



CONFERENCE  
APRIL 24–25, 2015

# Bambini Ragazzi Giovani

Children and Youth in Italy  
and the Italian Diaspora



CALANDRA  
ITALIAN  
AMERICAN  
INSTITUTE

Photo: Stephen Nessen

# Bambini, Ragazzi, Giovani

## Children and Youth in Italy and the Italian Diaspora

The Italian family has been a quintessential subject for scholarly research and creative work in Italy and among various diasporic communities, with matters relating to children and youth receiving significant exploration. In the United States, notable inquiries concerning youth issues include sociologist William Foote Whyte's urban ethnography *Street Corner Society*, 1943, and educator Leonard Covello's *The Social Background of the Italo-American School Child*, 1967. The twenty-first century brings new lines of inquiry as well as previously unexplored issues, such as changing family structures, Internet culture, and increased migratory movement.

Novels like Edmondo De Amicis's *Sull'oceano*, 1889, and Melania Mazzucco's *Vita*, 2003, examine the lives of children immigrating to the Americas, while the memoirs *Nero di Puglia*, 1980, by Antonio Campobasso, and *The Skin Between Us*, 2006, by Kym Ragusa, movingly discuss the childhoods of their biracial authors. Although scholars have discussed youth culture and its media depictions, e.g., *Guidos* and *Jersey Shore*, little work has been done on topics like consumer culture that targets children—from picture books to Disney films to video games—that use Italian-American and Italian ethnic characters.

Working from interdisciplinary and transnational perspectives, this conference seeks to expand and update knowledge concerning historical and contemporary childhood and youth in Italy and among the diaspora and former colonial sites.

## THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2015

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**6:00–8:00 PM**

### **Welcome & Reception**

ANTHONY JULIAN TAMBURRI, Dean, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute  
FÉLIX MATOS RODRÍGUEZ, President, Queens College, CUNY

## FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2015

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**9:00–9:30 am**

Coffee and pastries

**9:30–10:45 am**

### **Psychological and Sociological Approaches** [Conference Room](#)

Chair: ANGELYN BALODIMAS-BARTOLOMEI, North Park University

Career Counseling with Italian-American College Students Using a Cultural Formulation Approach, DOMINICK CARIELLI, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, Queens College, CUNY

Italian-American Fathers and Daughters: A Psychological Narrative of Childhood and Adolescence, LORRAINE MANGIONE, Antioch University New England and DONNA DICELLO, Yale Medical School

Italian-American Identity: Results from a Study of New York's Italian-American Youth Population, ROSEMARY SERRA, University of Trieste

**11am–12:15 pm**

**Little Gendered Bodies** Conference Room

Chair: TERESA FIORE, Montclair State University

Conflicting Portrayals of Growing Up Female in Nineteenth-Century Italy:  
The Case of Anna Zuccari, in arte Neera, LISA DOWNWARD, Marist College  
Bodies in Trans(l)nation: Mapping Children's Desire and Pain in Melania  
Mazzucco's *Vita*, EVA P. SAÑUDO, University of Oviedo

**12:15–1:30 pm**

Lunch on your own

**1:30–2:45 pm**

**Keynote** Conference Room

Imagining and Designing the Future in Italy, 1977–2014: Children's  
Participation in Urban Planning, RAYMOND LORENZO, The Umbra Institute  
Perugia

**3–4:15 pm**

**Literary Representations** Conference Room

Chair: FRED GARDAPHÈ, Queens College, CUNY

Escape from Modernity: Frances Hodgson Burnett's Italian Children,  
LEONARDO BUONOMO, University of Trieste

La Merica for Children: Luigi Capuana and *Gli Americani di Rabbato*, CHIARA  
MAZZUCHELLI, University of Central Florida

Searching for the Culturally Conscious in Children's Fiction with Italian-  
American Characters, LISA PAOLUCCI, Columbia University

**4:30–5:45 pm**

**Film and Literature in Italy** Conference Room

Chair: PETER VELLON, Queens College, CUNY

The Children Are Watching Us: Youngsters and Parents in Italian Neorealist Cinema, FRANK P. TOMASULO, Pace University

Internal Journeys from Childhood to Adulthood in Elena Ferrante's Novels, FRED MISURELLA, East Stroudsburch University

Chinese Youth in Contemporary Italian Cinema, MARY ANN McDONALD CAROLAN, Fairfield University

**SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2015**

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**9:00–9:30 am**

Coffee and pastries

**9:30–10:45 am**

**Children in Italy and Beyond** Conference Room

Chair: ROBERT OPPEDISANO, Editor

Suffer the Children: The Mafia's "Code of Honor" and the Murder of Italian Youth, LION CALANDRA, Journalist

Fitting In and Acceptance: Challenges Faced and Strategies Adopted with Peers from Childhood through Early Adulthood in Italy, the United States, and Abroad, JANE MCCALL POLITI, Independent Scholar

The Dilemmas of Second-Generation Immigrants in Italy, ROBERT GAROT, John Jay College, CUNY

**11 am–12:15 pm**

**Colonial Pursuits and Racial Paradigms** [Conference Room](#)

Chair: NANCY CARNEVALE, Montclair State University

Youth, Racism, and Violence Onscreen in Fascist Italy, ANNEMARIE TAMIS-  
NASELLO, Fashion Institute of Technology, SUNY

Testimonial Literature: Grazia Arnese Grimaldi and 13,000 Italian-Libyan  
Children and Youth Forgotten by History, ROSARIO POLLICINO, University of  
Western Ontario

Antonio Campobasso and His “Brothers” and “Sisters”: The Plight of Black  
Soldiers’ Biracial Children in Postwar Italy, STEFANO LUCONI, University of  
Padua

**Italian-American Memoirs** [La Galleria](#)

Chair: FRED GARDAPHÈ, Queens College, CUNY

Running from Ozone: How the Mafia Drove Me to Grad School, CAROLINE  
PARI-PFISTERER, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY

It’s a Free Country, but the Freedom Wasn’t Free, JOSEPH COSCO, Old  
Dominion University

The Iron Shoes, PHYLLIS CAPELLO, Author

**12:15–1:30 pm**

Lunch on your own

**1:30–2:45 pm**

**Italian Lessons: Three Cases of Assimilation Efforts** [Conference Room](#)

Chair: ERICA MORETTI, Mount Holyoke College

Molding Italy's Newest Children: Language Education in Alto Adige, 1919–1929, EDEN K. MCLEAN, Auburn University

Teaching to Be American: Angelo Patri, Maria Montessori and the Quest for Integrating the Italian-American Child, ERICA MORETTI, Mount Holyoke College

Growing Up “Fascist,” MARISA GIORGI, The Ohio State University

**3–4:15 pm**

**History's Children: Exploited, Abandoned, Saved** [Conference Room](#)

Chair: CHIARA MAZZUCHELLI, University of Central Florida

Little Aliens of a Beaten Race: Immigrant Newsboys and Newsgirls in the United States, 1880s–1920s, VINCENT DIGIROLAMO, Baruch College, CUNY

Talking with Spartaco, Bob Schirru in Milan, Illinois, LUC NEMETH, Independent Scholar

A Haven in East Harlem: Home Garden Settlement/Haarlem House/LaGuardia Memorial House, LULU LOLO PASCALE, Playwright

**Pedagogical Case Studies** [La Galleria](#)

Chair: JOSEPH COSCO, Old Dominion University

Rev. Pasquale Codella and La Scuola Dante in Waterbury, Connecticut, MICHAEL S. GENOVESE, Italian Genealogical Group

The Italianization of John Cabot as a Paradoxical Source of Pride for Italian-Canadian Youth, KRYSTA PANDOLFI, York University

The Depiction of Italian Youth and Culture in Foreign-Language Textbooks, ANGELYN BALODIMAS-BARTOLOMEI, North Park University

**4:30–5:45 pm**

**The Influence of Grandparenting on Personal Development**

Conference Room

Chair: DONNA CHIRICO, York College, CUNY

Family Memory and Its Thrust toward the Future, ROSSANA DEL ZIO,  
Journalist

Caring for the Caregiver, CARMEN MORANO, Hunter College, CUNY

The Role of Grandparents in Developing and Maintaining an Ethnic Identity  
in Post-Immigrant Generations, KATHRYN ALESSANDRIA, West Chester  
University



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