



CALANDRA  
ITALIAN  
AMERICAN  
INSTITUTE

# Italian Sonorities and Acoustic Communities

Listening to the Soundscapes of *Italianità*

ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
APRIL 27-29, 2017

# Italian Sonorities and Acoustic Communities

## Listening to the Soundscapes of *Italianità*

In his 1984 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. To an outsider they may appear exotic or go unnoticed, but to the inhabitants they convey useful information about individual and community life.”

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*, or Italianness, that encompasses the modern nation-state of 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 move, cross borders, and link bodies that might otherwise not be linked, that might otherwise be divided from each other. But sounds also stay put, engendering familiarity and intimacy, creating spaces of shared identity. This interdisciplinary conference focuses on Italian sonorities broadly defined in order to discover hitherto unexplored perspectives and expressions regarding such movements and identities.

Cover photograph, “Roast Sheep!,” from *By-Paths in Sicily*, Eliza Putnam Heaton, E.P. Dutton & Company, 1920.

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2017

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6:00–8:00 pm

## Welcome & Reception

ANTHONY JULIAN TAMBURRI, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute  
JOSEPH SCIORRA, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute

## Performers

CRISTINA PÉRSICO, Neapolitan Song  
ANGELO ZEOLLA, Spoken Word  
DOMENICO PORCO, Calabrian Organetto

FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2017

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9:00–9:30 am Coffee & pastries

9:30–10:45 am

## Recorded Sound CONFERENCE ROOM

Chair: GIULIA GUARNIERI, Bronx Community College

“Parla Comme T’Ha Fatta Mammeta”? Multilingualism, Codeswitching, and Oral Performance in Ethnic Italian Records, ISABELLA LIVORNI, Columbia University

Redefining *Bel Canto*: Vocal Manifestations of Italian Opera in the Evolution of Frank Sinatra’s Recordings, ANTHONY CAVALUZZI, SUNY Adirondack

“That’s Amore”: *Sprezzatura* and Parody in an Italian American Pop Song, TAD TULEJA, Independent Scholar

11:00 am–12:15 pm

**Keynote:** Mediations on Italian American Soundfulness, JOHN GENNARI, University of Vermont

**12:15–1:30 pm** Lunch on your own

**1:30–2:45 pm**

## **Italian Folk Music Revival in Italy** CONFERENCE ROOM

Chair: ROBERT OPPEDISANO, Independent Scholar

Evolution and Dissemination of Italian Community Music, MARIE DICOCCO and CELEST DI PIETROPAOLO, Independent Scholars

Sociocultural Aspects of Sounds, Rituals, and Dance in Southern Italy, JANET MICHELLO, LaGuardia Community College, CUNY

*La Notte della Taranta*: Musicking as a Social Act and Metaphor for Social Relationships, GEORGE DE STEFANO, Independent Scholar

## **Histories and Border Crossings** LA GALLERIA

Chair: CHRISTINE ZINNI, The College of Brockport, SUNY

Italophilia vs. Italophobia: Five Centuries of Cultural Exchange Viewed through the Prism of Language, EDWARD TUTTLE, University of California, Los Angeles

What did Early Modern Italy Sound Like?, DARIO DEL PUPPO, Trinity College

From Bayreuth to Fiume: Gabriele D'Annunzio's Visions of an Italian Tragic Theater, MATTIA ACETOSO, Boston College

**3:00–4:15 pm**

## **Women and Workers** CONFERENCE ROOM

Chair: DONNA CHIRICO, York College, CUNY

“Female Voices and Whispers”: Gendered Migration Narratives of Italian and Greek Women Immigrants to Australia after World War II, DANIELA COSMINI, MARIA PALAKTSOGLOU, DIANA GLENN, and ERIC BOUVET, Flinders University

Oral History and the Documentation of the Italian Worker, GIULIA GUARNIERI, Bronx Community College, CUNY

From Appennini to Appalachia: Oral Histories of Italian Americans in Appalachian Coal Fields, ENRICO GRAMMAROLI, University of Rome Tor Vergata

## **Southern Italian Soundscapes** LA GALLERIA

Chair: JACQUELINE MAGGIO-MAY, Florida Humanities Council

Conjuring Southern Italian Soundscapes, TIZIANA RINALDI CASTRO, Independent Scholar

Southern Italian Oral Culture in a Postmodern World, DAVID MARKER, Independent Scholar

4:30–5:45 pm

## **Disco, Hip Hop, and Mina** CONFERENCE ROOM

Chair: GEORGE DE STEFANO, Independent Scholar

Ideas of Italy: Mina and *La Canzone Italiana* on Tour in the 1960s, RACHEL HAWORTH, University of Hull

Disco to Hip Hop: Italian and American Diasporic Journeys, CLARISSA CLÒ, San Diego State University

Can the Subaltern Rap? A Gramscian Revision of Contemporary Italian Hip Hop, ENRICO ZAMMARCHI, The Ohio State University

SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2017

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**9:00–9:30 am** Coffee & pastries

**9:30–10:45 am**

**Sound in Film** CONFERENCE ROOM

Chair: ANNEMARIE TAMIS-NASELLO, Fashion Institute of Technology, SUNY  
“O Sole Mio” and the Neapolitan Synecdoche in Film, GIULIANA MUSCIO,  
University of Padua

Listening to Cinema: Music in the Films of Martin Scorsese, JACQUELINE  
MAGGIO-MAY, Florida Humanities Council

Words of Justice in Italy: Interpretation and Misinterpretation in the Real  
Courtroom and in the Movies, MARIA GIUSEPPINA CESARI, Italian Ministry of  
Justice

**11 am–12:15 pm**

**Oral Histories and Recorded Voices** CONFERENCE ROOM

Chair: MELISSA E. MARINARO, Senator John Heinz History Center

Orality and Microhistory: Italian Americans in Florida, VINCENZA IADEVAIA,  
VIVIANA PEZZULLO, and FEDERICO TIBERINI, Florida Atlantic University

The World in a Voice: An Oral History of a Southern Italian Migrant, VINCENT  
ANDRISANI, Simon Fraser University

Italian/American? Second-Generation Voices in Search of an Identity, ANN  
DIBELLA JABLON, Marymount Manhattan College, and LORI DIBELLA  
WALLACH, Queens Memory

**Tango y Los Italianos** LA GALLERIA

Chair: FRED GARDAPHÉ, Queens College, CUNY

Beyond Borders: Tango as Transnational Movement of Sound and Steps,  
LOREDANA POLEZZI, Cardiff University

Dancing the Diaspora: Tango as a Little Italy, ROSEMARY SERRA, University of Trieste

**12:15–1:30 pm** Lunch on your own

**1:30–2:45 pm**

## **Accordions and *Feste*** CONFERENCE ROOM

Chair: JAMES S. PASTO, Boston University

Ethnography as Storysinging: The Spoken Word and the Currency of Piano Accordion Music, CHRISTINE ZINNI, The College at Brockport, SUNY

*Lasciateci Suonare*: Listening to the Sounds of *Italianità* on Accordion, DAMIEN LAFRAMBOISE, Memorial University

A Fickle Soundscape: The Fisherman's Feast in Boston's North End, MICHELE SEGRETARIO, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**3:00–4:15 pm**

## **Discourse and Language** CONFERENCE ROOM

Chair: TAD TULEJA, Independent Scholar

The Sounds of Racism and Counter-Racism: Contrast and Comparison Structures in Tuscans' Discourses on Recent Immigrants, ROBERT GAROT, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY

Is There an Italian American Vernacular English?, JAMES S. PASTO, Boston University

Sounds of Silence: The Deaf and Hearing-Impaired Community as Linguistic Minority among Italians and Italian Americans, DONNA CHIRICO, York College, CUNY

## Nature , Memory, and Place LA GALLERIA

Chair: CLARISSA CLÒ, San Diego State University

*La Voce d'Italia*: A History of Italian-Language Radio Programs in Rhode Island, ALFRED R. CRUDALE, University of Rhode Island

Resounding Nature in the Works of Michelangelo Antonioni, Pinuccio Sciola, and Filippo Minelli, ANTONELLA SISTO, Brown University

The Transmemoric Process: A Journey of Italian Québécois Artists, ANITA ALOISIO, Independent Scholar

**4:30–5:45 pm**

## Italian Folk Music Revival in the United States

CONFERENCE ROOM

Chair: DIANA GLENN, Flinders University

“Quel Mazzolin di Fiori”: I Campagnoli and the Italian Folk Revival, MELISSA E. MARINARO, Senator John Heinz History Center

The Villa Palagonia Music Ensemble: Reimagining Italian Folk Music for American Audiences, ALLISON SCOLA and JOE RAVO, Villa Palagonia Music Ensemble

Beating the Drum: Italian Traditional Music Advocacy in the Diaspora, LUISA DEL GIUDICE, Independent Scholar