



CALANDRA  
ITALIAN  
AMERICAN  
INSTITUTE

# REIMAGINING WHITE ETHNICITY

## EXPRESSIVITY, IDENTITY, RACE

CONFERENCE

APRIL 27-28, 2012

JOHN D. CALANDRA ITALIAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE  
25 WEST 43RD STREET, NEW YORK CITY

Cosponsored by the Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies,  
Queens College, CUNY

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# REIMAGINING WHITE ETHNICITY: EXPRESSIVITY, IDENTITY, RACE

PROGRAM (subject to change)

THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2012  
6–8 PM: WELCOME & RECEPTION

FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2012

9:30–10:45 AM

## REPRESENTING ITALIAN AMERICANS

Images of Italian Americans in African-American Literature during Jim Crow, SAMUELE F. S. PARDINI, Elon University

Colum McCann's *Let the Great World Spin* and the Erasure of Italian-American Experience, NANCY CARONIA, University of Rhode Island

Homespun History, Youngstown Style: Ethnic Representation in Do-It-Yourself Narratives, ANTHONY D. MITZEL, Università di Bologna

## MISSED OPPORTUNITIES: THE 1970s RESURGENCE OF WHITE ETHNIC IDENTITY AND THE LEFT

The Threat of a Good Example: Twentieth-Century Solidarity Identities in Working-Class White Communities, JAMES TRACY, San Francisco Community Land Trust

White Lightning: Organizing the White Working Class in the Bronx, 1971–1975, GIL FAGIANI, Italian American Writers Association

Beyond Whiteness, LYNN LEWIS, Picture the Homeless

11 AM–12:15 PM

**KEYNOTE** : Ethnic Acts: On "European Ethnicity" Cultural Politics, YIORGOS ANAGNOSTOU, Ohio State University

1:30–2:45 PM

## NEGOTIATING SCANDINAVIAN IDENTITIES

Lox and Lax: How Marcus Samuelsson Merges Ethnicities for Consumption, JONATHAN BEAN, The New School

Latex, Hijabs, and the Refiguration of the Swedish Folk Costume, ANNA BLOMSTER, University of California, Los Angeles

Heritage Envy: Selecting the "Danish Days" Maid in Solvang, California, HANNE PICO LARSEN, Columbia University

## FAMILY, FOOD, AND CULTURAL CAPITAL

Traditional Greek-American Child-Rearing, MARILYN ANN VERNA, St. Francis College

Italian Foodways as a Marker of Ethnicity: Italians Are What They Eat, PATRIZIA LA TRECCHIA, University of South Florida

Italian-American Cultural Capital, PAOLA MELONE, Research Fellow, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute

3–4:15 PM

## THE GREEKS OF NEW YORK CITY: CONTEMPORARY TRENDS AND HISTORICAL CONTEXTS

Greek Americans of Queens: Ethnic Identity in the Second Generation of Post-1965 Immigrants, NICHOLAS ALEXIOU, Queens College, CUNY

Greek Immigrants and Greek Americans in New York City Observed Through the National Census, ANNA KARAPATHAKIS, Kingsborough Community College, CUNY

Films about Greek Americans in New York: A Case Study of the Greek-American Image in American Cinema, DAN GEORGAKAS, Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, Queens College, CUNY

## CLEF NOTES ON MUSIC

The Wanderers: Italian-American Doo Wop, Sense of Place, and Racial Crossovers in Postwar New York City, SIMONE CINOTTO, Università degli Studi di Scienze Gastronomiche

Living the Dance in Tarpon Springs, PANAYOTIS LEAGUE, Hellenic College

Polishness in Terms of Authenticity, Social Conservatism, and Whiteness in Buffalo, New York, MARTA MARCINIAK, University at Buffalo, SUNY

4:30–5:45 PM

## WHITE PRIVILEGE

Beyond Racism, Beyond Whiteness: A Critical Investigation of White Privileged Discourse, KATHRYN PETERSON, New York University

The Dialectic of White Privilege: Resisting Habits of Privilege with Merleau-Ponty, KRISTIN ANNE RODIER, University of Alberta

Antiracism as Rhetoric: Arizona's House Bill 2281 and Saving Ethnic Studies through a 'Dis-Knowing' Critical Pedagogy, JULIA ISTOMINA, Ohio State University

SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2012

9:30–10:45 AM

## HISTORICIZING ITALIAN AMERICANS AND RACE

"Fatti di sangue": Italian Americans, Race, and Justice in the Late Nineteenth Century, BÉNÉDICTE DESCHAMPS, Université Paris Diderot

A Race Destined to Expire: *Prominenti*, Native Americans, and the Boundaries of Civilization and Race, PETER G. VELLON, Queens College, CUNY

The Social Construction and Contestation of Whiteness in York County, Pennsylvania, JUSTIN D. GARCIA, Millersville University

## THE BODY AND SEXUALITY

The Sports Race: Alexi, Cioffari, and Body Versus Brain, DENNIS BARONE, Saint Joseph College

"I Must Maintain This Rigid Posture or All is Lost": The Trials and Tribulations of R. Crumb's Whiteman, JOSEPH COSCO, Old Dominion University

Public Sexuality and Whiteness in Gentrifying Neighborhoods: A Comparative Case Study in Williamsburg and Park Slope, Brooklyn, LAURA BRASLOW, Graduate Center, CUNY and LIDIA K. C. MANZO, Università degli Studi di Trento

11 AM–12:15 PM

**KEYNOTE** : White Ethnicity and the Discourse of Authenticity in Modern Paganisms, SABINA MAGLIOCCO, California State University-Northridge

1:30–2:45 PM

## QUESTIONING RACE AND WHITENESS

How Ethnicity Trumps Race in the Struggle for Self-Identity, DONNA M. CHIRICO, York College, CUNY

Italian Americans and Whiteness through the Lens of Americanization: Towards a Critique of Racial Reason, JAMES S. PASTO, Boston University

From Oppressed to Oppressor without Even Trying, JAMES S. PULA, Purdue University North Central

## IMAGINING GREEK AMERICANS

Changing Images of Greek Immigrants within American Mainstream Society: A Historical Overview Based on Documentary Sources and Case Studies, CONSTANTINE G. HATZIDIMITRIOU, New York City Department of Education

The Book Culture of Greek Americans, MARIA KALIAMBOU, Yale University

Schadenfreude, Anxiety, and Representation in the Era of the Greek Debt Crisis in a Greek Diasporic Community, LEO VOURNELIS, Southern Illinois University

3–4:15 PM

## CONTINUITIES AND DISCONTINUITIES IN ITALY'S RACIAL IDENTITY

An Anthropological Perspective on Italian Ethnicity from the Colonial Age to Post-Colonialism, MOIRA LURASCHI, Università degli Studi dell'Insubria, Varese

The Construction of Italianness: Masculinity and Race in Liberal and Early Fascist Italy, GAIA GIULIANI, Università di Bologna

Spotless Italy: Hygiene, Advertisement, and the Ubiquity of Whiteness, CHRISTINA LOMBARDI-DIOP, Loyola University Chicago

## COMPARATIVE APPROACHES

White on Arrival?: A Comparison of the Racial Status of Italian Immigrants on the East and West Coasts, STEFANO LUCONI, Università degli Studi di Padova

"What if I'm too spicy-Italian for them?": Italian Canadians and Whiteness Studies, KRISTA PANDOLFI, York University

Foreign Shades of White: The Transnational Experience of Greek and Italian Communities in Australia and the United States, ANDONIS PIPEROGLU, La Trobe University

4:30–5:45 PM

## HERITAGE FESTIVALS AND ROOTS JOURNEYS

Czech Heritage Festivals in the Midwest: Symbolizing Ethnicity in Rural Spaces, KAREN KAPUSTA-POFAHL and ELIZABETH NECH, Washburn University

The Lost Apostrophe: Race and the Irish-American Roots Journey, SINEAD MOYNIHAN, University of Exeter

Reconsidering White Ethnic Revivals: Italian Americans and Italian Immigration in the 1950s and 1960s, DANIELLE BATTISTI, Colby College

## DECONSTRUCTING AND RECONFIGURING ITALIAN AMERICANS

Race and Taste in the Olive Garden: On the Tuscanization of American Culture, DAVID MICHALSKI, University of California, Davis

"Calling Myself Olive": Italian Americans as Mediterranean Americans, JIM COCOLA, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Beyond the Ghetto: Deconstructing White Italian-American Ethnicity, DORA LABATE, Rutgers University