CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Steven J. Belluscio
Donna Chirico
Maria Grace LaRusso
Vincenzo Milione
Carmine Pizzirusso
Joseph Sciorra
Anthony Julian Tamburri
Peter Vellon

All activities of the conference are free and open to the public.

Italians IN THE Americas
April 24-26, 2008

sponsored by
John D. Calandra Italian American Institute
Queens College / The City University of New York
25 West 43rd Street • New York, NY 10036
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This conference is dedicated to the myriad experiences of Italians in the Americas. It is a unique opportunity for scholarly communities in North and South America to come together and explore the past one hundred twenty-five years of diasporic activity in the western hemisphere.

The original call for papers suggested topics of civil rights, cultural productions, dominant cultures, economics and class, educational accomplishments, identity construction, immigration patterns, interaction with diasporic communities, media portrayals, race issues, politics, religions, and social influences. The result is a collection of diverse narratives recounted by scholars from many and varied quarters. The work presented here illuminates questions and possibly some answers about the diasporic experiences of Italians and how they influenced the new world.
PERSONAL READINGS OF KEY CULTURAL TEXTS
CHAIR: Anthony Julian Tamburri Calandra Institute
Rosanna Micelotta-Battigelli Sudbury, Canada
“It all Started With My Mother Tongue: The Impact of Language on my Identity as a Teacher and Writer”
Frances Gendimenco Kaufmann Academic Library & Research Solutions
“Unlocking My Italian-American History: Reading Pietro Di Donato and Richard Gambino”
John Calabro Quattro Books
“The Children of Immigrants; Who Speaks for Them?”

FIRST ENCOUNTERS, FIRST CONFLICTS
CHAIR: Donna Chirico York College/CUNY
Teresa Fava Thomas Fitchburg State College
“Arresting the Padrone Problem in America 1881-1901: Italian Diplomats, Immigration Restrictionists and the Italian Bureau of Ellis Island”
Peter Oliva Calgary, Canada
“Constructing Emilio Picariello: Small-town Conception and Big City Media in Canada’s Notorious 1922 Murder Trial”
Geoffrey G. Druțchăs Taylor, Michigan
“Italians in the Americas: An Artist’s Story, Tommaso Juglaris”

MAPPING AND VISUALIZING ITALIANS
CHAIR: Joseph Sciorra Calandra Institute
Esther Romeyn University of Florida
“I Misteri di New York: Urban Mysteries and Miseries of Italian Immigrants”
Joan Saverino The Historical Society of Pennsylvania
“Paradoxical Pasts: Diverse Interpretations of a Local Landscape”
Vincenzo Pascale City University of New York
“Writing of Visions: Dreams of Visions”

LUNCH
FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2008

8:30–9:45 AM

CONTESTED IDENTITIES IN ITALIAN AMERICA
CHAIR: Maria Grace LaRusso Calandra Institute
Joseph Logiudice New York University

Michael Carosone New York, NY
“Disgracing the Family?: A History/Non-History of Queer Italian Americans”

Angela D. Danzi & Marilyn Blumenthal Farmingdale State College
“Family Disconnection: The Causes and Consequences of Estrangement and its Relationship to Ethnicity”

10:00–11:15 AM

WORKING AESTHETICS
CHAIR: Joseph Sciorra Calandra Institute
Javier Grossutti The Italian Academy of Columbia University
“Beyond the ‘Pick and Shovel’ Laborers: Italian Mosaic and Terrazzo Workers in New York City”

Christine Francis Zinni SUNY Brockport
“Writings in Stone and Textile”

Jerry and Eleanor Koffler New York, NY
“Freeing the Angel from the Stone: The Piccirilli Brothers’ Contribution to Sculpture in America”

11:30 AM–12:45 PM

“ITALIANS” IN THE “AMERICAS”
CHAIR: Robert Viscusi Brooklyn College/CUNY

David Aliano College of Mount Saint Vincent
“Responses to Fascism from the Italian Community in Argentina (1922-1945)”

Stefano Luconi University of Rome “Tor Vergata”
“The Political Mobilization of Italian Immigrants to Argentina and the United States: A Comparison”

Vincenzo Milione Calandra Institute & Maddalena Tirabassi Centro Altreitalia, Fondazione Giovanni Agnelli
“Inventory of the Italian Diaspora in the Americas”

12:45–2:15 PM

LUNCH

FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2008

2:15–3:30 PM

REFLECTIONS IN PSYCHOLOGY
CHAIR: Donna Chirico York College/CUNY
ORGANIZER: Elizabeth G. Messina Lenox Hill Hospital

Donna H. DiCello University of Hartford
“Contra genio: The Experience of the Italian American Female Psychologist”

Elizabeth G. Messina Lenox Hill Hospital, Department of Psychology
“Stereotyping of Italian Americans, 1—Reflections on the History of Racism in Psychology toward Italian Americans”

Antonio Terracciano National Institute on Aging
“Stereotyping of Italian Americans, 2—Historical Perspectives on the Stereotypes of Northern and Southern Italians”

3:45–5:00 PM

RE-IMAGINING/RE-PRESENTING
CHAIR: Joseph Sciorra Calandra Institute

Marion S. Jacobson Albany College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences
“Italian Dance Hall Culture: Italian Americans, Accordions, and a Pluralistic Vision of Ethnicity in Manhattan, 1938-1961”

Simona Frasca Università di Roma “La Sapienza” & Università di Napoli
“Frederico II”
“Representations of the Italian American Community through its Music”

Jacqueline Maggio-May Florida Atlantic University
“Americans All!: “Re-Imaging Ethnicity, Italians in America, 1939-1945”

5:15–6:30 PM

IS THERE AN ITALIAN/AMERICAN BODY POLITIC?
CHAIR: Anthony Julian Tamburri Calandra Institute
ORGANIZER: Ottorino Cappelli Università degli Studi di Napoli “L’Orientale”

Rodrigo Praino Università degli Studi di Napoli “L’Orientale”
“The Italian Vote Abroad: Eliciting from Afar”

Ottorino Cappelli Università degli Studi di Napoli “L’Orientale”
“The Black Hole: Italian/American Studies and Political Science”

Jerome Krase Brooklyn College/CUNY
“Italian-American Politics: A Worm’s Eye View”

RESPONDENT: Doug Muzzio Baruch College/CUNY