Terre Promesse
Excursions Towards Italian Topographies
APRIL 22-24, 2010
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).
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 KLINDENST, 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

12:15–1:30 PM LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

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 Altreitalie/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