

JOHN D.

CALANDRA  
ITALIAN  
AMERICAN  
INSTITUTE

Annual Report  
2015–2016



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# Contents

- 5 Letter from the Dean
- 6 Introduction

## RESEARCH AND PROGRAMS

- 10 Annual Conference
- 11 Demographics
- 12 International Study
  - CUNY / Italy Exchange
  - Italian Diaspora Studies Summer Seminar
  - Perugia Summer Study Abroad
- 14 Italics
- 17 Public Programs
  - Seminar Series in Italian American Studies
  - Writers Read Series
  - “Documented Italians” Film and Video Series
  - Fuori Collana
- 22 Galleria
- 24 Publications
- 26 Student Counseling

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 30 Advisory Councils
  - Italian American Community Advisory Council
  - Italian American Studies Advisory Council
  - Italian Language Advisory Council
  - Italian American Faculty and Staff Advisory Council
- 31 Calandra Community Book Club
- 31 Community Calendar
- 31 Friends of the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute
- 32 Italian Heritage and Culture Month
- 32 Italian Language Intercultural Alliance
- 32 Italian Language Resource Laboratory

## RESOURCES

- 36 Facilities
- 37 Library
- 38 Staff



Dear Friends,

Over the last thirty-seven years the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute has been devoted to documenting and preserving the Italian American experience. To fulfill this mission, the Institute has built a comprehensive, multifaceted approach involving scholarly research, public programs, visual arts, literature, film, and counseling services. This report highlights the Institute's work during academic year 2015–2016.

Established to represent the largest European ancestral group in New York City and State, the Institute operates from an academic perspective, fostering higher education among and about Italian Americans, advising students, generating awareness of issues affecting the community, and conducting demographic, humanistic, and social science research in order to deepen the understanding of Italian American and Italian diasporic history and culture.

If you have attended any of the Institute's events, you have experienced some of the diverse programming offered—from symposia to art exhibitions to our television program *Italics* on CUNY TV—all free of charge and readily accessible. If you have not yet visited, we extend an invitation to you now in the hopes that you will come to see the Institute's work as essential both to New York and American history.

The John D. Calandra Italian American Institute is the world's only organization of its kind and scope devoted to the study of Italian America and the Italian diaspora. We welcome your participation and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Anthony J. Tamburri". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial 'A'.

Cav. Anthony Julian Tamburri, Ph.D.  
Dean and Distinguished Professor

# Introduction

The John D. Calandra Italian American Institute of The City University of New York (CUNY) began as the Italian American Institute to Foster Higher Education. In 1978, New York State Senator John D. Calandra, then chairperson of the Italian Legislative Caucus, called for the creation of an Italian American institute to address historical, sociological, political, and cultural issues specific to the demographic group.

The New York Conference of Italian American State Legislators funded the institution in 1979 to respond to the educational needs and concerns expressed by Italian American students, faculty, and staff at CUNY. Eight years later, the Institute was renamed the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, in honor of the late senator. In 1995, the CUNY Board of Trustees officially designated the Institute as a university-wide research institute devoted to the Italian American experience, under the aegis of Queens College.

The Institute's mission is in keeping with that of The City University of New York: to foster higher education among future generations. The Institute seeks to heighten awareness of the immigrant experience and broaden the understanding of the history of Italian Americans in the United States of America. The Institute fulfills its mission through its commitment to:

- Conduct, sponsor, and publish empirical, theoretical, and analytical research that will expand critical understanding of the Italian American experience.
- Operate specialized counseling programs in areas of outreach, articulation, student retention at CUNY, and career aspirations.



- Publish a peer-reviewed semi-annual journal, *Italian American Review*.
- Serve as a central clearinghouse for the dissemination of research to academia, government, industry, and the civic community.
- Organize conferences, lectures, seminars, and symposia on Italian America and the Italian diaspora.
- Administer a CUNY/Italy Exchange program between CUNY and Italian universities.
- Maintain a resource library of printed material and video pertaining to Italian America.
- Maintain databases regarding Italian American students and faculty at CUNY as well as faculty, scholars, and professionals at other universities.
- Produce and distribute a television program, *Italics*, to disseminate news about Italian America and feature influential figures in related fields.

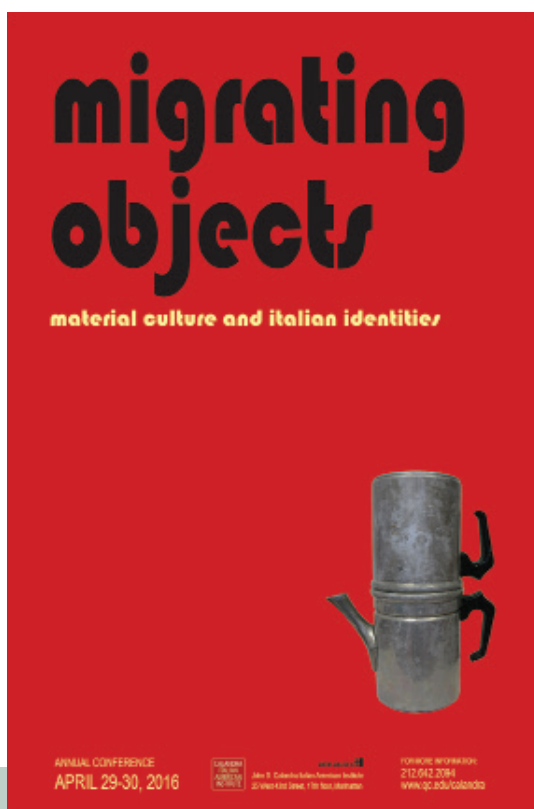


# Research and Programs

# Annual Conference

Since 2008 the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute has hosted an annual interdisciplinary two-day conference attended by scholars and participants from around the globe.

The 2016 conference, “Migrating Objects: Material Culture and Italian Identities,” focused on material culture in the contexts of Italy, its colonies, and its diasporic communities. Forty-eight scholars, from six countries including the United States, gathered together to present their research findings to a wide audience of academics, students, and the general public.



# Demographics

The Institute conducts sociodemographic studies of Italian Americans in the United States, including various geographic sectors by state, urban area, and region. These profiles highlight the cultural presence, economics, educational achievements, family structure, life cycles, and occupational participation of Italian Americans. Temporal studies are conducted to assess changes in population. Demographic analyses are applied using census data detailing individual responses and surveys of populations to examine contemporary trends for social science research on Italian Americans and other ethnic or racial groups.

Research analyzes educational and occupational achievements of Italian Americans in order to estimate the labor pool of post-secondary faculty and administrators as well as graduation and high school dropout rates of Italian American youth. This research documents Italian American experiences in society, school, and the workplace and provides the basis for Italian American affirmative action data and personnel accountability at The City University of New York.

# International Study

International student exchange is a significant component of the Institute's mission. Administering these programs entails recruitment, coordination with scholars in both countries, student advising, arranging housing, and overall management of foreign and domestic students throughout their tenure abroad.

## CUNY/ITALY EXCHANGE

The CUNY/Italy Exchange program is designed for undergraduate and graduate students interested in coursework and research in many areas of intellectual pursuit. The program provides participants with an individualized focus in their academic discipline and opportunities to gain international perspectives and skills to support their career goals. Participating universities are Link Campus University Rome, University of Chieti-Pescara, University for Foreigners Perugia, and University of Siena. During the 2015–2016 academic year, five Italian students and five American students took part in the program. The exchange program also places faculty fellows and research scholars at the Institute and various CUNY campuses.



## ITALIAN DIASPORA STUDIES SUMMER SEMINAR

In 2015 the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute and the University of Calabria embarked on a collaborative endeavor designed to introduce doctoral students and professors to cultural studies of the Italian diaspora from a variety of academic perspectives. The program was funded by the Italian Language Intercultural Alliance, National Italian American Foundation, and Order Sons of Italy in America Grand Lodge in New York.

## SUMMER STUDY ABROAD IN PERUGIA

The Summer Study Abroad in Perugia program provides American students the opportunity to study Italian language and culture in Perugia, a medieval city in Umbria, Italy. This program is offered in collaboration with the Department of European Languages and Literatures at Queens College, CUNY. In summer 2016, eighteen students studied abroad at the University for Foreigners, Perugia.



# Italics

*Italics: Television for the Italian American Experience* is a monthly half-hour magazine format presentation in the CUNY Presents timeslot that features prominent Italian Americans in the arts, business, government, sports, academia, and more. Each episode explores various aspects of the diaspora, Italian American history and traditions, contemporary Italian American life, and takes a projected look at the future of the Italian American community. *Italics* is now in its third decade serving the Italian American community and those interested in Italian American culture.

## 2015–2016 SEASON

JULY 2015

Maria Lisella, Queens Poet Laureate / Professor Margherita

AUGUST 2015

Sinatra, An American Icon: A Conversation with Charles Granata

SEPTEMBER 2015

LGBTQ in Italian America

OCTOBER 2015

Italian Heritage and Culture Month Specials #1–5

DECEMBER 2015

Tomie de Paola / Mario Sesti / Alessandro Parrello

JANUARY 2016

Carl Safina / Luca Chiara Accessories / NOIAW

FEBRUARY 2016

Dr. Robert Gallo on HIV-AIDS / Photographer Alexo Wandael



MARCH 2016

Women's History Month One-Hour Special

APRIL 2016

Sculptor Dionisio Cimorelli / Italian American Podcast

MAY 2016

NOIAW 35th Anniversary Gala / NIAF New York Gala

JUNE 2016

Open Roads Italian Cinema / NYCIASL Albany / NYWIFT  
DW Gala

## 2015 ITALIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE MONTH HIGHLIGHTS

Joseph Sciamè, Chairman, Italian Heritage and Culture Month  
Committee of New York

Angelo Vivolo, Frank Fusaro, Columbus Citizens Foundation  
Honorable Natalia Quintavalle, Consul General of Italy, NY  
Giorgio van Straten, Director, Italian Cultural Institute, NY

## COMMEMORATIVE DVDS

*Italics* Highlights Double-DVD Collection

NOIAW 30th Anniversary Double-DVD Collection

## PROMOTIONAL VIDEOS

Correspondent Reel, Lucia Grillo

Host Reel, Anthony Tamburri

*Italics* promotional videos (30" & 10")





# Public Programs

## "DOCUMENTED ITALIANS" FILM AND VIDEO SERIES

Film screenings documenting the Italian diasporic experience

DECEMBER 14, 2015

*Way Down in the Hole* (2010), 40 minutes, Alex Johnston, director. Post-screening discussion with the director led by Mary Anne Trasciatti.

FEBRUARY 22, 2016

*Il Ballo dei Giganti di Nola* (2015), 90 minutes, Antonio Iorio, director. Post-screening discussion with the director led by Joseph Sciorra.

MARCH 31, 2016

*Fighting Paisanos* (2013), 52 minutes, Marco Curti, director. Post-screening discussion with the director led by Fraser Ottanelli.

THE PHILIP V. CANNISTRARO SEMINAR SERIES  
IN ITALIAN AMERICAN STUDIES

A forum where scholars present their research to the public

OCTOBER 1, 2015

*An Unlikely Union: The Love-Hate Story of New York's Irish and Italians*, Paul Moses, Brooklyn College, CUNY

OCTOBER 26, 2016

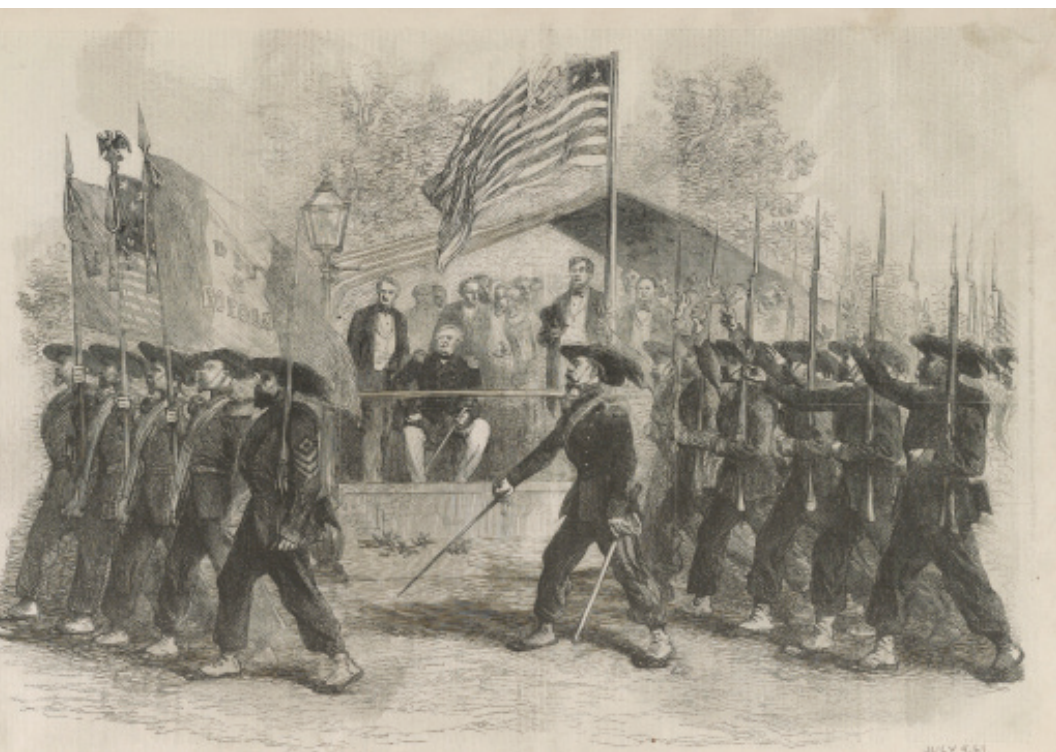
*Immigrants against the State: Yiddish and Italian Anarchism in America*, Kenyon Zimmer, University of Texas at Arlington

MARCH 3, 2016

*The Heart and the Island: A Critical Study of Sicilian American Literature*, Chiara Mazzucchelli, University of Central Florida

APRIL 7, 2016

*New York's Italian Exile Press and the Civil War*, Benedicte Deschamps, Université Paris Diderot



## WRITERS READ SERIES

Presentations by creative writers reading from recently published works

SEPTEMBER 17, 2015

Mary Jo Bona reads from *I Stop Waiting for You* (Bordighera Press, 2014) / Louisa Calio reads from *Journey to the Heart Waters* (Legas, 2014) / George Guida reads from *The Sleeping Gulf* (Bordighera Press, 2015)

DECEMBER 2, 2015

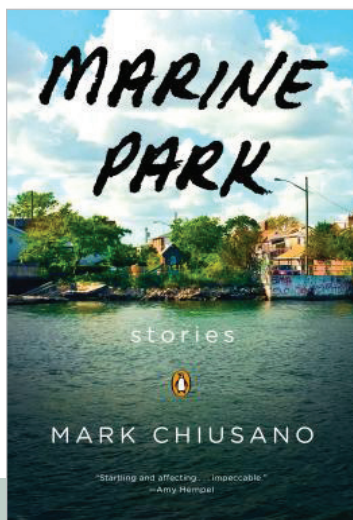
Mark Chiusano reads from *Marine Park: Stories* (Penguin Books, 2014)

MARCH 14, 2016

Three Poet Laureates: Lorraine LoFrese Conlin, Maria Lisella, and Robert Savino

MAY 5, 2016

Cheryl Della Pietra reads from *Gonzo Girl: A Novel* (Touchstone, 2015)



## FUORI COLLANA

Impromptu events organized and hosted by the Institute

SEPTEMBER 16, 2015

Fundraiser: "An Evening in Lazio"

OCTOBER 2, 2015

Book presentation: Giampiero Mele, *Calabria, guerriera e ribelle* (Arcane, 2014)

OCTOBER 6, 2015

Book presentation: Victoria Surliuga, *apnea* (Disegnodiverso, 2015)

OCTOBER 13, 2015

Symposium: Italian Diaspora Studies and Internationalization:  
The Role of the University of Calabria and CUNY

OCTOBER 20, 2015

The Bridge Book Award: Domenico Starnone, *Lacci* (Einaudi, 2014) and Quinto Antonelli, *Storia intima della grande guerra: lettere, diari e memorie dei soldati dal fronte* (Donzelli, 2014)

NOVEMBER 18, 2015

Film screening: *Author and Activist: The Daniela Gioseffi Story*, Anton Evangelista, 2015

JANUARY 28, 2016

Panel discussion: *The Jews in Fascist Italy: An Historical Appraisal* by Renzo De Felice (Enigma Books, 2015)

FEBRUARY 9, 2016

Film screening of *Dinner Rush* (Bob Giraldi, 2001) and performance of one-act play *Five Years Later* (written by Paolo Tartamella, 2016 / directed by Vittorio Capotorto)

FEBRUARY 22, 2016

Panel Discussion: “Why do I write?” by Dacia Maraini

MARCH 15, 2016

Symposium: Emigration, Migration, and Self-Determination:  
Italians, Mexicans, and Puerto Ricans in Search of an  
American Dream

MARCH 23, 2016

Book Presentation: Anthony Tamburri, *Rereading Italian  
Americana* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2015)

MARCH 30, 2016

Film screening: *Montedoro* (2014), Antonello Faretta, director

APRIL 6, 2016

Fundraiser: “We Have Not Forgotten: April 6, 2016, Marks  
Seven Years Since the L’Aquila Earthquake”



## Galleria

A showcase for the visual arts and history

MAY 28, 2015–JANUARY 28, 2016

### *Reframing Italian America: Historical Photographs and Immigrant Representations*

This exhibition brought to light twenty-three historical photographs from the Institute's Bernard Titowsky Collection of over two hundred items. The images depict Italian immigrant life in the United States from approximately the first three decades of the twentieth century.



FEBRUARY 18, 2016–MAY 13, 2016

### *Ancient Inspirations: Paintings by Vincent Baldassano*

The paintings on exhibition were made during the artist's tenure at the American Academy in Rome. The works were inspired by ancient sites such as Ostia Antica and the ruins of Mithraic temples, as well as by the city's historical churches and the tangible evidence of centuries of Italian culture.





# Publications

*Forty Years of Italian American Government Employment in New York City and New York State*

By Vincenzo Milione, Italia Pelizzoli, Carmine Pizzirusso

Studies in Italian Americana, Volume 9

*Transcending Borders, Bridging Gaps: Italian Americana, Diasporic Studies, and the University Curriculum*

Edited by Fred Gardaphé and Anthony Julian Tamburri

Studies in Italian Americana, Volume 10

*Reframing Italian America: Historical Photographs and Immigrant Representations*

Edited by Rosangela Briscese and Joseph Sciorra

Studies in Italian Americana, Volume 11

*Neapolitan Postcards: The Canzone Napoletana as Transnational Subject*

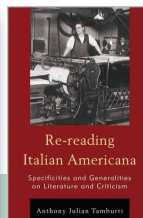
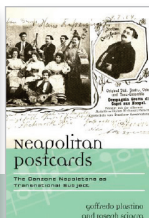
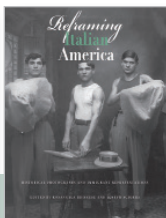
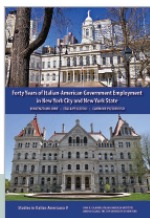
Edited by Gofredo Plastino and Joseph Sciorra

Published by Rowman & Littlefield

*Re-reading Italian Americana: Specificities and Generalities on Literature and Criticism*

By Anthony Tamburri

Published by Fairleigh Dickinson University Press



*Italian American Review*, a biannual, peer-reviewed social science and cultural studies journal, publishes leading scholarship on topics of interest in Italian American studies, including essays, documents, notes, and reviews of books, films, exhibitions, and websites.

Volume 5, Number 2 / Volume 6, Number 1



*Il Bollettino* highlights semester activities and disseminates information relevant to the academic community and general public. *Il Bollettino* serves as a biannual report to the New York Conference of Italian American State Legislators.

Volume 8, Number 2 / Volume 9, Number 1

*Il Giornalino* showcases the writings of high-school and college students studying Italian. The 2016 edition highlighted the work of students enrolled in Italian classes in the United States and studying abroad in the Perugia program.

# Student Counseling

The Institute has provided counseling services to Italian American students and the community since 1979. Specialized counselors are trained and sensitive to the history, culture, and experience of Italians in America. The counselors are licensed clinicians who provide an array of services including academic advising, career development, and personal counseling.

## CUNY CAMPUS COUNSELING

Counselors work at select CUNY campuses, providing support to Italian American students in higher education. The critical goal of student retention and development is accomplished through academic, career, and personal counseling. Information is provided regarding scholarships and study abroad opportunities. Counselors assist students to develop and refine their educational plans, from associate's degree to doctoral and professional levels. During the 2015–2016 academic year, counselors provided liaison to CUNY campuses at Baruch College, Brooklyn College, Hunter College, Lehman College, and Queens College.

## HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELING

Outreach services are offered at high schools with high concentrations of Italian American students or strong interest in Italian language and Italian American culture. Counselors promote interest in higher education through career exploration and college advisement. During the 2015–2016 academic year, counselors provided services to the following high schools: New Utrecht, Xaverian, Michael J. Petrides School, Moore Catholic High School, and Holy Cross.

## CENTER FOR CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Originally established in 1985, the Center for Career Development was relaunched in 2015 to provide individual career counseling and assessment to current students and members of the Italian American community who may want to enroll at CUNY in order to pursue continuing education, return to college, or enter college for the first time. Services included multiple counseling sessions, the administration and interpretation of career inventories, and the dissemination of information regarding the academic majors, degree options, and certificate programs offered at CUNY.



# Community Engagement

# Advisory Councils

The Institute has convened and maintains meeting schedules for several prominent advisory groups. Participating members represent a range of academics and professionals in the Italian American community.

**ITALIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL** includes members from major Italian American organizations. The council facilitates the development and growth of various Italian American associations.

**ITALIAN AMERICAN STUDIES ADVISORY COUNCIL** advises on research, service projects, and other academic programs that focus on Italian American studies curricula and development.

**ITALIAN LANGUAGE ADVISORY COUNCIL** advises on the status of Italian language instruction at CUNY. The council addresses the involvement of the university's Italian departments and advocates for the expansion of Italian American studies curriculum.

**ITALIAN AMERICAN FACULTY AND STAFF ADVISORY COUNCIL** is comprised of representatives from each CUNY campus who advise college presidents on matters affecting the university's Italian American community. Delegates articulate the concerns of students, faculty, and staff at individual campuses and recommend methods of resolution.



# Calandra Community Book Club

Since 2014 the Institute has hosted a monthly book club where participants come together to examine classics of Italian American literature. Works discussed during the year 2015–2016 included: *White Noise*, by Don DeLillo; *Casting Off*, by Louise DeSalvo; and Gay Talese’s legendary article “Frank Sinatra Has a Cold.”

## Community Calendar

The Institute collates and disseminates monthly event information submitted by community organizations. The calendar is distributed via email to more than 5,000 subscribers.

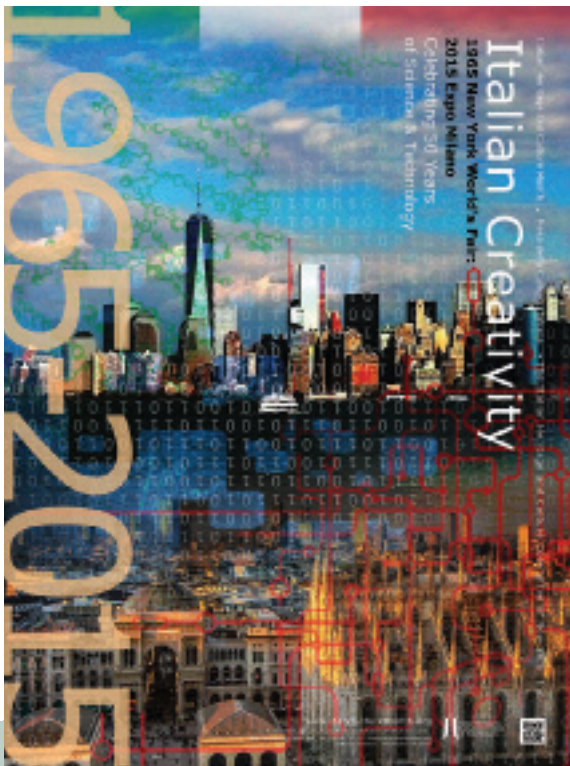


## Friends of the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute

This foundation was established to support and advance the education and research mission of the Institute, in particular the sponsorship of recommended projects and programs.

# Italian Heritage and Culture Month

Since 1976 leading institutions in New York's Italian American community have organized a series of events to coincide with Columbus Day celebrations in October. The John D. Calandra Italian American Institute is a major sponsor of the Italian Heritage and Culture Committee of New York and its work upholding this significant cultural responsibility. Additionally, the Institute coordinates and produces the annual directory of Italian Heritage and Culture Month special events, concerts, lectures, and proclamations in and around New York City. The 2015 theme was "Italian Creativity: Celebrating 50 Years of Science and Technology."



## Italian Language Intercultural Alliance

Since 2009 the Institute has cosponsored the Italian Language Intercultural Alliance's annual conference and provided critical support to advance the cause of the Advanced Placement exam in Italian language at high schools in the United States.

## Italian Language Resource Laboratory

The Institute established the Italian Language Resource Laboratory to provide educators with a forum through which participants can conduct and publish research, disseminate information, and organize symposia focused on teaching. In 2015 the laboratory launched a refereed online publication, *Teaching Italian Language and Culture Annual*, to discuss the empirical and theoretical concerns of teaching language and learning and to facilitate scholarly exchange among teachers and researchers.



# Resources

## Facilities

In 2015–2016, the Institute sponsored use of its office space and facilities to:

Bordighera Press (in-house press)

i-Italy Digital Project (in residence)

Italian American Studies Association

National Organization of Italian American Women

Women and Work Program

# Library

The Institute's research library contains books, journals, magazines, and newspapers pertaining to Italian American and Italian history and culture, including unique holdings on economics, literature, and politics.

In addition to the Institute's general holdings, the library has four significant collections:

## IL PROGRESSO ITALO-AMERICANO

A near-complete collection of the most widely circulated, longest-running Italian-language daily newspaper (1880–1988) in the United States, archived on microfilm.

## THE SARACENO COLLECTION

This 13,500-volume collection, a gift from the estate of Professor Pietro Saraceno (University of Rome), contains books and periodicals from the eighteenth century Kingdom of Italy—including rare volumes of the *Leggi e Decreti*—to the Italian Republic up to 1959.

## THE CAMMETT COLLECTION

This 5,500-volume collection, a gift from the estate of Professor John Cammett (John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY), includes the complete works of Antonio Gramsci and books on Italian Communism and anti-Fascism.

## THE CANNISTRARO COLLECTION

This 2,000-volume collection, a gift from the estate of Professor Philip V. Cannistraro (Queens College, CUNY) contains books on Italian Fascism.

# Staff

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Italian Language Intercultural Alliance

For a complete list of sponsors, visit the Institute's website donors  
page: <http://qcpages.qc.cuny.edu/calandra/institute/donors/donors>.

## PHOTOGRAPHIC CREDITS

Cover, *Silk Road 122*, and page 4, 8, 28, 34, *Vicolo* (detail) by Joanne Mattera.

Page 13: Perugia landscape, photograph by Joseph Grosso.

Page 16: Feast of the Gigli, Nola, Italy, photograph by Joseph Sciorra.

Page 18: Print showing the Garibaldi Guard Regiment marching past President Abraham Lincoln, 1861. Courtesy of Library of Congress.

Page 22: *Trastevere* by Vincent Baldassano.

Page 23: Hatmakers, Philadelphia, photographer and date unknown. John D. Calandra Italian American Institute.

Page 32: Poster designed by John Battista De Santis.





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