



Cari Amici,

In this issue of *il Bollettino* you will find exciting news about what is happening at the Calandra Institute and within the various affiliated communities.

I ask at the outset that you mark your calendars for April 27–29, 2017, our ninth annual conference, this year devoted to the “Soundscapes of *Italianità*.” I also want to point out the special issue of the *Italian American Review* dedicated to Italian Americans and television. Ironically, while the history of television in the United States is chock full of Italian Americans and Italians, the scholarship is minimal; this issue becomes fundamental in this regard. Both projects are organized by our Academic and Cultural Programs staff.

Speaking of television, our program *Italics* continues to thrive and garner the attention of many. Most recently, we received a generous grant from the Francesco and Mary Giambelli Foundation for program development. For those beyond the five boroughs of New York, you can now enjoy *Italics* on channel NYC 25.3, which is broadcast to many parts of the tri-state area.

As you will also see, the innovative work within the sociological and demographic realms of Italian American studies continues. After much research on the Italian American workforce among civil service employment in New York City and New York State, we presented the results this past October. Along with former First Lady of New York State, Matilda Cuomo, a number of elected officials and representatives of the National Council of Columbian Associations participated in the special event.

Our Career Counseling Center has seen its own expansion this year from one day per week to two. As we move forward, we will continue to evaluate the current schedule, so keep your eyes on our website for the latest updates.

We welcome your insights and questions via email at calandra@qc.edu and hope you enjoy all that you read in these pages.

Buona lettura!

Anthony Julian Tamburri

Dean and Distinguished Professor

Calandra Institute Annual Conference

APRIL 27–29, 2017

ITALIAN SONORITIES AND ACOUSTIC COMMUNITIES Listening to the Soundscapes of *Italianità*

In his 1983 book *Acoustic Communication*, Barry Truax defined acoustic communities as “any soundscape in which acoustic information plays a pervasive role in the lives of the inhabitants. . . . The community is linked and defined by its sounds.”

Where do we find and how can we hear the Italian acoustic communities that have existed in the historical past and that exist today? Beginning with a transnational understanding of *italianità* that encompasses modern Italy, including its diaspora and former colonies, such soundscapes can be composed of the *cocoliche* pidgin of Argentina, Mussolini’s rabble-rousing broadcasts from the balcony of Piazza Venezia, Frank Sinatra’s *bel canto* vocal styling, and the clanging of sheep bells during the transhumance.

Sounds engender familiarity and intimacy, creating spaces of shared identity. This interdisciplinary conference focuses on Italian sonorities broadly defined in order to discover unexplored perspectives and expressions of such movements and identities.

ANNOUNCING

Call for Submissions

SPECIAL ISSUE OF *VOICES IN ITALIAN AMERICANA*: THE CONTEMPORARY FOLKTALE

The journal *Voices in Italian Americana* is seeking essays for a special issue honoring Italian folktales. Writers may submit an original folktale of their own creation, or choose a folktale from an existing source (such as Calvino’s *Italian Folktales*, *Italian American Folklore* by Malpezzi and Clements, *Italian Folktales in America* by Mathias and Raspa) and rewrite it from a modern Italian American perspective, taking into account how Italian culture, traditions, ethnicity, and family life have changed.

Submit your finished story, of no more than 1500 words, via email to issue editor Nick DiChario at ndichario@gmail.com.

Include a brief paragraph explaining why you want to write or rewrite the folktale. Only previously unpublished work will be accepted. Contributing authors will receive one copy of the special issue and a discount on purchased copies. Submissions are due June 1, 2017. For more information visit bordigherapress.org.



NEW YORK CITY MAYOR'S OFFICE CELEBRATES ITALIAN HERITAGE

The Mayor's Office of Special Projects and Community Events (MOSPCE) hosted a celebration of Italian culture on October 6, 2016. MOSPCE's events highlight the diversity and civic contributions of New York's many heritage groups. The Italian Heritage reception at Gracie Mansion featured fine Italian wines and brick oven pizza made on site and celebrated the work of actor and filmmaker John Turturro as the evening's guest of honor. The event was attended by New York City elected officials and other members of the community.



First Lady of New York City Chirlane McCray, Dean Anthony Tamburri, and Mayor Bill De Blasio

TELEVISION FOR THE ITALIAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

ITALICS

This October, *Italics* celebrated its tenth season of Italian Heritage and Culture Month Specials. In a recent episode, *Italics* producer and correspondent Lucia Grillo interviewed three women who hold significant positions within city institutions and cultural organizations.

Maria Tamburri, Chair of the National Organization of Italian American Women, joined *Italics* in the studio to discuss the organization's mission and activities.

Janet DiFiore, Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals and of the State of New York, is the second woman to hold this position. DiFiore was nominated by Governor Andrew Cuomo and confirmed by the New York State Senate in early 2016. In this interview, DiFiore outlined the responsibilities of her appointment and the initiatives to which she is committed.

Maria T. Vullo, Superintendent of the New York State Department of Financial Services, was nominated by Governor Cuomo earlier this year, after more than

twenty-five years of legal courtroom experience in civil, criminal, and regulatory arenas in the public and private sectors. Vullo is the first woman to hold this position.

To close the episode, *Italics* stepped onto the red carpet and marched up New York City's Fifth Avenue, meeting with dignitaries, honorees, and others at the 72nd Annual Columbus Day Parade.



Maria Tamburri

Janet DiFiore

Maria Vullo



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



cuny.tv/show/italics



ItalicsTV



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youtube.com/ItalicsTV

Relaunch of the network H-ITALIANDIASPORA

IN PIAZZA

As a member of H-Net Humanities and Social Sciences Online, H-ItalianDiaspora provides an interactive network for scholars and activists working in the interdisciplinary field of Italian Diaspora Studies—including Italian transnational migration, Italian postcolonial studies, and Italian ethnicity in Italy and throughout the Italian diaspora. The network is a communication hub where visitors can discuss, highlight, and disseminate current research, writing, events, and pedagogical projects. New editors Laura E. Ruberto and Joseph Sciorra envision this network as an important site for critical discussions, announcements about new works, calls for papers, and exchange of resources, ideas, and other scholarly initiatives. Register with H-Net and subscribe to H-ItalianDiaspora: <https://networks.h-net.org/h-italiandiaspora>

"Narcotic": Constructing the Mafia—The Nationally Televised New York Hearings of the Kefauver Committee, March 1951, by Michael R. Frontani

This examination of the televised March 1951 Kefauver Committee hearings in New York City presents a textual and rhetorical analysis of media constructs of Italian American organized crime, specifically the Mafia, across a spectrum of contemporaneous mass media. Informed by the contemporary discourse about ethnicity and race, as well as media theory and criticism, the analysis describes the role played by the televised New York City hearings in popularizing both a notion of Italian American domination of American organized crime and the myth of an international crime conspiracy called the Mafia. Also included is an examination of a special episode ("The Tenth Commandment") of the locally televised and New York-based *Steve Allen Show* from 1954 that can be considered emblematic of contemporaneous media in its treatment of organized crime in the wake of the hearings. What emerges here is a construction of criminality inextricably bound to historical precedents and presentations, political ambition, and commerce.

TV Gangsters and the Course of the Italian American Antidefamation Movement, by Laura Cook Kenna

Fifty years before millions of TV viewers wondered at the fate of Tony Soprano, millions of TV viewers wondered at the influence of real-life members of organized-crime groups subpoenaed to testify before Congress and tuned in for tales of Prohibition mobsters being broadcast in prime time. During the last half of the twentieth century, Italian American gangsters appeared on television at three crucial moments that defined and refined the concerns and the protest tactics of the Italian American antidefamation movement. TV gangsters have been a focus of anxiety about misrepresentations of Americans of Italian descent. These same TV *mafiosi* were also crucial constituents in Americans' relationship to television, ranging from the medium's relation to good citizenship or juvenile delinquency to debates over an aesthetic in television that was construed as either pandering or sophisticated. Indeed, these two seemingly separate sets of stakes—the public image of Italian Americans and the public's understanding of television itself—were worked out in tandem in popular discourses

and Italian American activism surrounding the Kefauver and McClellan Crime Committee Hearings, ABC's series *The Untouchables* (1959–1963), and HBO's *The Sopranos* (1999–2007).



Tony Musante and Philip Michael Thomas

Toma to *Baretta*: Mediating Primetime White Ethnicity in the Post-Civil Rights Era, by Kevin Hagopian

Toma (1973–1974) was an iconoclastic one-hour dramatic series on ABC depicting the life of New York detective David Toma. *Toma* was based on the popular memoir of the real legendary Newark detective of the same name who solved dozens of high-profile cases using disguises and impersonations and without firing his gun. After creative conflicts with the show's star, Tony Musante, the series was radically revised to become *Baretta*, a conventional, action-based cop show (1975–1978). *Toma* was unusually socially mature, capitalizing on television's Civil Rights-era enthusiasm for ethnic protagonists (e.g., *Arnie*, *Julia*). In a turbulent age of increasing white ethnic affirmation and defensiveness, *Toma* interrogated post-1968 popular understandings of assimilation, social class, and postwar urbanism. Toma's locus is in his Italian American ethnicity, and the character projects that orientation comfortably and productively onto a larger, multiethnic world. *Toma* must be seen as a key transitional text in the evolution of ethnicity in dramatic series television, moving between an era of unassimilated comic ethnicity (e.g., *The Goldbergs*), and the defensive, revenge-based ethnicity exemplified by *Baretta*.

Structurally central to *Toma* is the interpenetration of the character's home and work lives; approximately one-third of each episode is devoted to an extension of the plotline of the investigative activity into the private sphere. Fundamental to this intertwining is Dave Toma's

New film and digital media review editor of *Italian American Review*

The Calandra Institute is pleased to announce JoAnne Ruvoli as the film and digital media review editor of the *Italian American Review* beginning January 2017. Dr. Ruvoli's academic training and interests include American literary traditions, film and gender studies, and Italian American studies. She received her Ph.D. in American literature with an interdepartmental concentration in Gender and Women's Studies from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 2011. She teaches at Ball State University, in Indiana. Her Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Humanities, at the University of California, Los Angeles, focused on "Cultures in Transnational Perspective." She has published articles and reviews on early cinema, Jane Addams's Hull House, Italian American literary texts, and transnational circuits. In 2008 Ruvoli co-edited a special issue on Mario Puzo for *Voices in Italian Americana* and is currently finishing a book based on her doctoral dissertation, tentatively titled *Framing Ethnicity: Storytelling in Italian American Novels*, which locates Italian American novels from the post-civil rights era in the canonical American literary tradition. In addition to her many academic accomplishments, she has extensive editorial experience, having worked for four years as assistant editor at the fiction journal *Other Voices*. Welcome, JoAnne!

undercover policing, in which he impersonates not merely occupations, but ethnicities, as well—including African Americans. Emerging at a signal moment in the public awareness of Italian American ethnic consciousness and media stereotype (e.g., the founding of the Italian American Civil Rights League and the ensuing controversy over representation in the *Godfather* films and, in general, a growing celebration of European hyphenate identities during the early 1970s), *Toma* anticipated a post-"contributions" Italian American identity.

Cucina Nostra: Italian American Foodways on Television, by Rocco Marinaccio

This essay explores the cultural work of Italian American cooking shows. As Kathleen Collins writes in *Watching What We Eat* (2009), "More than just a how-to or amusement, cooking shows are a unique social barometer." Shows like those hosted by Lidia Bastianich, Mario Batali, and Giada De Laurentiis are, in particular, a primary vehicle for ethnic self-representation. Typically they feature an Italian American host chef in an autobiographical narrative context who is generally in control of programming content. Moreover, as scholarship across disciplines has demonstrated, foodways are conventionally a foundational component of ethnic identity in America, arguably for no ethnic group more than for Italian Americans. Italian American cooking shows have, however, largely been overlooked both in media studies of Italian American ethnicity (which routinely focus on representations of food in film) and in the growing body of work on Italian/Italian American cuisine in the United States. Overall, in fact, scholarship on television food shows has bypassed ethnic programming, focusing instead on issues of class.

The goal of this essay, then, is to address these variant scholarly gaps by studying the Italian American cooking show through a more multifaceted critical lens than is typically turned upon culinary television, deploying the interdisciplinary methodology of food studies and thereby restoring to TV foodways the context of the material culinary traditions from which they arise. In so doing, it expands on the mode of inquiry central to Thomas J. Ferraro's *Feeling Italian* (2005), studying these shows in order to identify the "patterns or structures of feeling [that] are demonstrably Italian." These structures of feeling help shape Italian American identity, offering not simply Italian Americans but all Americans a way to "feel Italian" through the performance of the basic human activities of cooking and eating. In particular, the piece examines the ways in which Italian American foodways and identities are negotiated in and mediated by television. A central issue is the fundamental challenge

for Italian American food programming: How do cooking shows represent in a mass medium the domestic ritual of the Italian family meal? In sum, the evolution of this domestic ritual into televised spectacle is a case study in the mediation and commodification of ethnic identity, in which foodways that were once a marker of difference transformed and were transformed by mainstream American culture.

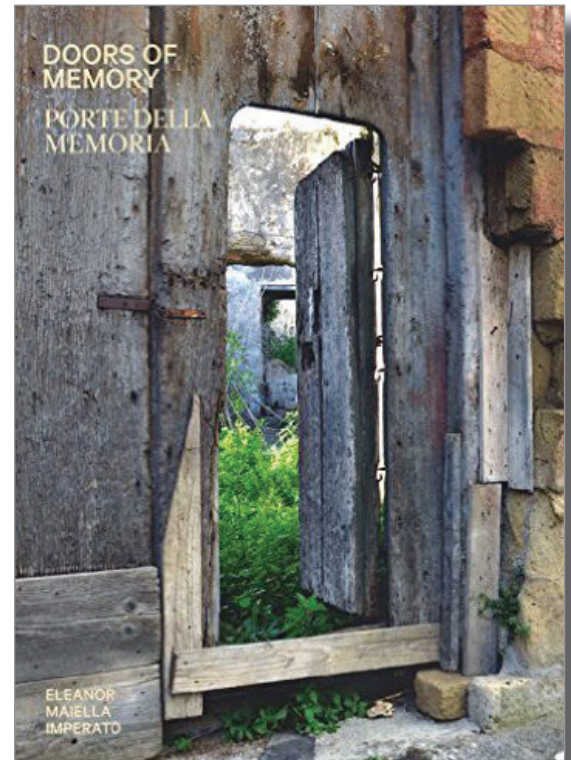


Giada De Laurentiis

The National Organization of Italian American Women in collaboration with the Calandra Institute presents *Doors of Memory/ Porte della Memoria*, an exhibition of photographs by Eleanor Maiella Imperato. This work will be on view in the institute's gallery from November 17, 2016 to March 15, 2017.

In this photographic essay, writer, poet, and photographer Imperato seeks to share the sense of rootedness to her birthplace, Avella, that is embodied by its old doors and windows. The doorways provided Imperato with an appreciation of her town's past and the lives of her ancestors and served as openings into her childhood memories. A book by the same title, in English and Italian, was published in connection with the project.

Doors of Memory/Porte della Memoria is a memoir in prose and poetry of Imperato's early years and subsequent visits to Avella. Richly illustrated with the photographs on exhibit, the book contains additional photographs of doors as well as many views of the town and its iconic sites. An overview of Avella's history is also included. Of the project, Imperato says, "Viewers, immigrants or not, will feel that primeval pull that birthplace elicits in our hearts, without diminishing the strong identity we feel for the place we call home."



STAFF NEWS

LUCIA GRILLO, Producer and Correspondent of *Italics* (CUNY TV), toured Italy with her documentary, *Testardi*, including at Rome's prestigious Apollo 11 Cinema. The film received praise from the Italian community, including RAI Regional Director Demetrio Crucitti, who described the "beautiful work of Grillo, which is worth attention by directors responsible for training agencies, cultural workers, and all those who work for the common good. The movie is a synthesis of social and cultural benchmarks, and a strong push to renew the approach to social cohesion." Grillo recently acquired the film rights to Helen Barolini's book, *Umbertina*, to be produced by her company, Calabrisella Films.

ROSARIA MUSCO, Associate Director of Administration, recently earned a Master of Public Administration degree from the CUNY School of Professional Studies.

JOSEPH SCIORRA, Director for Academic and Cultural Programs, received the 2016 Book Award from the Italian American Studies Association, for his publication *Built with Faith: Italian American Imagination and Catholic Material Culture in New York City* (University of Tennessee Press, 2015). The award recognizes this fine volume in which Sciorra looks at how "value and meaning are reproduced at the confluences of everyday life" and how artifacts of modern day New York City "make the sacred present in everyday urban spaces." Shrines, altars, crèches, decorated houses, and processions are examined through thick description and rich interpretation. Also this year, Sciorra was designated a Fellow of the American Folklore Society, acknowledging his outstanding contribution to the field of folklore and folklife studies.

OLIVIA TURSI is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who has joined the Counseling team. She earned a Master's degree in Industrial Organizational Psychology from Hofstra University and a second Master's degree in Social Welfare from Stony Brook University. Olivia brings with her clinical expertise in trauma work, specifically in sexual and domestic violence.

SYMPOSIUM: Forty Years of Italian American Civil Service Employment

On October 6, 2016, the Calandra Institute hosted a symposium to discuss the findings of its 2015 report “Forty Years of Italian American Civil Service Employment in New York City and New York State,” an extensive study authored by Vincenzo Milione, Itala Pelizzoli, and Carmine Pizzirusso. The rigorous work at the foundation of this book reviews Italian American government employment in New York City and New York State from 1980 to 2010. The study analyzes the percentage of Italian Americans in 411 New York State and 391 New York City occupations, including Management and Professional, Service, and Skilled and Unskilled government employment.

Italian Americans in government are further studied by employment tenure among Entry, Career, and Senior level employees, by occupational changes among Italian American men and women, and changes in occupational attainment as a result of educational achievements in this period especially among management and professional positions.

To understand Italian American occupational trends in city and state agencies, the report examines Italian American percentage representation in selected occupation groups. Parks and Recreational Services, Correctional Services, Sanitation and Environmental Services, Law Enforcement Services, Firefighters, Human Resources, Transportation Operations, Elementary and Secondary Education Services, City University of New York, and State University of New York are demonstrated. The percentage representation of Italian Americans in government is compared to the percentage representation of Italian Americans in the general labor pool workforce including private sector employment.

Italian Americans have made great achievements in education from 1980 to 2010. The gap between Italian American men and women has decreased appreciably

in 2010 as more women go on to college and graduate studies, with significant increases in management and professional occupations.

Italian American workers were underemployed in New York City and New York State in the 1980s and 1990s. However, by the year 2000 and particularly in 2010, they achieved equity with the Italian American labor pool workforce within many government occupations, though some government agencies and select occupations still underemploy Italian Americans and in some cases employ no Italian Americans.

The Appendix of the book is a directory of the latest census data for the Italian American percentage representation in government occupations in New York City and New York State. This directory provides an opportunity for vigilance concerning the Italian American presence in New York City and New York State government occupations.

The October 6 symposium convened leaders from civic agencies to discuss their interpretations of the data and develop strategies to increase the employment of Italian Americans in civil service capacities nationwide.

Dean Anthony Tamburri and authors Vincenzo Milione, Itala Pelizzoli, and Carmine Pizzirusso of the Calandra Institute presented the findings of the study. Commentaries were given by Thomas Abinanti, New York State Assemblyman, Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions; Donna Chirico, Dean, York College, and Chairwoman, CUNY Italian American Faculty and Staff Advisory Council; Matilda Raffa Cuomo, former New York State First Lady; Joseph Guagliardo, President, National Council for Columbia Associations in Civil Service; Daniel Nigro, New York City Fire Commissioner; and Diane Savino, New York State Senator, Civil Service and Pensions, and Labor Committees.

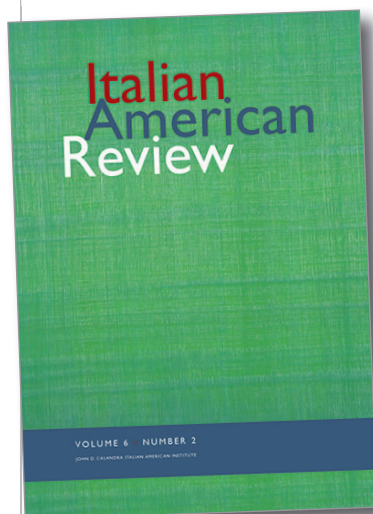
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ITALIAN AMERICAN REVIEW

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 6, NUMBER 2 includes:

- Introduction to the Special Issue on Italian Americans and Television, Jonathan J. Cavallero and Laura E. Ruberto
- “Narcotic”: Constructing the Mafia—The Nationally Televised New York Hearings of the Kefauver Committee, March 1951, Michael R. Frontani
- TV Gangsters and the Course of the Italian American Antidefamation Movement, Laura Cook Kenna
- *Toma to Baretta*: Mediating Primetime White Ethnicity in the Post–Civil Rights Era, Kevin Hagopian
- *Cucina Nostra*: Italian American Foodways on Television, Rocco Marinaccio

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FALL 2016 PUBLIC PROGRAMS

PHILIP V. CANNISTRARO SEMINAR SERIES IN ITALIAN AMERICAN STUDIES

Tuesday, October 8, 2016 at 6pm

Italian Mobilities, RUTH BEN-GHIAT, New York University and STEPHANIE MAILA HOM, Acus Foundation

Thursday, November 10, 2016 at 6pm

Al Dente: Food in Italy between the Local and the Global, FABIO PARASECOLI, The New School

Thursday, December 1, 2016 at 6pm

“No One Helped”: Kitty Genovese, New York City, and the Myth of Urban Apathy, MARCIA M. GALLO, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

WRITERS READ SERIES

Thursday, September 29, 2016 at 6pm

Readings from *Rabbit Ears: TV Poems*, edited by JOEL ALLEGRETTI (NYQ Books, 2015)

Monday, December 12, 2016 at 6pm

DANA SPIOTTA reads from *Innocents and Others* (Scribner, 2016)

DOCUMENTED ITALIANS

FILM AND VIDEO SERIES

Thursday, October 7, 2016

Andrea Doria: Are the Passengers Saved? (2016), 82 min., Luca Guardabascio, dir.

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

If Only I Were That Warrior (2015), 72 min., Valerio Ciriaci, dir.

SAVE THE DATE

for the Calandra Institute’s tenth annual conference
“Italian Sonorities and Acoustic Communities: Listening to the Soundscapes of Italianità”

April 27–29, 2017

All events are free and open to the public.

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.

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