

Baldassare Forestiere's Underground Garden, Fresno, CA, photographed by Joseph Sciorra, 2008



Terre Promesse

Excursions Towards Italian Topographies

APRIL 22-24, 2010

CALANDRA
ITALIAN
AMERICAN
INSTITUTE

The John D. Calandra Italian American Institute's third annual conference is dedicated to the theme of cultural landscapes. The conference addresses issues concerning place-making in Italy, amongst the Italian diaspora, and in colonial locales. Issues of home and community, land use and foodways, power and sustainability are examined as practice and representation. Ultimately, the conference is concerned with "the experiential and expressive ways places are known, imagined, yearned for, held, remembered, voiced, lived, contested, and struggled over" (Steven Feld and Keith H. Basso, *Senses of Place*, 1996).

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APRIL 22-24, 2010

THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 2010

6:30-8:30 PM

WELCOME AND RECEPTION

FRED GARDAPHÈ

Queens College, CUNY

JAMES MUYSKENS

Queens College, CUNY

FRANCESCO MARIA TALÒ

Consulate General of Italy in New York

JOSEPH SCIORRA

John D. Calandra Italian American Institute

FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 2010

9-9:30 AM

Coffee and Pastries

9:30-10:45 AM CONFERENCE ROOM

TRAVELING WRITING

Chair: Nancy Ziehler, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute

“The Dead Sang with Dirt in Their Mouths”

JOSEPH P. COSCO, Old Dominion University

Found in Translation: Symbolic Representations of *la madreterra* in Literary and Vernacular Writings

FULVIA MASI, Bard College

Click to Enlarge: Connecting Memories, Places, and Cultures in the Virtual Paese

ROBERT OPPEDISANO, Editor/Writer

11-12:15 PM CONFERENCE ROOM

POINTS SOUTH AND WEST I

Chair: Vincenzo Milione, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute

The Italians of the Jamestown and Virginia Colonies
GIUSEPPE DI SCIPIO, Hunter College/CUNY

Here Come the Sicilians: Another Puzzle Piece in the Making of New Orleans
GERALD T. MCNEILL, Southeastern Louisiana University, and MELISSA
PUGLIA MCNEILL, Stuart Hall School for Boys

The Making of Little Italies in the Appalachian Hill Towns of West Virginia
VICTOR A. BASILE, Independent Scholar

11 AM–12:15 PM LA GALLERIA

COMMON GROUNDS

Chair: Maria LaRusso, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute

Fright or Delight: The Cultural Implications of Wild Fungi as Food
SUSAN M. ROSSI-WILCOX, Independent Scholar

Social Justice and Democracy: The Significance of a Commons
CHRISTINE F. ZINNI, State University of New York at Brockport

12:15–1:30 PM

Lunch on your own

1:30–2:45 PM CONFERENCE ROOM

GARDENING AND HARVESTING

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

Memories of Repasts (film)

KARINA S. RAMIREZ, The New School Media Studies Program

Gardens of the Mind: Memory, Ecology, and Justice in the Story of
Tullio Inglese

PATRICIA KLINDIENST, Independent Scholar

Terra sogna terra (film)

LUCIA GRILLO, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute

1:30–2:45 PM LA GALLERIA

NARRATED LANDSCAPES

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

“La Brigantessa: The Life of a Female Brigand”

ROSANNA MICELOTTA-BATTIGELLI, Author

“Mirage”

PAOLA CORSO, Western Connecticut State University

“U Bizz’ di Creanza: A Piece of Politeness”

JOANNA CLAPPS HERMAN, Manhattanville College

3–4:15 PM CONFERENCE ROOM

SACRED SPACES

Chair: Dominick Carielli, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute

To Struggle for a Place at the Table: Italian-American Protestants in Italy
DENNIS BARONE, St. Joseph College

The Role of the Holy Place: Memory and Nostalgia in Italian Jews Who
Emigrated in Israel After World War II
CRISTINA BETTIN, Ben Gurion University

Vernacular Exegesis of the Gentrifying Gaze: Saints, Hipsters, and Public
Space in Williamsburg, Brooklyn
JOSEPH SCIORRA, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute

3–4:15 PM LA GALLERIA

SPACE INTO PLACE

Chair: James Periconi, Italian American Writers Association

Tales of a West End Italian Boy
NICOLA BATTIGELLI, Author

Performing Nostalgia in Caterina Edwards' *Homeground* and Marco Micone's
Deja' l'agonie
SIMONE LOMARTIRE, Leeds Metropolitan University

The Place and the Action: The Metaphor of the Square According to the
Social Enterprise
PAOLA MELONE, Institute of the National Research Council

4:30–5:45 PM CONFERENCE ROOM

LITTLE ITALIES

Chair: Christine Gambino, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute

Imagined Little Italies
STEFANO LUCONI, Università degli Studi di Padova

America's Little Italies as Visually Contested Terrains
JERRY KRASE, Brooklyn College/CUNY

Re-Membering the Neighborhood: Creating Community with
Food Exchange
DANA DAVID, Pace University

SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2010

9–9:30 AM

Coffee and Pastries

9:30–10:45 AM CONFERENCE ROOM

RE-MAPPING ITALIAN AMERICA

Chair: Anthony Tamburri, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute

America as Garden of Plenty and Hell on Earth: Pre-and Post-Immigration Images of the Promised Land and their Relation to Italians of the Great Migration
JOSEPH J. INGUANTI, Southern Connecticut State University

From the Nostalgia of Origins to Creating Home: Making Place at the Leonardo da Vinci Art School, New York City, 1923-1940
FRANCESCA CANADÉ SAUTMAN, Hunter College/CUNY

Italian America: Beyond the Imagined Nation
OTTORINO CAPPELLI, Università degli Studi di Napoli "L'Orientale"

11 AM–12:15 PM CONFERENCE ROOM

ARCHITECTURE ABANDONED, RECLAIMED, RE-IMAGINED

Chair: Donna M. Chirico, York College/CUNY

Il Borgo Fortificato: Culture, Traditions, Life
JOHN C. RUSSOTTO, Independent Scholar, and M. GABRIELLA GASBARRE, Italian American Community Club of Rochester

Vernacular Architecture of the Alto Molise
JOHN CASERTA, The Design Office

Preserving History in the Old Neighborhood: Saving the Our Lady of Loreto Church, East New York, Brooklyn
MARILYN ANN VERNA, St. Francis College, and MARIO TOGLIA, Calitri American Cultural Group

11 AM–12:15 PM LA GALLERIA

CREATIVE SPACES

Chair: Fabio Girelli-Carasi Brooklyn College/CUNY

Terra, Diana, and Other Buried Voices: Losing the Earth for the Heavens
TIZIANA RINALDI, Author

Terra Promessa (film)
ANTONINO D'AMBROSIO, La Lutta NMC

Architettura Sonora/Applied Acoustics
LORENZO BRUSCI, Sound and Experience Design

12:15–1:30 PM

Lunch on your own

1:30–2:45 PM CONFERENCE ROOM

CONTESTED LANDSCAPES/CONTESTED READINGS

Chair: Ottorino Cappelli, Università degli Studi di Napoli “L’Orientale”

Speaking of Place: *Campanilismo* as Linguistic Practice in Northern Italy

JILLIAN R. CAVANAUGH, Brooklyn College/CUNY

Re-imagining the Colonial Landscape: Notions of Faith, Healing, and Prestige in Goffredo Alessandrini’s *Abuna Messias*

ANNEMARIE TAMIS, New York University

Segni italiani nelle strade americane (film)

MADDALENA TIRABASSI, Centro Altretalia/Globus et Locus

1:30–2:45 PM LA GALLERIA

LAND IN LITERATURE

Chair: Fred Gardaphé, Queens College, CUNY

The Transnational Origins of Antonio Stoppani’s *Il bel paese*

ERICA MORETTI, Brown University

Paradise from Mud and Stone: Visions of Italy in the Work of Ignazio Silone and Iris Origo

FRED MISURELLA, East Stroudsburg University

Place and Narrative as Real and Metaphysical Catalysts in Fiction

GIOIA TIMPANELLI, Author

3–4:15 PM CONFERENCE ROOM

POINTS SOUTH AND WEST II

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

A Northern Southern Italian of the Eastern Western United States:

A Topographical Analysis of John Fante’s Fiction

JIM COCOLA, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

“Il Fuoco di Minonga”: The 1907 Mine Disaster, the Landscape of Coal, and the Making of Transnational Italian Identity in West Virginia

JOAN SAVERINO, The Historical Society of Pennsylvania

4:30–5:45 PM CONFERENCE ROOM

CLOSING KEYNOTE

Gastronomic Utopias, Promised Land

LUISA DEL GIUDICE, Independent Scholar



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