia Movement, GEORGE DE STEFANO, Independent Scholar

4:30–5:45 PM

### Places of Illicit Power

Havana, Cuba, and Organized Crime in North America, PETER SCHNEIDER, Fordham University

Camorra, from Cocaine to Power—The New Face of Organized Crime, GIUSEPPE COSTA, Stony Brook University, SUNY

Not Biting the Dust: Assessing the Properties and Success of India's Sand Mafia, AUNSHUL REGE, Temple University

### New Mafia Fiction: A Reading

When the Nightmare Comes: The Private Struggle Against Organized Crime, ROSSANA DEL ZIO, Author

The Good Professor: Ten Years Working for the Outfit, FRED GARDAPHÉ, Queens College, CUNY

## SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2014

John D. Calandra Italian American Institute  
25 West 43rd Street, New York NY 10036

9:30–10:45 AM

### From Chicago to Philadelphia and Back

Polish-American Organized Crime in Chicago, JAMES S. PULA, Purdue University

The "Numbers Mafia" in Philadelphia: A Case Study of the Longevity of the Alliance between the Racket and Politics, STEFANO LUCONI, University of Padua

Organized Crime in Chicago Heights: The Italian-American and Polish-American Experiences, LOUIS CORSINO, North Central College

### Anti-MAFIAs Law Enforcement

The Japanese *Yakuza*—An Illegal Community as the "Other" Community, FRANK JACOB, Heinrich Heine University of Düsseldorf

La Trattativa Stato-Mafia: An Historical View of the Italian State's Connivance with Mafia Power, GIORGIO BONGIOVANNI, Antimafia Duemila

11 AM–12:15 PM

**Plenary:** Participants to be announced

1:30–2:45 PM

### The Photographic Work of Letizia Battaglia and Franco Zecchin

"An Unintended Archive": Anti-Mafia Activism, Public Pedagogy and the Civil Contract of Photography, PAULA M. SALVIO, University of New Hampshire

Does the Mafia Exist? Anti-Mafia Photography and the Proof through Image, DEBORAH PUCCIO-DEN, French National Center for Scientific Research

Discussants: AMY BOYLAN and PIERO GAROFALO, University of New Hampshire

3–4:15 PM

### Sicilian Anti-Mafia: Education and Land Reform

From Bernardino Verro, Placido Rizzotto to Pio La Torre: The Anti-Mafia Fight for Land Reform and the Farm Cooperatives That Manifest Their Legacy, ANTHONY FRAGOLA, University of North Carolina Greensboro

Danilo Dolci's Campaign against the Sicilian Mafia, LAWRENCE BALDASSARO, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Citizenship Education and Anti-Mafia Initiatives: Empowering Italian Youth to Combat Organized Crime, ANGELYN BALODIMAS-BARTOLOMEI, North Park University School of Education

### Multi-ethnicity in American Gangster Films

"For Nicky, Las Vegas was the fucking Wild West": Las Vegas as the Ultimate Frontier for the Diasporic Gangster, CAMILLA DUBINI, University College London

"You give your loyalty to a Jew before your own blood?" Diasporic Difference in *The Godfather Part II*, ROBERTA KLIMT, University College London

"That's, that's the flavor!" Representation of Food in Italian and American Mafia Movies, LAURA DI BIANCO, The Graduate Center, CUNY

4:30–6 PM

### Gender and Comparative Approaches to Media Depictions

Mafia Biopics: Rosi's *Salvatore Giuliano* and Wilson's *Al Capone*, GIOVANNA DE LUCA, College of Charleston

From Mafia Dolls to Drug Queens: Realities and Representations of Colombian Women in the Drug Cartels, PATRICIA TOVAR, John Jay College, CUNY

Michele Placido's *Romanzo Criminale*: Mafia, Masculinity, Melodrama, DANA RENGA, The Ohio State University

## THE VITO MARCANTONIO FORUM: RESURRECTING A LEGACY

Maria Lisella

The Vito Marcantonio Forum (VMF) was founded in 1991 by Gil Fagiani, author and poet, and Gerald Meyer, historian, professor, preeminent scholar of Marcantonio, and author of *Vito Marcantonio: Radical Politician 1902–1954* (SUNY Press, 1989), with the participation of activists, community workers, cultural brokers, and educators. Soon after its founding the VMF hosted the conference “Multi-Cultural Curriculum: Recovering Progressive Traditions,” co-sponsored with the Brecht Forum, and established an annual award for those who embody Marcantonio’s radical coalition politics. The first award recipient was Annette Rubinstein, a major leader in the American Labor Party and editor of a collection of Marcantonio’s speeches, *I Vote My Conscience* (Calandra Institute, 2002). Later awardees were East Harlem activist Pete Pascale, and artist and activist Ralph Fasanella.

VMF counts among its milestones: the fourth printing of Meyer’s book, celebrated at the Brecht Forum; the dedication of a conference room to Marcantonio at Hostos Community College; a 2012 seminar, “Vito Marcantonio and the Puerto Rican People: Solidarity and Progress,” at the Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College; and the panel “Vito Marcantonio (1902–1954): Spokesperson for the Left,” at the 2013 Left Forum at Pace University. In October 2013, Gil Fagiani presented his paper “Vito Marcantonio: Beloved Son of Italian Harlem, Master of the Multi-Ethnic Coalition” at the Italian American Studies Association annual conference.

Vito Marcantonio is more than a folk hero. Rooted in New York City’s East Harlem, once the largest Italian-American community in the United States, Marcantonio was a fervent defender of his constituents and Fiorello LaGuardia’s protégé. On the national stage, he took courageous positions on affordable housing, civil liberties, civil rights, foreign aid, immigration, political persecution, and Puerto Rican independence. “His speeches and views deserve to be revisited,” said Fagiani, who lived and worked in East Harlem in the 1960s. “He stands as an example for modern politicians in an increasingly fractious national political arena, in particular around immigration issues.”

A fundraising event to support the VMF is scheduled for Saturday, February 22, 2014, at the New York Public Library on Mulberry Street in New York’s Little Italy. For more information visit [www.vitomarcantonioforum.org](http://www.vitomarcantonioforum.org).



Gerald Meyer at the grave of Vito Marcantonio, Woodlawn Cemetery. Photo by Riccardo Chioni.

## REPORT FROM THE FIELD: STUDENT CLUB ACTIVITIES



**Brooklyn College:** On November 14, 2013, Simone Cinotto presented his book *The Italian American Table: Food, Family, and Community in New York City* to students, faculty, and staff at Brooklyn College. The event was sponsored by the Ethyle R. Wolfe Institute for the Humanities and the Center for Italian American Studies. By examining the historic Italian-American community of East Harlem in the 1920s and ’30s, Cinotto recreated the bustling world of Italians in New York City and demonstrated ways in which food was central to the lives of immigrants and essential to the creation of an Italian-American identity. — *Dominick Carielli*

**Queens College:** The Italian American Club marched in the 2013 Columbus Day Parade. Also, the Association to Reunite Italian Americans sponsored a lecture titled “The Early Italian Immigrant Press in New York City and Italian-American Identity,” presented by Peter Vellon, professor of history at Queens College. — *Joseph Grosso*



Donna Chirico

The City University of New York is a crossroads of diversity. Or is it?

In 2012, the results of its first comprehensive diversity study, “Building on a Strong Foundation: A Strategy for Enhancing CUNY’s Leadership in the Areas of Faculty Diversity and Inclusion,” were published, revealing a system struggling to make even the smallest gains for some groups while generally failing to meet the same level of diversity for faculty across categories as it has for students. Since establishing the Office of the University Dean for Recruitment and Diversity in 2007, while there have been multiple initiatives to foster diversity, the outcomes reported in the diversity study pointed out a need to increase these efforts, stating that CUNY is “at a critical juncture” regarding the recruitment and retention of a diverse faculty.

This crisis is seen clearly in the data. In 2001, the total faculty minority population at CUNY was 26.4 percent rising to only 31.6 percent by 2009. All groups are considered underrepresented, including Asian, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino(a), Italian American, and Women. The increases for women have been the greatest, from 42.8 percent to 46.7 percent for the same time period. Increases for individual racial and ethnic groups are negligible. The rate for Latinos went from 6.7 percent to 8.3 percent. Rates for both African Americans and Italian Americans have remained flat. The rate for African Americans hovers around 12.6 percent while the rate for Italian Americans was on average about 6 percent. Since the collection of the report’s data, this figure has actually gone down from a high of 6.6 percent in 2008 to 5.6 percent of full-time faculty in 2012.

Several mandates were promptly established as part

of an action plan to address the needs cited. Although the university’s year-end performance management process has included the target “Colleges will recruit and retain a diverse faculty and staff” for some time, in 2013 these efforts were intensified by requiring campuses to “revitalize, recharge and, if needed, rename their college-wide affirmative action councils” and “develop specific strategic action plans that address faculty, staff and students.” (See pages 48–51 of the report for the complete list of recommendations.) Campuses then created committees with the aim of developing a faculty diversity strategic plan tailored to the needs of its campus. These plans were due by August to become effective by the first day of classes for the 2013–2014 academic year.

Despite seemingly good intentions on the part of the university, members of the Italian American Faculty Staff Advisory Council were not an integral part of this process. Only two members of the Council were invited to participate on campus committees, and none of the reports were vetted by campus delegates to assure inclusion of concerns specific to the Italian-American community. Overall, the plans are rather generic in their recommendations, looking at diversity matters with a broad brush. Only Hunter, Queens, and Queensborough Colleges acknowledge the resource of the Calandra Institute as a means of enhancing the recruitment and retention of Italian Americans. This exclusion is not unique to the Italian-American community, since the plans fail to mention other ethnic group resources as well.

Given the efforts by CUNY in the last decade or more to address the inequity in hiring Italian-American faculty, this failure of collaboration is an opportunity lost for rectifying the underrepresentation of Italian Americans at CUNY.

*il Bollettino* is published by the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute Queens College, CUNY  
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Commedia dell’arte, 22” x 30”,  
watercolor, by Peter Paone.

ROSANGELA BRISCESE co-authored the article “Hybrid Moments: Italian Americans in Post-1960s Rock Scenes” with Joseph Sciorra. The article was published in *ASEI / Archivio Storico dell’Emigrazione Italiana* (Volume 10, 2014), which focuses on the theme of music in the Italian diaspora.

JOSEPH GROSSO, Specialized Counselor at Queens College, is coordinating the tenth anniversary 2014 edition of *Il Giornalino: The Italian Journal*, featuring creative writing from high-school and college Italian language students throughout the New York metropolitan area. The 2013 edition of *Il Giornalino*, which includes the work of more than 300 students, is available online at <http://qccpages.qc.cuny.edu/calandra/il-giornalino>. Joseph is also the coordinator of the Queens College Study Abroad Program. Each summer students study Italian language and culture in the medieval city of Perugia, capital of Umbria. In 2013 the program hosted the largest group of students to date, from CUNY and other colleges, in its four- and eight-week sessions.

JOSEPH SCIORRA presented his paper “Miracles in a Land of Promise: Transmigratory Experiences and Italian-American Ex-Votos” at the American Folklore Society conference in Providence, Rhode Island, and the Italian American Studies Association conference in New Orleans. In November 2013, he presented “Core ‘ngrato,’ a Wop Song: Mediated Renderings and Diasporic Musings” at the American Studies Association conference in Washington, D.C. In addition, Sciorra published his creative writing in *VIA: Voices in Italian Americana* 24.1–2 (2013). Sciorra was a scholar-in-residence at the New York Public Library’s Wertheim Research Study Room last year and was awarded a research fellowship at Bard Graduate Center for the spring 2014 semester.

STAFF NEWS



## ITALIAN AMERICAN REVIEW

The *Italian American Review* (*IAR*) features scholarly articles about Italian-American history and culture, as well as other aspects of the Italian diaspora. The journal embraces a wide range of professional concerns and theoretical orientations in the social sciences and cultural studies. The *IAR* publishes book, film, and digital media reviews, and is currently accepting article submissions.

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 2 includes:

- “‘White Ethnicity’: A Reappraisal” by Yiorgos Anagnostou
- “Nunzio Pernicone (1940–2013): A Remembrance” by Mary Anne Trasciatti

For more information, go to [qc.edu/calandra](http://qc.edu/calandra). Under the publications menu, click on *Italian American Review*.

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### SPRING 2014 PUBLIC PROGRAMS

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

Thursday, February 20, 2014, at 6 pm

*Re-reading Italian Americana; Specificities and Generalities on Literature and Criticism*

ANTHONY JULIAN TAMBURRI, Calandra Institute, Queens College, CUNY

Thursday, May 8, 2014, at 6 pm

Presenting *Italoamericana: Italian-American Literature in the United States, 1880–1943*

ANTHONY JULIAN TAMBURRI, Calandra Institute, Queens College, CUNY  
ROBERT VISCUSI, Brooklyn College, CUNY

#### WRITERS READ SERIES

Thursday, February 13, 2014, at 6 pm

MICHAEL PARENTI reads from *Waiting for Yesterday: Pages from a Street Kid's Life* (Bordighera Press, 2013)

Tuesday, March 11, 2014, at 6 pm

LUIGI BONAFFINI and JOSEPH PERRICONE read from *Poets of the Italian Diaspora: A Bilingual Anthology* (Fordham University Press, 2014)

#### DOCUMENTED ITALIANS

Thursday, February 27, 2014, at 6 pm

*Finding the Mother Lode* (2013), 104 min.  
GIANFRANCO NORELLI and SUMA KURIEN, directors

Wednesday, April 16, 2014, at 6 pm

*Texan Italian Stories* (2013–2014), four videos of 12–15 min. each  
SERGIO CARVAJAL-LEONI, director

Thursday, May 15, 2014, at 6 pm

*Men of the Cloth* (2013), 96 min.  
VICKI VASILOPOULOS, director

All events are free and open to the public.

All events are held at the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, 25 West 43rd Street, 17th floor, Manhattan.

RSVP by calling (212) 642-2094. Please note that seating is limited and seats cannot be reserved in advance.

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