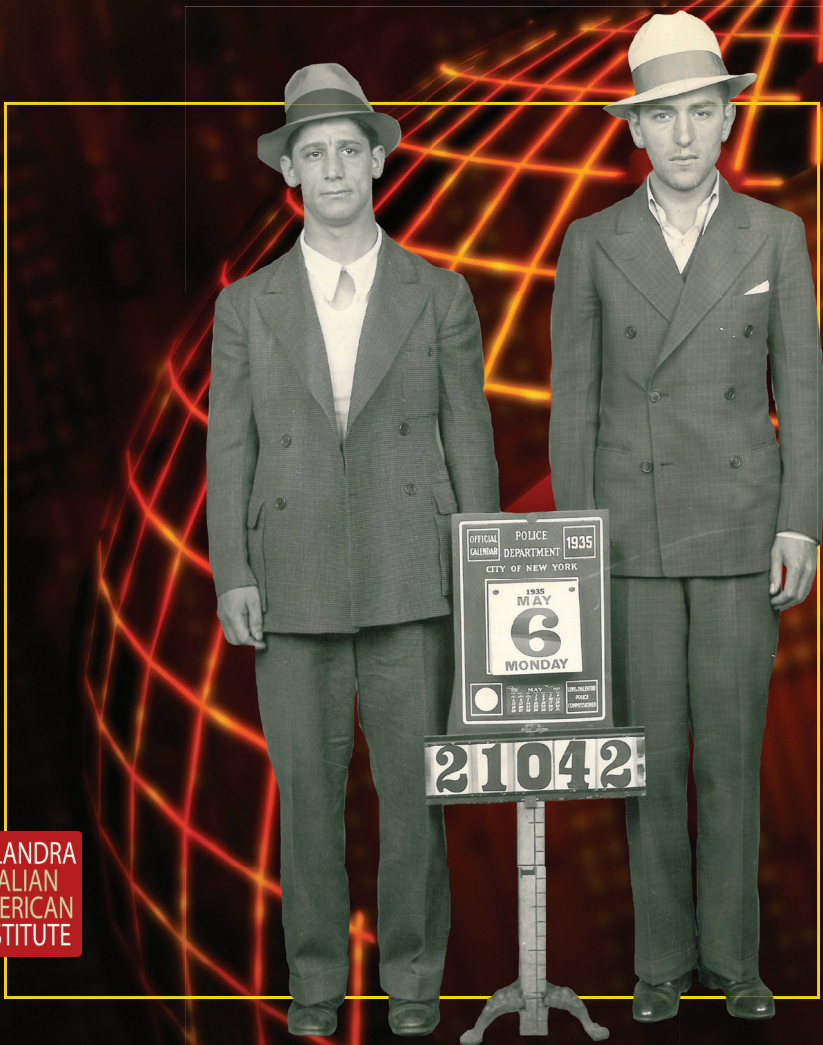


MAFIAs

Realities and Representations of Organized Crime

CONFERENCE

April 24-26, 2014



CALANDRA
ITALIAN
AMERICAN
INSTITUTE

MAFIAs

Realities and Representations of Organized Crime

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 sessions 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.

THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2014

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

6:00–8:00 PM

Welcome & Reception Room L.61, 1st Floor

ANTHONY JULIAN TAMBURRI, Dean, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute
ROBERT M. PIGNATELLO, Vice President, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY
EVANGELOS GIZIS, President, Queens College, CUNY
NATALIA QUINTAVALLE, Consul General, Consulate General of Italy in New York

FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2014

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

9:00–9:30 AM

Coffee & pastries

9:30–10:45 AM

American Origins Moot Court, 6th Floor

Chair: Robert Oppedisano, Editor

New Orleans, the First Capital of the Sicilian Mafia in America, STEFANO VACCARA, La VOCE di New York

Organized Crime Groups in the U.S. (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-imaging Mafia Narratives Conference Room, 9th Floor

Chair: Rosangela Briscese, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute

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

11:00 AM–12:15 PM

Keynote: Mafia Emergence: What Kind of State? Moot Court, 6th Floor

JANE SCHNEIDER, The Graduate Center, CUNY

12:15–1:30 PM

Lunch on your own

1:30–2:45 PM

Where Are the MAFIAs? Moot Court, 6th Floor

Chair: Rebecca Rizzo, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute

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 Conference Room, 9th Floor

Chair: Donna Chirico, York College, CUNY

Early Representations of Organized Crime and Issues of Identity in the Italian-American Press (1890s–1920s), MARINA CACIOPPO, University of 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

3:00–4:15 PM

Race and the Gangster Poses Moot Court, 6th Floor

Chair: Peter Vellon, Queens College, CUNY

“There is no *Mano Nera* in North Beach!” Crime and Race in San Francisco’s Italian-America, TOMMASO CAIAZZA, Ca’ Foscari University of 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 Conference Room, 9th Floor

Chair: Angelino Balodimas-Bartolomei, North Park University

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 Powers Moot Court, 6th Floor

Chair: George De Stefano, Independent Scholar

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 Conference Room, 9th Floor

Chair: Fred Gardaphé, Queens College, CUNY

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

9:00–9:30 AM

Coffee & pastries

9:30–10:45 AM

From Chicago to Philadelphia and Back Again Conference Room

Chair: Dominick Carielli, Brooklyn College, CUNY

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 La Galleria

Chair: Siân Gibby, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute

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

11:00 AM–12:15 PM

Plenary: Pax Mafiosa or War?: Twenty Years after the Palermo Massacres **Conference Room**

Moderator: Anthony Julian Tamburri, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute

Speaker: Vincenzo Scotti, President, Link University (Rome)

Respondent: Ottorino Capelli, University of Naples “L’Orientale”

12:15–1:30 PM

Lunch on your own

1:30–2:45 PM

The Photographic Work of Letizia Battaglia and Franco Zecchin **Conference Room**

Chair: Joseph Sciorra, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute

“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

3:00–4:15 PM

Sicilian Anti-Mafia: Education and Land Reform **Conference Room**

Chair: Peter T. Schneider, Fordham University

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 La Galleria

Chair: Dana Renga, The Ohio State University

“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

4:30–6:00 PM

Gender and Comparative Approaches to Media Depictions

Conference Room

Chair: Paula M. Salvio, University of New Hampshire

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