

JOHN D.
CALANDRA
ITALIAN
AMERICAN
INSTITUTE

il Bollettino

dedicated to the history and culture of Italians in America



2021 • VOLUME 14 • NUMBER 1

THE JOHN D. CALANDRA ITALIAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE IS A UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE UNDER THE AEGIS OF QUEENS COLLEGE, CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Cari Amici,

Welcome to volume 14.1 of the Calandra Institute's *il Bollettino*!

Thanks to all of you who followed the two and one-half weeks of our Borderlands Conference! We had a series of very insightful papers that will impact Italian diaspora studies as our intellectual community moves forward into the future. Keynote speaker Donna Gabaccia delivered a most erudite and far-reaching lecture that will, *senza alcun dubbio*, send us in different directions given her impressively interdisciplinary approach to the topic at hand.

Most recently the Calandra Institute published a volume, *Diversity in Italian Studies*, that originated from our January 2019 symposium of the same name. The various essays therein examine the many components of diversity, equity, and inclusion that a thriving community should reflect—Italian studies has some work to do in this regard. The book is available from retail outlets and the Institute website.

For at least the next six months our activities will be online; this includes our regular public programming as well as the additional conversations we have organized over this past year due to the pandemic. There is much to discuss and debate. We look forward to engaging in such activity with the requisite erudition of the topic at hand and the professional

respect desired, as the appropriate protocol would ensure when disagreements arise.

In everything the Institute does, the aim is to further explore and promulgate the experience and creative output of people from the Italian diaspora in all of its many facets. This includes sociopolitical and cultural history as well as the current sociocultural phenomena that emanate from and significantly impact Italian Americans on a local level (including but not limited to The City University of New York) as well as regionally and nationally.

We have a great number of irons in the fire, as ever, so please check out our website frequently and be sure to tell your friends to sign up for our mailing list.

We are grateful for the steadfast support from a wide array of sources, most particularly from Chancellor Félix Matos Rodríguez's Office of CUNY and President Frank Wu's Office at Queens College. They and their staffs continue to facilitate our greater development in all aspects.

In solidarity,
Anthony Julian Tamburri
Dean and Distinguished Professor

ITALIAN INTERNMENT DURING WORLD WAR II AND THE LIMITS OF RACISM IN AMERICA

In March the Calandra Institute, in partnership with the Nancy & David Wolf Holocaust & Humanity Center, Cincinnati, presented a virtual lecture "Italian Internment During World War II and the Limits of Racism in America." The lecture was part of the 2020–21 Harriet and Kenneth Kupferberg Holocaust Center and National Endowment for the Humanities Colloquium "Internment & Resistance: Confronting Mass Detention and Dehumanization."

In this presentation Laura Ruberto, humanities professor at Berkeley City College, reflected on how political pressure, cultural visibility, and an emerging position of whiteness helped build public acceptance of this immigrant community.

Understanding the multiple realities of Italians in the United States in this era expands our perspective on how factors of race and ethnicity shape experiences in wartime and in peace.

COLORNI-HIRSCHMAN INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE BOOK SERIES

The Calandra Institute and Bordighera Press present the Colorni-Hirschman International Institute book series, under the direction of Luca Meldolesi and Nicoletta Stame.

The Colorni-Hirschman Institute conducts research and training to publicize and foster the economic, social, and political culture inspired by the work of Eugenio Colorni and Albert O. Hirschman.

To date, four volumes have been published in English, written by Eugenio Colorni: *Critical Thinking in Action: Excerpts from Political Writings and Correspondence*; *The Final Year: 1943–44*; *Genesis of a Perspective*; *Dialogues*; and *The Discovery of the Possible*.

In February the Calandra Institute presented the series online to audiences in New York and Rome.

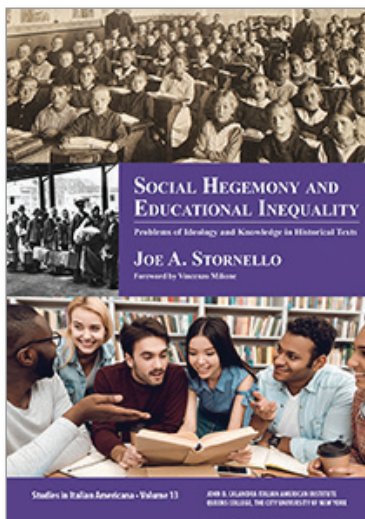
ON THE COVER: Men in the piazza in San Biagio Platani, Sicily, sit in front of bread offerings, symbols of fertility, that village women have made and that decorate their town during Holy Week. 1994. Photograph ©Susan Caperna Lloyd.

RECENTLY PUBLISHED

Social Hegemony and Educational Inequality: Problems of Ideology and Knowledge in Historical Texts

Joe A. Stornello, Foreword by Vincenzo Milione

This text serves as an important theoretical underpinning for historical study of the educational and social experiences of children from immigrant communities in American school systems. It examines how the education of predominantly



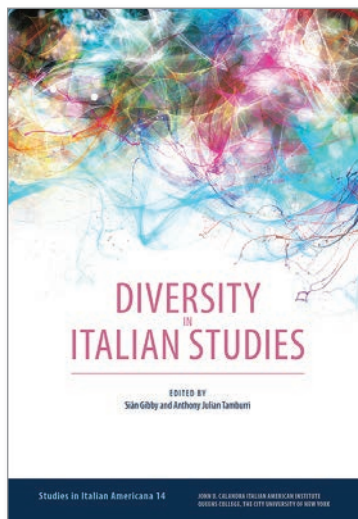
working-class immigrant children during the nineteenth and early twentieth century was conceived and planned by the architects of those systems—and problematizes how such conception and planning have been explained in histories of American education.

Social Science / Ethnic Studies
Studies in Italian Americana, Volume 13
2020, ISBN 978-1-939323-10-1

Diversity in Italian Studies

Edited by Siân Gibby and Anthony Julian Tamburri

Contributing authors: Sole Anatrone, Nicolino Applauso, Ryan Calabretta-Sajder, Rosetta Giuliani Caponetto, Mary Ann McDonald Carolan, John Champagne, Mark Chu, Shelleen Greene, Kristi Grimes, Julia Heim, Akash Kumar, Kenyse Lyons, Vetri Nathan, Deborah Parker, Deanna Shemek, Alessia Valfredini, Gaoheng Zhang



This volume embodies the genesis of change in Italian studies. Fundamental approaches, including those emerging from the experiences of Black and other non-white students and professors, LGBTQIA+ scholars, and others, are brought to bear in this re-evaluation of Italian studies.

Social Science/Ethnic Studies
Studies in Italian Americana, Volume 14
2021, ISBN 978-1-939323-11-8

ITALICS: TELEVISION FOR THE ITALIAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

The January 2021 episode of *Italics* featured Maaza Mengiste, Fulbright scholar, Queens College professor, and author of *The Shadow King*, a novel that highlights the importance of Ethiopian women warriors that confronted Mussolini's invasion in 1935. Mengiste was born in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Of writing the book she says: "There are declarations that will tell the world that a war ended, but when does war really end for its participants, is it ever really finished? I wanted to tell the story from both sides of the battle lines."

Maaza Mengiste spent years on *The Shadow King*, not only writing but also learning Italian, living in Rome and amassing an archive of historical photography that informed her book. An outcome of Mengiste's research is Project 3541, an internet archive of photographs shared by family members and loved ones of those who lived during the 1935–41 Italo-Ethiopian War.



Italics premieres the second Tuesday of each month at 9:30 pm and is rebroadcast the following Wednesday at 10:30 am and 3:30 pm, Saturday at 7:30 am, and Sunday at 6:30 pm on CUNY TV Channels 25.3, 75, 77, and 30, in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island, and the Bronx.



Italics can be viewed on demand at



cuny.tv/show/italics



@ItalicsTV



youtube.com/ItalicsTV

Italian Immigrants, Whiteness, and Race: A Regional Perspective, by Stefano Luconi

This article intends to reassess Thomas Guglielmo's "white on arrival" thesis, according to which Italian immigrants' whiteness was not challenged in the United States and, therefore, the newcomers and their progeny never suffered from restrictions related to naturalization, marriage, property ownership, selection of the place of residence, and access to material resources that, conversely, were long denied to African Americans and other-than-white people. By offering a few comparative glimpses about the perception of Italian Americans' color in the northern, southern, and

western sections of the United States, vis-à-vis not only Black people but also Asians and Hispanics, the piece argues that Guglielmo's hypothesis, based specifically on the case of the Chicago experience, cannot be generalized. It contrasts Italian Americans' eventual image as Caucasians in the North and the South with their early positioning among whites in the West. It consequently concludes that the acknowledgment of Italian Americans' whiteness depended not only on time but also on geography.

"I Tell Heem Nothing!": Education and the Americanization of Italian Immigrants at the Turn into the Twentieth Century, by Christina Stanciu

This essay explores Americanization practices through education in the first two decades of the twentieth century, zooming in on the case of immigrants from Italy and other south and east European countries. Stanciu explores the project of Americanization in relation to the "education" of new immigrants, concentrating on a relatively new archive of immigrant student writing: letters and diaries preserved in the National Archives. Although many institutions took on the mission of Americanizing the country's immigrants, she argues that the letters from former students to teachers in Americanization classes illustrate the affective bonds forged across time and space.

Reading these letters alongside writing specimens of immigrant student work mailed by teachers to the Bureau of Naturalization personnel, she attests that the education of New Immigrants (which often coincided with education

for US citizenship) was in line with the nationalist project of Americanization at the same time that it allowed for what historian of education Jeffrey Mirel calls "patriotic pluralism," or dual loyalties to both the country of origin and the United States. In the second section, Stanciu examines the role of print—both the English-language and the immigrant press—in the nationalist project of Americanization.

Drawing on the work of the Italian immigrant press (the *prominenti* and the *soversivvi* in particular), she shows how both American and ethnic nationalism coexisted in the cultural work of new immigrant groups and their publications. One particular case she examines is that of multilingual immigrant guides, such as the Italian guide *Guida degli Stati Uniti per l'immigrante italiano* (1910), the first in the series of guides for immigrants published by John Foster Carr.

She ends the essay with an analysis of the silent film *The Making of an American* (1920) and reflects on the roles of the Italian immigrant press and silent film in the education of new immigrants, showing how they became powerful arenas for educating the immigrant, not the least in American patriotism, at the beginning of the twentieth century. Film served a similar function to the school, the press (including the immigrant press), and the organizations supporting immigrant communities in their transition to becoming American.

*Film still from The Making of an American.
Library of Congress, Motion Picture, Broadcasting,
and Recorded Sound Division.*



2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE: ITALIAN BORDERLANDS: RESTRICTIONS, BREACHES, ENCOUNTERS

VIRTUAL PRESENTATIONS APRIL 5–21, 2021

MONDAY, APRIL 5

New York Borderlands

Negotiating the Upstate/Downstate Divide: Fiorello H. La Guardia, New York State's Milk Crises, and the Potential for Rural-Urban Coalitions Today, AMY E. TRAYER, Queensborough Community College, CUNY

Wyckoff Heights? Italian American Borderland on the Brooklyn/Queens Line, STEPHEN J. CERULLI, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, Queens College, CUNY

The Young Italians' Visions and Dreams of New York: Myth or Reality?, ROSEMARY SERRA, University of Trieste

TUESDAY, APRIL 6

Literature beyond Borders

Giose Rimanelli, a Border Writer, ROSINA MARTUCCI, Independent Scholar

Border Crossings and Kinship in Women's *Letteratura della Migrazione*, MERIEL TULANTE, Thomas Jefferson University

Albania as Perennial Italian Borderland in the Novels of Albanian Italoophone Authors, VIKTOR BERBERI, University of Minnesota Morris

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7

ROUNDTABLE

Hope Amidst the Chaos of the New Migrations to Southern Italy: Principles, Realities, and Trends

FILIPPO PISCOPO, director, *It Will Be Chaos* (2018)
KATIA PASSERINI, Seton Hall University
ARTURO PAGÁN, United Nations Population Fund

THURSDAY, APRIL 8

Cultural Encounters between Italy and Latin America

Italian Immigrants and Ideas in Nineteenth-Century Argentina, HEATHER SOTTONG, University of California, Los Angeles

Crossing Cultural Borders: Fernando Ortiz and Italian Thought in Latin America, DAVID ALIANO, College of Mount Saint Vincent

FRIDAY, APRIL 9

Cinematic and Musical Borderlands

Italian American Borderlands in Spike Lee's *Jungle Fever*, MARIE-CHRISTINE MICHAUD, Université de Bretagne-Sud, Lorient

The Politics of Italian Identity: Alessandro Mahmoud and Sanremo 2019, ANTHONY D. SARGENTI, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

Bonding across Borders in Matteo Troncone's *Arrangiarsi (Pizza . . . and the Art of Living)*, EVELYN FERRARO, Santa Clara University

Mediterranean Border: The Case of Venice, GIULIANA MUSCIO, University of Padua

MONDAY, APRIL 12

Families, Neighborhoods, and Beyond

The Italian/American Question: Memory, Space, and Identity, JACQUELINE MAY, Independent Scholar

Breaking Down Borders in the Digital Age: A Case Study of the Descendants of

Gaspere Cario, AMY DEUINK, Pennsylvania State University, and MELISSA E. MARINARO, Senator John Heinz History Center

Arbëreshë, Italian Albanians, Albanian Americans, Italian Americans: Intersecting Borders during the Migrations of the 1890s–1920s, FRANCESCA CANADÉ SAUTMAN, Hunter College, CUNY

TUESDAY, APRIL 13

Italian Politics and Culture from Fascism to Postwar Democracy in the Life and Work of Uguccione Ranieri di Sorbello (1906–1969)

Uguccione Ranieri, Giuseppe Prezzolini, and the Teaching of Italian Language in the United States in the 1930s, ROBERTO DOLCI, University for Foreigners of Perugia

The Journey away from the Fascist Regime in the Wartime Experience of Uguccione Ranieri di Sorbello, RUGGERO RANIERI, Romeyn Robert and Uguccione Sorbello Foundation

"The Italian Scene": A Cultural Bridge between Postwar Italy and the United States, ANTONELLA VALOROSO, The Umbra Institute

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14

Colonial Africa

Research Resources on Italians in the Horn of Africa, COLLEEN BRADLEY-SANDERS, Brooklyn College Library

Italy's Recruitment of Migrants in the Interwar Years: Empire and Labor Mobilization, DONATELLA STRANGIO, Sapienza University of Rome

THURSDAY, APRIL 15

Negotiating Boundaries, Negotiating Identities

The Arrests of Alberto Mario and Jessie White Mario: British Exceptionalism, Transnational Families, and Derivative Citizenship, DIANA MOORE, John Jay College, CUNY

Testing Hybridity: Arab-Muslim Solidarity and the Italian Conquest of Ottoman Tripolitania, 1911–1912, CHRIS J. ROMINGER, University of North Florida

Returning Home as Enemies: Luigi Antonini, the Italian-American Labor Council, and the Fight against Italy during World War II, ANTONIA CUCCHIARA, The New School of Social Research

FRIDAY, APRIL 16

Sicily as Mediterranean Borderland

From Micheli to the *Baracche*: The Polis in Flux and Stasis after the 1908 Earthquake of Messina, LINA INSANA, University of Pittsburgh

The Rebirth of a Mediterranean Migration System: Migration between Sicily and Tunisia, GIULIANO FLERI, The Graduate Institute, Geneva

MONDAY, APRIL 19

Northeast Italy

Fostering a Nationalist Geographical Fantasy: Women Writers and the Italian Northeastern Border (1915–1918), CRISTINA GRAGNANI, Temple University

Redrawing the Map, Reconstructing Identity: Italian-Yugoslavian Borderlands and Anti-Slavism in Italian Discourse during Fascism, LUISA MORETTIN, NCI University in London

TUESDAY, APRIL 20

ROUNDTABLE

Crossing Borders with Ulysses's Second Eye: Searching for Italy's Identity in *Il secondo occhio di Ulisse*

SILVIA CARLOROSI, Bronx Community College, CUNY
PETER CARRAVETTA, Stony Brook University, SUNY
WILEY FEINSTEIN, Loyola University Chicago
DANIELE FIORETTI, Miami University
SIMONA WRIGHT, The College of New Jersey
Discussant: SANTE MATTEO, Miami University

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21

KEYNOTE

Where Is Italy? Borders and Borderlands from Metaphor to Geopolitics

DONNA GABACCIA, University of Toronto (Emerita)

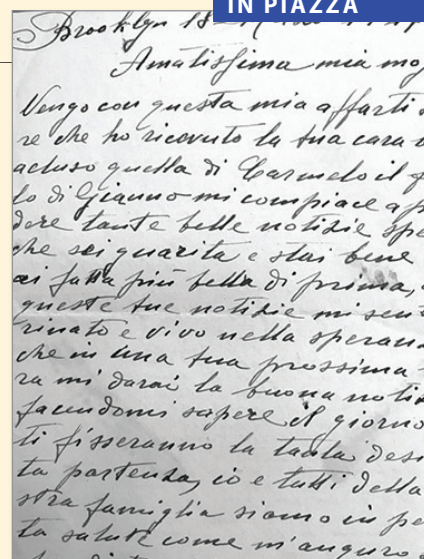
Vivo-Fruttauro Collection

In July 2016, Lisa Giordano of Carroll Gardens, Brooklyn, arrived at the Calandra Institute's midtown Manhattan offices bearing a cache of letters written in Italian. Earlier that same year, on a Saturday morning in March, she had come upon the letters strewn on the sidewalk in front of a brownstone on Degraw Street, between Smith and Court Streets. Carroll Gardens was once a significant Italian American community that became gentrified over time, many houses being gutted for renovation by new owners.

Giordano thought the Calandra Institute might provide a haven for these discarded artifacts. We accepted her donation—even though the Institute is not an archival institution—with the hope to one day do justice to those epistolary correspondents. Toward that goal, the Institute partnered with graduate students Domenica Diraviam, Viviana Pezzullo, and Federico Tiberini at Florida Atlantic University to make the letters part of the Italian-American Memories: Documentary Archive, an online digital collection of letters and ephemera from Italian American lives the three students had created.

We are excited to announce the launch of the Vivo-Fruttauro Collection, which features transatlantic correspondence between members of the Vivo-Fruttauro families from Brooklyn, La Spezia (Liguria region), and Bagnoli (an area on the outskirts of Naples). The letter writers covered a variety of topics, including pending emigration to the United States, among other quotidian matters.

You can browse the scanned letters at: <https://itamm.omeka.net/collections/show/4>.



Susan Caperna Lloyd Collection Purchased by the American Folk Life Center, Library of Congress

The thirty-year archive of Susan Caperna Lloyd, Italian American writer, photographer, and filmmaker, was purchased by the American Folk Life Center, Library of Congress, Washington, DC. Her photographs, a film documenting Good Friday rites (*Processione: A Sicilian Easter*) and book (*No Pictures in My Grave: A Spiritual Journey in Sicily*, Mercury House, 1992), led to the library's interest in her work. Her portfolios, negatives, films, slides, writings and journals will be available in perpetuity to researchers and the public. Caperna Lloyd's cross-cultural subjects are far-ranging: flamenco dance, Italian and Latin American *santos*, Italian-Argentine wine growers, Basque, Roma, and Hindu festivals, and folk heroes such as Emiliano Zapata, Che Guevara, and Juan Soldado.



Sky Lloyd carrying a pillow with medallions in the 1988 Procession of the Mysteries, Trapani, Sicily.

Susan Caperna Lloyd's original study of Sicily's Holy Week has resulted in a forthcoming book of photographs and text, *The Crucifixion of Lucy Reyes: Holy Week Rituals of Sacrifice, Fertility and Power*, a study of Holy Week from Spain to the Americas and the Philippines. Currently she is photographing pre-Lenten Carnival rites in Sicily, as well as documenting her Italian family's immigration cycle (see "Angela," VIA 30.2, and her film *The Baggage*).

In January 2021, NICHOLAS GROSSO began a PhD program at Oxford Brookes University in the Faculty of Technology, Design, and Environment, in the School of Arts, Publishing/Print Culture Research Unit. With a focus on publishers, historical and contemporary, his proposed research is tentatively titled *Blueprints: How principles of architecture, infrastructure, and the public sphere inform the construction of publishers' identities in the digital age*. Using concepts typically applied to physical space, Nicholas will investigate how publishers construct the imaginary and intellectual spaces of our shared realities.

ANTHONY JULIAN TAMBURRI participated in the first webinar of the series OutSpoken: "The Contribution of the European Diasporas to the EU-US Relations," sponsored by the Embassy of Portugal in Washington, DC. The discussion was moderated by Ambassador Domingos Fezas Vital and included Eleni Kounalakis, lieutenant governor of California (Greece); Loretta Brennan Glucksman, chairman emeritus, The Ireland Funds America (Ireland); Anthony Tamburri, dean of the Calandra Italian American Institute (Italy); Frank Spula, president of the Polish American Congress (Poland); Angela Costa Simões, president of the Portuguese American Leadership Council of the United States (Portugal). The webinar was followed by a cello concert by Mafalda Santos.

NANCY ZIEHLER has retired after serving CUNY for more than thirty-five years. Nancy was associate director of counseling at the Calandra Institute and counselor to the students of Baruch College since 2004. She formed and led a mobile crisis unit of Institute counselors to provide trauma counseling to over 1,000 New Yorkers in the months following the World Trade Center attacks. For her work with survivors, she was presented with an award for Outstanding Service by John Jay College of Criminal Justice in 2002. Nancy was the editor of *Italian American Students in New York City, 1975–2000*, a research anthology of multicultural counseling literature pertaining to Italian Americans. She earned a PhD in counseling psychology from New York University and is a licensed mental health counselor in NY and NJ. The Calandra Institute is most appreciative for her service and wishes her well in her retirement.

AD MEMORIUM

LAWRENCE FERLINGHETTI 1919–2021

Lawrence Ferlinghetti, literary citadel of San Francisco, died February 22, 2021. He was 101.

Ferlinghetti's love of language and creativity, and his stand against censorship, had a deep impact on American culture. In the elevation of American vernacular voices into the national literature, his contributions were unparalleled.

Lawrence Monsanto Ferling was born in 1919, the youngest of five sons, in Yonkers, NY. His Italian immigrant father had shortened the family name; as an adult, Lawrence would change it back. His father died before Lawrence was born and he grew up bouncing between an uncle in Manhattan, an aunt in France, and an orphanage in Chappaqua, NY.

Ferlinghetti graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a degree in journalism. He served as a naval officer during World War II, arriving in Nagasaki soon after it was hit with an atomic bomb. The scenes he witnessed were the root of his lifelong opposition to war and nuclear weapons. After the war he earned a master's degree in English literature from Columbia University and

then set out for Paris, where he wrote the dissertation for his doctorate in modern poetry and met his future wife, Selden Kirby-Smith, with whom he had two children before they divorced in 1976.

Ferlinghetti arrived in California in 1951 and within two years helped open City Lights Pocket Book Shop in the Italian American neighborhood of North Beach, San Francisco. The shop specialized in paperbacks and little-known poetry and stocked gay and lesbian publications. A bohemian arts renaissance led by poet Kenneth Rexroth was emerging. He fell in with Rexroth, whose weekly salons sparked Ferlinghetti's political awakening.

In his poem "The Old Italians Dying," Ferlinghetti spoke to the city he loved and the changes he'd seen:

The old anarchists reading *L'Umanita Nova*
the ones who loved Sacco & Vanzetti
They are almost gone now
They are sitting and waiting their turn

Lawrence Ferlinghetti is survived by his son Lorenzo, daughter Julie Sasser, and three grandchildren.

Italian American Review

VOLUME 10 • NUMBER 2



JOHN D. CALANDRA ITALIAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE

The *Italian American Review* features scholarly articles about Italian American history and culture, as well as other aspects of the Italian diaspora. The journal embraces a wide range of professional concerns and theoretical orientations in the social sciences and cultural studies. The *Italian American Review* publishes book, film, and digital media reviews and is currently accepting article submissions.

For more information, go to
calandrainstitute.org.
Under the publications menu,
click on *Italian American Review*.



An Introductory Note
DAVID ALIANO

ARTICLES

Italian Immigrants, Whiteness, and Race: A Regional
Perspective
STEFANO LUCONI

“I Tell Heem Nothing!”: Education and the Americanization
of Italian Immigrants at the Turn into the Twentieth Century
CRISTINA STANCIU

NOTES

Dr. Vittoria repetto (1951–2020): A Tribute
MARIA FAMÀ AND DENISE LETO

Gil Fagiani: Friend, Mentor, Activist, Poet
STEPHEN SICILIANO, GENE BILD, GERALD MEYER, ROGER D.
HARRIS, AND JAMES TRACY

BOOK REVIEWS

*Women Writing Cloth: Migratory Fictions in the American
Imaginary* (Mary Jo Bona)
CHRISTA BAIADA

*Unwanted: Italian and Jewish Mobilization against Restrictive
Immigration Laws, 1882–1965* (Maddalena Marinari)
DANIELLE BATTISTI

John Fante’s Ask the Dust: A Joining of Voices and Views
(Stephen Cooper and Clorinda Donato, editors)
STEVEN BELLUSCIO

*Accidental Orientalists: Modern Italian Travelers in Ottoman
Lands* (Barbara Spackman)
ANTHONY GORMAN

*Dixie’s Italians: Sicilians, Race, and Citizenship in the Jim Crow
Gulf South* (Jessica Barbata Jackson)
ANTHONY J. STANONIS

FILM REVIEWS

Napolitaners (Gianluca Vitiello)
JASON PINE

Mister Wonderland (Valerio Ciriaci)
JESSICA LEONORA WHITEHEAD

EXHIBITION REVIEWS

Fantasy World: Italian Americans in Animation (Mariana Gatto,
curator)
CLORINDA DONATO