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Cari Amici,

This edition of *il Bollettino* comes to you full of information about past and future programming and projects of the Calandra Institute. We hope you enjoy its contents, and please do not hesitate to contact us for any other information you might desire.

On behalf of everyone at the Institute, I wish you a very happy and healthy holiday season.

Buone feste!

— Anthony Julian Tamburri Dean and Distinguished Professor

RECENTLY PUBLISHED BY THE CALANDRA INSTITUTE!



TRANSACTIONS • VOLUME 3 ISBN 978-1-939323-03-3 Intercomprehension and Plurilingualism: Assets for Italian Language in the USA

EDITORS: Roberto Dolci and Anthony Julian Tamburri CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS: Elisabette Bonvino, Carlo Davoli, Roberto Dolci, Clorinda Donato, Pierre Escudé, Fabrizio Fornara, Diane Hartunian, Ida Lanza, Markus Muller, Cedric Joseph Oliva, Barbara Spinelli, Anthony Tamburri, Diego Cortés Velásquez, Irene Zanini-Cordi

Calandra Institute Conference APRIL 29-30, 2016 MIGRATING OBJECTS Material Culture and Italian Identities

Material culture is inextricably tied to social identities, which are negotiated, reproduced, or contested through spatial and temporal shifts. Material culture studies recognizes how objects are made and subsequently move from one environment to another. The migration and recontextualization of things provide opportunities for transvaluation, when new and evolving meanings are ascribed to inanimate objects at the same time that pre-existing ideologies linger in new places. For example, we see this reinterpretation over time with the Christopher Columbus monument in Pueblo, Colorado, erected in 1905. A symbol of publicly displayed ethnicity born out of historical moments, today the statue is a contested site where members of a pluralistic society challenge the fifteenth-century Genovese navigator's legacy. Such shifts occur in much less publicly visible or problematized spaces as well.

This interdisciplinary conference focuses on material culture in the contexts of Italy, its colonies, and its diasporic communities. We are particularly interested in new approaches to the analysis of material culture that draw from the social sciences and the humanities, discovering hitherto unexplored perspectives and expressions.

A CALL FOR WOMEN'S NARRATIVES: From blue collar baby boomers to American dreamers

Little has been written of the psychological processes that accompany the transition from blue-collar work to white-collar life. Even scarcer are the stories of pioneering Italian Americans who, unlike their blue-collar families, engaged in the arduous journey as first-generation college goers. The life stories of Italian American women, however, are the most difficult to come by as they are virtually absent from the small body of social-psychological literature that forms a foundation for this project. It is their stories that the editors wish to collect, document, and illuminate in a forthcoming book to be published by the Calandra Institute.

Are you an Italian American female baby-boomer, born into a blue-collar family, who later transcended your background to achieve higher levels of education and socioeconomic status? If so, the editors are soliciting narratives documenting your personal journey. To participate, respondents must meet all of the following criteria:

• Italian American women who are single, married, divorced, or partnered;

• Baby-boomers born between the years 1946-1964;

• Nuclear family of blue-collar background (educationally and socioeconomically);

• Attained a professional level of education: PhD, EdD, PsyD, JD, MD, DDS, MBA.

Although your choice to participate in this special collection will require time, effort, and psychological reflection, it is our hope that the construction of your narrative will be a rich and nourishing journey. Sharing these narratives will not only serve to fill a gap in the literature, but will also provide both women and men with a heightened awareness of the educational, socioeconomic, and emotional factors that undergird the slow but steady transition from a family-centered blue-collar life in search of upward mobility and the American dream.

If you are interested in participating, contact the editors to obtain suggested guidelines for constructing your narrative: Dr. Mariagrace LaRusso: Maria.LaRusso@ qc.cuny.edu, or Dr. Nancy Ziehler: Nancy.Ziehler@ baruch.cuny.edu.

SAVE THE DATE

DONNA CHIRICO APPOINTED DEAN for York College School of Arts and Sciences

Donna Chirico, professor at York College, CUNY, and chair of the intercollege Italian American Faculty and Staff Advisory Council, has been appointed Dean for the School of Arts and Sciences at York College, CUNY.

Dr. Chirico holds a B.A. in psychology from York College, CUNY, an M.A. in counseling psychology from Fordham University, and an Ed.D. in religion and education from Teachers College, Columbia University. Dr. Chirico, a developmental psychologist, began her faculty tenure in the department of behavioral sciences more than twenty years ago. In addition to being a master teacher, and a student and faculty mentor, she served the college in numerous leadership positions. Since 2013, she has served as interim Dean for the School of Arts and Sciences.

In these positions Dr. Chirico was involved in critical college and university program development and implementation, including the CUNY Pathways general education reorganization, and CUNYfirst implementation and assessment. Dr. Chirico also led the development of new academic programs at York College, including the development of the Reserve Officer Training Corps program housed in the Department of Behavioral Sciences. Dr. Chirico is active as a mentor to students, with many of her mentees pursuing and earning advanced degrees.

Dr. Chirico is an active scholar whose research explores imagination and identity, particularly ethnic identity in psychological development. She has been a faculty fellow of the Calandra Institute, studying the educational attainment and ethnic identity development of Italian Americans. Dr. Chirico has published numerous articles and presents her scholarship at conferences and invited lectures in the United States and Italy, building faculty and student partnerships and collaborations with CUNY and Italian universities. This article was adapted from the York College news webpage: https://www.york.cuny.edu/news.

THE 2016 COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP HANDBOOK FOR ITALIAN AMERICAN STUDENTS AND STUDENTS OF ITALIAN STUDIES is available to download at http://gcpages.gc.edu/calandra/resources/scholarships/scholarships or contact the Calandra Institute to have a printed copy mailed to you.

TELEVISION FOR THE ITALIAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

Highlights from recent *Italics* broadcasts include:



Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library. "Frank Sinatra" The New York Public Library Digital Collections.



May 2015: Genealogist Mary Tedesco of Origins Italy joined Italics in the studio to unlock the door to knowing our ancestry; Director Francesco Munzi discussed his film Black Souls (Anime nere), in which a Calabrian family struggles with its place in society, between retaining its power via the 'ndrangheta and breaking free from archaically violent ways in a society that doesn't leave much choice.

June 2015: An old-school pizzeria in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, alters tradition to accommodate its changing clientele; Marina Benedetto of Yeah Dawg talked about her vegan, gluten-free hot dogs; and Italics went to Albany to attend the annual New York Conference of Italian American State Legislators.

ITALICS

July 2015: Journalist and poet Maria Lisella discussed her recent award as Queens Poet Laureate; Professoressa Margherita taught us Italian summertime words.

August 2015: Italics went to the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts for a conversation with author Charles Granata amidst the official exhibition of the Frank Sinatra Centennial, "Sinatra: An American Icon." Granata discussed the vast musical legend the performer left behind, as well as the man beyond the talent that earned Sinatra the sobriquet "The Voice" for his political activity and commitment to social justice.

Italics premieres the last Wednesday of every month at 10:00 AM, 3:00 PM, 11:00 PM, and is rebroadcast on the first Saturday of every month at 8:00 PM and the first Sunday at 10:00 AM, on CUNY-TV Channel 75 and RCN Channel 77, in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island, and the Bronx.

Italics can be viewed on demand at

NY 75 cuny.tv/show/italics





youtube.com/ItalicsTV



Ryan Calabretta-Sajder, University of Arkansas

Picture it: Sicily, Summer, 2015. Well, not exactly. As Italian Americans, many of us grew up listening to the anecdotes of Sofia Petrillo, a character in the well-known television show *The Golden Girls*. This time around however, the story does not take place on the island of Sicily, but rather on the toe of the boot—Calabria.

For three weeks, twenty three academics—six faculty and seventeen scholars—gathered at the University of Calabria, Arcavacata di Rende to seriously engage in the examination of the Italian diaspora. From the concept and adoption of the word *diaspora* with all of its connotations, to its application within the Italian context; all aspects of migration were analyzed, critiqued, lectured about, and considered.

The Italian Diaspora Studies Summer School offered the young scholars six courses to explore the various aspects revolving around diaspora studies: Italian American literature, Italian Americans in the media, Italian vernacular culture, Italian Canadian studies, history of the Italian diasporas, and Calabria as background to the Italian American experience. The six professors, Dr. Anthony Julian Tamburri, Dr. Fred Gardaphé, Dr. Margherita Ganeri, Dr. Joseph Sciorra, Dr. Marcella Bencivenni, and Dr. Donato Santaremo, all leading scholars in the field of Italian diaspora, created an academic environment aimed at critically examining the Italian situation.

As indicated by the course themes, the Calabria summer program breaks academic barriers by exploring the Italian diaspora with a multifaceted, interdisciplinary approach. For example, although it is possible to study Italian American literature and cinema only at a handful of American universities, where can one study Italian American vernacular culture along with literature, cinema, and even history?

The only possibility is in Calabria.

If the dynamic courses were not enough to pique intellectual curiosity, then the numerous invited lectures

surely would. Ironically, many of the guest lecturers were or are migrants themselves, providing not only an academically themed discourse, but also personal outlooks on what it truly means to be a part of the Italian diaspora. During the first week, Dr. Marta Petrusewicz presented on "Italian Diasporas and the Multiplicity of Belonging," and artist William Papaleo addressed "Returning to the Source: Identity and Art." Week two advanced the group's knowledge with Stefano Luconi's "Transnationalism in Institutional Politics and the Italian Diaspora in the United States" along with Donna Chirico's "The Psychological Consequences of Losing Your Roots and the Need for Reclaiming an Authentic Ethnic Identity." And the final lecture with Cristina Lombardi-Diop culminated with "Beyond the Mediterranean: Voices and Discourses from the Southern Front." The lecture series aimed to expand the interdisciplinary topics not necessarily presented within the six foundational courses, and this objective was successfully met. In fact, if the inter-relatedness was not already addressed through the discussions held during the receptions, it was done in the various classes, or even while sharing a meal in the cafeteria.

Each of the six foundational classes played a role in considering the overarching theme of the Italian diaspora, yet one project brought all of the ideas together. In one seminar, participants were challenged to create a project, creative or academic, and to workshop in groups so that by the end of the three weeks, each project was organized and ready for the next step. This activity truly brought to life individual research interests in a broader context, allowing for collaboration with colleagues of similar, but also completely contrary interests. For me personally, the project inspired two new articles, one that has already evolved into a keynote lecture. The program initiated a "think tank" of scholars ready to not only collaborate collectively, but also continue to explore individually the importance of the Italian diaspora.



Now to return to my opening thought—Calabria, 2015! Why Calabria?

Although for many Italian Americans, and even Italophiles, Calabria may seem "off the beaten path" of the typical tourist vacation in Italy, for centuries quite the opposite has been true:

Now don't tell me a quintessential Wasp like you has Calabrian ancestors. That's too much! Although I always did wonder about your dark looks. Do you suppose some of those Englishmen who were always walking through Calabria in the nineteenth century stopped off in Castagna and begot a love child who is your ancestor? (Barolini, 1998)

As the above citation from Helen Barolini's Umbertina underscores, many an Englishman passed through Calabria during the historical period of The Grand Tour and wrote about his experiences there. Barolini's 1979 novel includes scenes from Calabria, tracing three generations of Italian and Italian American women back to their Calabrian roots. Long before 1979 however, the Calabrian diaspora to the United States was already well documented. From 1870 until the Great Depression (1930), roughly five million Italians emigrated to the United States of America, over 75 percent hailing from the south, primarily Sicily and Calabria; others would later follow. It only seems natural that an Italian diaspora summer school would be hosted in Southern Italy.

The University of Calabria is the first Italian university to require its masters degree students to enroll in courses on the diaspora. Therefore, it seems fitting that a program of this nature be hosted there. But to be rather frank, the University of Calabria's faculty and staff made us feel welcome. They went out of their way to enter into our lives, hosting and inviting us to events within and beyond the walls of the campus, even if it was only for three weeks. They wanted us to be there; we felt and appreciated that sensation. In addition, the administration made it clear that they would like to continue our relationships through a variety of measures: exchange agreements, visiting scholar positions, etc. In those three weeks, whether Italian, Italian American, Spanish, or German, we all became *parte di una famiglia italiana*, we all made the trip that Marguerite did in *Umbertina*.

To conclude, this program would have never been a reality without the hard work, dedication, and vision of the three directors: Anthony Julian Tamburri, Fred Gardaphé, and Margherita Ganeri. They have worked tirelessly not only to create a three-week summer school, but rather, to change the approach within the fields of Italian, American, and migration studies. This is no easy task! Knowing these three colleagues on a personal level, I am confident that the summer school is just the beginning; more prestigious and exciting things are sure to present themselves soon.

As the African proverb states, "It takes a village to raise a child." The same is applicable in any situation that aspires to change a set mentality. For this reason, the participants are truly indebted for all the outside support provided to make this vision a reality. In collaboration with the directors, numerous Italian and Italian American organizations helped underwrite the program and offer scholarships for the participants, to offset costs that otherwise would have impeded the ability of many of us to attend. We are grateful to the following organizations for sharing in our vision of veritas within the Italian diaspora: National Italian American Foundation, American Association of Teachers of Italian, Order Sons of Italy in America-Grand Lodge New York, Italian Language Inter-Cultural Alliance, Italian American Studies Association, UNICO National, and Association of Italian American Educators. Thank you again and I hope you continue this groundbreaking effort so that future scholars can have the opportunity to engage in such an enlightened exploration of the Italian diaspora.



IN PIAZZA

MONTEDORO: A Film by Antonello Faretta



DIRECTORS NOTES

One day, while I was traveling through my region, I found myself in an abandoned place. A village that had become a ghost town after a landslide fifty years ago. And then an American woman, looking for her mother, appeared in this disintegrating carcass that had once been a community. This woman was searching through the ghosts, the dead that lay on the hill where the village rested. I convinced myself that I had to stay there and search through the cracks of this village and dissect this woman's life story. Perhaps there, among the ruins of Montedoro, I would be able to find my homeland too.

— ANTONELLO FARETTA

PROMOTING THE STUDY OF ITALIAN AT QUEENS COLLEGE, CUNY AND BEYOND

Joseph Grosso

Each year the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute disseminates numerous ongoing programs to promote the study of Italian. Two of those are *Il Giornalino* and the Perugia Italian Language and Culture Summer Program.

Il Giornalino was first published in 2003 as a special edition of *ciao–queens college*, a monthly newsletter featuring events of interest to the Queens College community. In 2014 the journal expanded to include high school student writing and, with the support of Senator Serphin Maltese, a grant for the project was obtained and awarded for several years.

The primary objectives of *Il Giornalino* are to expose students to and foster interest in the Italian language while also strengthening Italian language programs. The journal faciliates linkages with high school and college Italian programs, communication among teachers, the exchange of information between schools, and identification of careers where knowledge of Italian is an asset or primary requisite.

Il Giornalino is comprised of writings from students in Italian classes throughout New York City and includes beginner through advanced writing. Submissions can be in any format, including essay, poetry, fiction, and nonfiction. For more information or to view past editions of *Il Giornalino* visit the publications > newsletters section of the Calandra Institute website at http://qcpages.qc.cuny.edu/calandra/publications/ newsletters/newsletters.

During the same period, the Perugia Study Abroad program was developed. This program offers students a stimulating immersive environment in central Italy. In collaboration with Queens College and Università per Stranieri di Perugia, the program facilitates fluency in Italian language and exposure to Italian culture. All program activities are designed to increase interaction with native speakers and encourage conversation in Italian. Students can visit major cities in Italy and attend cultural events, such as concerts, conferences, and film screenings, organized by the university.

The medieval city of Perugia, capital of Umbria, is located between Rome and Florence, near Siena, Assisi, Cortona, and other hill towns in Umbria and Tuscany. Students can earn six credits in Italian in a four-week session in June or July, or twelve credits in an eight-week session from June through July. For more information, contact program coordinator Joseph Grosso via email: joseph.grosso@qc.cuny.edu.



Perugia is the capital city of Umbria in central Italy, a region known as the "green heart" of Italy.

ITALIAN AMERICAN REVIEW 5.2 ABSTRACTS

Special Issue on Italian American Foodways, Rocco Marinaccio and Peter Naccarato, Guest Editors

Now "That's Italian": Food, Culture, and the Gendering of Italian American Identity, by Annette Cozzi

My earliest awareness of my Italian American identity comes via a commercial for Prince Spaghetti, which first aired in 1969, when I was three years old, and which ran for thirteen years. In it, a blousy Italian American woman leans out a window and shrieks, "Anthony! Anthony!" (At the time, of course, I didn't appreciate the ironic subtexts of an Italian woman framed in a window, a favorite motif of Renaissance artists.) We then see Anthony running through the sepia-toned streets of a major city, of which he is clearly master, a young urban prince, while the kitchen-bound women of the family prepare dinner. My next memory is a Ragú ad: a frankly fat woman stands before an enormous bubbling cauldron, stirring, stirring, while her son, who could be Anthony's older brother, pops in from the outdoors and samples her sauce. Prego ads and even Alka Seltzer capitalized on this "ideal" of the maternal Italian American woman, usually fat, invariably aproned, somehow simultaneously loud and silenced, who exists solely to serve men. This autoethnographic article analyzes these food commercials and examines how media representations of "That's Italian!" (cue twirled mustachios and pinched cheeks) participated in the gendering of Italian American identity, particularly my own. Drawing upon feminist theory and existing scholarship in food studies, I explore how and why I fought against and contravened the messages embedded in not only commercials such as these, but also in other cultural formations, and what I gained-and what I lost-by rejecting them.

Café au Lait to Latte: Charting the Acquisition of Culinary Capital by Italian Food in the United States, by Zachary Nowak

Not so long ago, Italian American food had just slightly more cultural cachet than Mexican food in the United States, rucola was unknown, and an espresso in milk was known as a café au lait. The last few decades, and especially the last ten years, have seen a tremendous rise in the status of Italian food, to the point where it has not only largely unseated French food as the most chic cuisine, but also enjoyed enormous popularity among middle-class Americans (witness the explosion of the Olive Garden chain). Previous authors have discussed the historical factors in Italy that set the stage for the creation of a new cuisine in North America (Diner), or the evolution of that cuisine in the last 125 years (Levenstein). This article does not take sides in the battle over historicized claims about whether Italian American food is a valid cuisine, or whether it is "authentic," but rather it identifies and analyzes the "take-off moment" of its current popularity and cultural significance more empirically. In other words, when did Italianate food move from being popular fare to being high-end cuisine? In answer to this question, the present investigation determines the chronological take-off point of Italianate food and suggests a conjuncture of historical variables responsible for this take-off. I contend that this conjuncture was not invisible and subtle but instead quite visible, a result of the rising status, or "culinary capital," of Italianate food. This article's findings are based on an analysis of a representative sample of *Bon Appétit* issues from the last forty years. An evaluation of the advertising rhetoric, culinary discourse, and the visual culture of this important middle-class culinary publication makes clear that there was indeed a distinct "moment" where Italianate food overtook its French-inspired rival.

The Italian Roots of the Artisanal Food Movement in the United States, by Suzanne Cope

The consumer demand for "artisanal" foods has been on a steep rise over the past decade, with the National Association for the Specialty Food Trade finding that specialty-foods sales grew by 19.1 percent from 2009 to 2011, and in 2011 26 percent of specialty-food consumers specifically sought out "artisan" products. Further, since the start of the new millennium, the number of specialty-food makers—such as cheesemakers, whose numbers have doubled since 2000—has grown exponentially, and the availability of, and demand for, traditionally produced "artisanal" products has increased. This meteoric rise is in part because of the growing interest in global food culture, traditional methods of preparation and preservation, the American-coined locavorism movement, and the Italian-born "Slow Food" ethos.

However, while there has been much focus on the new entrepreneurs who are entering the market as "artisanal" food purveyors in the last decade, the prevalence of food artisans in Italian American food culture has been apparent for generations. In fact, the term *artisanal*, which has been recently co-opted by mass marketers to hawk products from pizza to potato chips, comes from the Italian word *artigiano*, which means an artisan or craftsman, and is understood to describe someone who makes a specific product or provides a specialized service with a high degree of skill. *Artisanal* should be thus defined as a product that is made by an artisan, and is most properly used to describe something that is hand-made, unique, and high-quality—the very opposite of mass-produced.

This article argues that there is a strong influence of generations-old Italian American foodways upon today's artisanal food boom, and particularly in the areas of charcuterie and cheese-making, Italian American artisans have helped pave the way for today's artisanal and small-batch food culture. Combining historical references, narrative profiles, and original research that includes interviews with Italian American food artisans and a broad-based look at the state of artisanal food today, the article details the influence that Italian American food artisans have upon this modern food trend of the past decade. Further, it looks at the landscape of the artisanal food movement today and traces its roots back to Italian American food traditions, illustrating the indelible effect these purveyors have had on modern American food culture.



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 5, NUMBER 2 includes:

Introduction to the Special Issue on Italian American Foodways, Rocco Marinaccio and Peter Naccarato, Guest Editors
Now, "*That's* Italian": Food, Culture, and the Gendering of Italian American Identity, Annette Cozzi
Café au lait to Latte: Charting the Acquisition of Culinary Capital by Italian Food in the United States, Zachary Nowak
The Italian Roots of the Artisanal Food Movement in the United States, Suzanne Cope

For more information, go to qc.edu/calandra. Under the publications menu, click on Italian American Review.

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FALL 2015 PUBLIC PROGRAMS

PHILIP V. CANNISTRARO SEMINAR SERIES IN ITALIAN AMERICAN STUDIES

Thursday, October 1, 2015 at 6pm

An Unlikely Union: The Love-Hate Story of New York's Irish and Italians, PAUL MOSES, Brooklyn College, CUNY

Monday, October 26, 2015 at 6pm

Immigrants against the State: Yiddish and Italian Anarchism in America, KENYON ZIMMER, University of Texas at Arlington

WRITERS READ SERIES

Thursday, September 17, 2015 at 6pm

MARY JO BONA reads from *I Stop Waiting for You* (Bordighera Press, 2014) LOUISA CALIO reads from *Journey to the Heart Waters* (Legas, 2014) GEORGE GUIDA reads from *The Sleeping Gulf* (Bordighera Press, 2015)

Wednesday, December 2, 2015 at 6pm MARK CHIUSANO reads from *Marine Park*:

Stories (Penguin Books, 2014)

DOCUMENTED ITALIANS FILM AND VIDEO SERIES

Monday, December 14, 2015

Way Down in the Hole (2010), 40 min., Alex Johnston, dir.

EXHIBITION

Reframing Italian America: Historical Photographs and Immigrant Representations On view May 28, 2015–January 8, 2016 GALLERY HOURS: MONDAY–FRIDAY, 9AM–5PM



All events are held at the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, 25 West 43rd Street, 17th floor, New York NY 10036. RSVP by calling (212) 642-2094. Please note that seating is limited and seats cannot be reserved in advance.



