

JOHN D.  
CALANDRA  
ITALIAN  
AMERICAN  
INSTITUTE

Annual Report  
2019–2020





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Dear Friends,

For more than forty years the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute has been committed 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 2019–2020.

The Institute was established to represent the largest European ancestral group in New York City and State and fosters 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 its diverse programming—from symposia to art exhibitions to our program *Italics* on CUNY TV—all available to the public free of charge. Finally, this year some of our events were either canceled or postponed due to Covid-19.

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 blue ink that reads "Anthony J. Tamburri". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent flourish at the end.

Cav. Anthony Julian Tamburri, PhD  
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. 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 biannual journal, *Italian American Review*.
- Serve as a central hub 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.



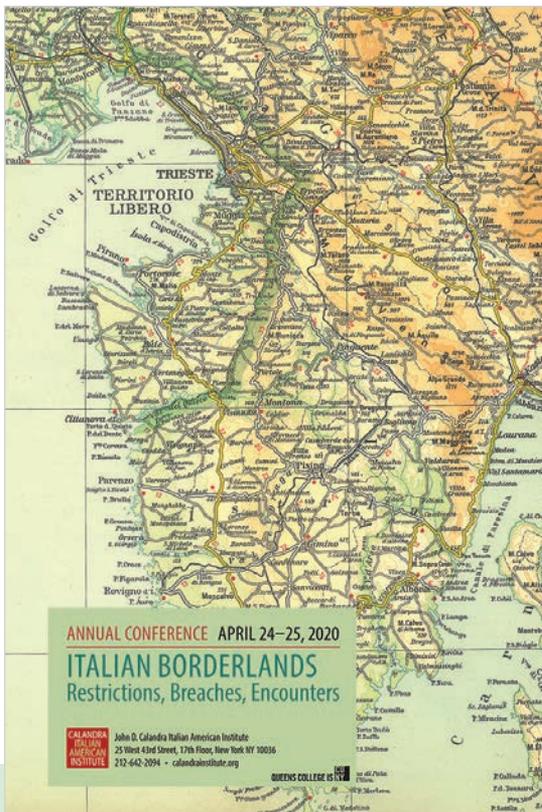
# Research and Programs

# 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 2020 conference, “Italian Borderlands: Restrictions, Breaches, Encounters,” proposed a transnational, mobile, and inclusive approach to Italy and “Italians,” in order to elucidate the consequences and possibilities that border studies suggest and to gain a deeper understanding of class, gender, and race.

(DUE TO COVID-19 THE CONFERENCE WAS POSTPONED TO APRIL 2021)



# Counseling

The Institute has provided counseling services to Italian American students and the community since 1979. Specialized counselors are trained in 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, personal counseling, and workshops to foster psychosocial wellness.

## 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. Counselors assist students to develop and refine their educational plans, from associate's degree to doctoral and professional levels. During the 2019–2020 academic year, counselors provided liaison to CUNY college campuses at Baruch, Brooklyn, Hunter, Lehman, Queens, and Queensborough.

## 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 2019–2020 academic year, counselors provided services to: Holy Cross High School, Michael J. Petrides School, and Moore Catholic High School.

# 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 include: Roma Tre University, University for Foreigners of Perugia, University of Perugia, and the University of Siena. The exchange program also places researchers and interns at the Institute and various CUNY campuses. During the 2019–2020 academic year, four American students and ten Italian students participated in the program.



# International Study

Undergraduate study abroad, research fellows, and visiting scholars comprise the Institute's international study initiatives. Administering these programs entails recruitment, coordination with university partners in both countries, working with CUNY departments and offices to register and monitor students, student advising, arranging housing, and overall management of foreign and domestic students throughout their tenure abroad.

## ITALIAN DIASPORA STUDIES SUMMER SEMINAR

The Italian Diaspora Summer Studies Seminar is designed to introduce doctoral students and professors to cultural studies of the Italian diaspora and allows fellows to return to their campuses with curricular resources and better equipped to offer courses on Italian diaspora studies. The program is funded by CUNY's Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Alexandra de Luise Gift, Italian Language Inter-Cultural Alliance, and Unico Brookhaven.

## 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.

# 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 academia, the arts, business, government, sports, and more. Each episode explores various aspects of the diaspora, Italian American history and traditions, and contemporary Italian American life. *Italics* is now in its third decade serving the Italian American community and those interested in Italian American culture.

## 2019–2020 SEASON

JULY 2019

30 Years of Casa Italiana, New York University, Stefano Albertini

AUGUST 2019

Celebrating 40 Years of the Calandra Institute, Donna Chirico and Joseph Sciorra

SEPTEMBER 2019

Celebrating 40 Years of the Calandra Institute, Siân Gibby, Joan Migliori, and Rosaria Musco

OCTOBER 2019

Columbus Day Parade, Marian Pardo and Angelo Vivolo /  
A View from the Bridge, Claire Beckman

NOVEMBER 2019

“Real” Italians and Non-“Real” Italians, Stefano Albertini and Resella Rago

DECEMBER 2019

National Italian American Foundation Annual Gala / Lou Del Bianco on Mount Rushmore Chief Carver Luigi Del Bianco

JANUARY 2020

Italian Language Inter-Cultural Alliance 15th Anniversary Celebration

FEBRUARY 2020

Taylor Taglianetti, National Organization of Italian Americans in Film and Television / National Organization of Italian American Women Annual Three Wise Women Celebration honoring June Grasso, Anne Prisco, and Stephanie Ranieri

MARCH 2020

The African Italian Female Voice: *Future: il domani narrato dalle voci di oggi*, Camilla Hawthorne, Marie Moise, Angelica Pesarini, and Candice Whitney

APRIL 2020

Giuseppe Prezzolini in New York, Mark Pietralunga and Gennaro Sangiuliano

MAY 2020

Lockdown Tales from Italy

JUNE 2020

Aldo Tambellini, an Italian American Artist



# Public Programs

## "DOCUMENTED ITALIANS" FILM AND VIDEO SERIES

Film screenings documenting the Italian diasporic experience

OCTOBER 28, 2019

*Il Signor Jackson* (2018), Anton Evangelista, director.

MARCH 5, 2020

*Vado verso dove vengo* (*I'm Going Where I Came From*) (2019),  
Nicola Ragone, director.



THE PHILIP V. CANNISTRARO SEMINAR SERIES  
IN ITALIAN AMERICAN STUDIES

A forum where scholars present their research to the public

OCTOBER 2, 2019 (CANCELED BY PRESENTER)

*Guido Culture and Italian American Youth: From Bensonhurst to Jersey Shore*, Donald Tricarò, Queensborough Community College, CUNY

NOVEMBER 14, 2019

*Defining Italian American Identity in the United States through Opera during the Mass Migration Period*, Davide Ceriani, Rowan University

NOVEMBER 19, 2019

*The Divo and the Duce: Promoting Film Stardom and Political Leadership in 1920s America*, Giorgio Bertellini, University of Michigan

APRIL 15, 2020 (CANCELED DUE TO COVID-19)

*Creating the New Right Ethnic in 1970s America: The Intersection of Anger and Nostalgia*, Richard Moss, Harrisburg Area Community College

MAY 4, 2020 (CANCELED DUE TO COVID-19)

*Unwanted: Italian and Jewish Mobilization against Restrictive Immigration Laws, 1882–1965*, Maddalena Marinari, Gustavus Adolphus College

## WRITERS READ SERIES

Presentations by creative writers reading from recently published works

SEPTEMBER 24, 2019

Three Bordighera Press writers— Kathy Curto, Maria Terrone, and Rita Esposito Watson—read from their works.

NOVEMBER 6, 2019

Juliet Grames reads from *The Seven or Eight Deaths of Stella Fortuna* (Ecco, 2019)

FEBRUARY 20, 2020

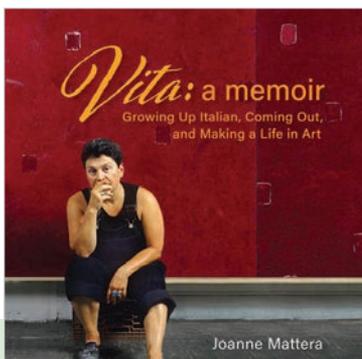
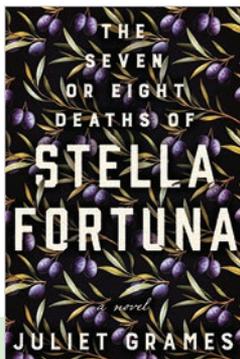
Joanne Mattera reads from *Vita: A Memoir: Growing Up Italian, Coming Out, and Making a Life in Art* (Well-Fed Artist Press, 2019)

APRIL 6, 2020 (CANCELED DUE TO COVID-19)

Nadina LaSpina reads from *Such a Pretty Girl: A Story of Struggle, Empowerment, and Disability Pride* (New Village Press, 2019)

MAY 13, 2020 (CANCELED DUE TO COVID-19)

Joanna Clapps Herman reads from *When I Am Italian: Quando sono italiana* (State University of New York Press, 2019)



## MICHELLE GIANNATTASIO LECTURE SERIES

Off-site events hosted by St. Nicks Alliance

St. Nicks Alliance is a nonprofit community development organization serving low- to moderate-income North Brooklyn residents. 2019–2020 events were hosted at the Swinging Sixties Senior Citizens Center, Brooklyn, NY.

SEPTEMBER 18, 2019

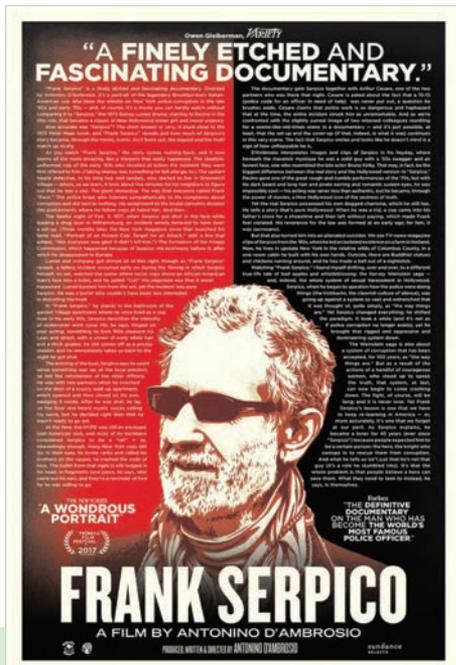
Documentary Screening: *Frank Serpico* (2018) with director Antonino D'Ambrosio

DECEMBER 4, 2020

Lecture: “Naples in New York,” Joseph Sciorra

MARCH 13, 2020 (CANCELED DUE TO COVID-19)

Songs of Sicily: Michela Musolino and Rosa Tatuata



## FUORI COLLANA

Additional events organized and hosted by the Institute

AUGUST 12, 2019

Artist Talk: Goombarooch Resignified, John Avelluto

OCTOBER 16, 2019

Book Presentation and Discussion: Cesare Pavese's *Long Journey: A Critical-Analytical Study*, Mark Pietralunga

OCTOBER 17, 2019

Presentation: Quaderni Social/Social Notebooks, The Postalmarket Case, Eugenio Filograna

OCTOBER 17, 2019

Roundtable: The New Reputation of "Made in Italy," Luigino Belloni and associates

OCTOBER 18, 2019

Workshop: Italian Language Teaching Development, Carmel Coonan, Eugenia Paulicelli, Annavaleria Guazzieri, and Nicola Lucchi

OCTOBER 22, 2019

Symposium and Exhibition Opening: *Dove il sì suona: A Journey through the Italian Language*, Hermann Haller, Paola Ureni, and Silvana Mangione

OCTOBER 29, 2019

Lecture: From Berlusconi to Conte, 25 Years of Crisis of the Republic in the European Context, Gennaro Carotenuto

DECEMBER 12, 2019

Lecture: Giuseppe Prezzolini in New York, Promotion and Propaganda of Italian Language and Culture in the USA 1930–1940, Gennaro Sangiuliano, Mark Pietralunga, Fabio Girelli Carasi, and Roberto Dolci

FEBRUARY 4, 2020

Book Presentation: *Future: il domani narrato dalle voci di oggi* (Effequ, 2019), Candice Whitney, Camilla Hawthorne, Marie Moise, and Angelica Pesarini



## GALLERIA

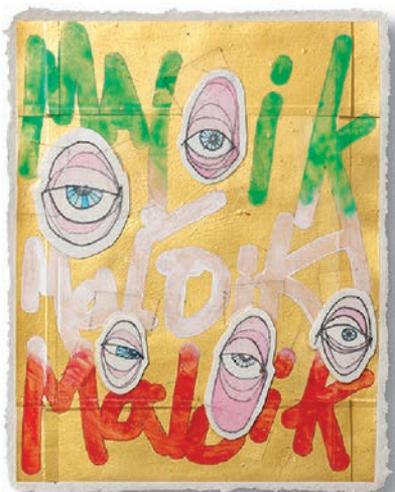
A showcase for the visual arts and history

MAY–SEPTEMBER 2019

*Goombarooch Resignified: Works by John Avelluto*

Curated by Joseph Sciorra

Visual artist John Avelluto's multimedia work explores Italian American culture through a linguistic and visual repertoire of vernacular references.



OCTOBER 2019–MARCH 2020

*Dove il si suona: A Journey through the Italian Language*

La Società Dante Alighieri

This exhibition presents the evolution of the Italian language over the centuries, from its origins to the present. It illustrates the differences among geographical areas, varying uses of Italian, and its close relationship with Italian culture and other great languages of culture.

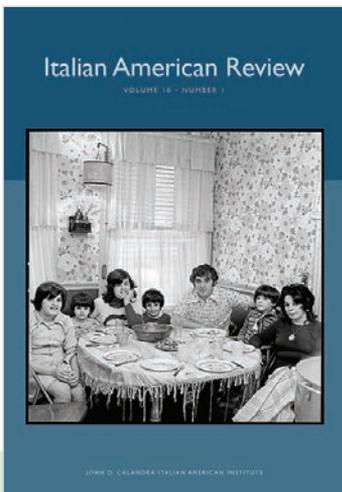
# Publications

## BY THE INSTITUTE

*Italian American Review*, a biannual, peer-reviewed social science and cultural studies journal, publishes leading scholarship on topics of interest in Italian American studies. It is designated a category I journal by the Ministry of Education, University and Research, Italy. Volume 10.1 is the inaugural edition published by University of Illinois Press. Volume 9, Number 2 / Volume 10, Number 1

*Il Bollettino* highlights semester activities and serves as a biannual report to the New York Conference of Italian American State Legislators. Volume 12, Number 2 / Volume 13, Number 1

*Il Giornalino* showcases the writings of high school and college students studying Italian.



FROM THE STAFF

*Interrogations into Italian-American Studies*

Edited by Anthony Julian Tamburri

Published by Bordighera Press

*Mediterranean Memories: Memorie mediterranee*

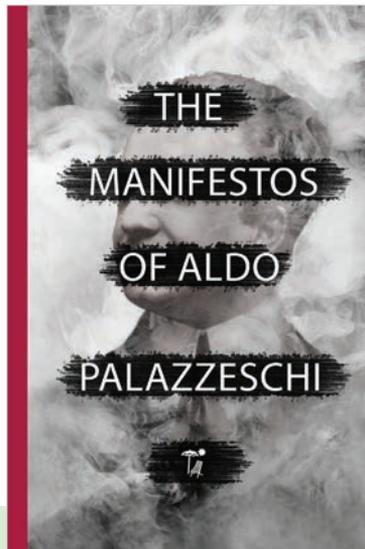
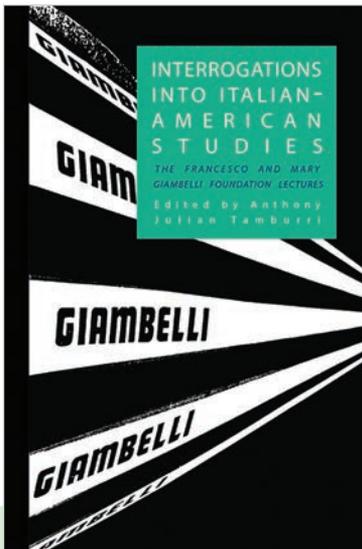
Edited by Anthony Julian Tamburri and Antonio Vitti

Published by Bordighera Press

*The Manifestos of Aldo Palazzeschi*

Edited by Katia Pansa and Nicholas Grosso

Published by Bordighera Press



# Research

Institute initiatives employ a range of disciplines and methods—from interpretive analysis to quantitative research—to study individuals, communities, organizations, and institutions of the past and present.

In addition to research conducted by staff, the Institute supports international scholars by providing access to facilities and opportunities to present ongoing and published work.

## CULTURAL STUDIES

Research in the arts and humanities examines the ways in which Italian American culture is articulated in historical, social, economic, cultural, and political contexts. Areas of exploration include literature, music, cinema, theater, the interdisciplinary fields of migration and diasporic studies, literary and film criticism, media, popular culture, folklife, and vernacular culture.

## ITALIAN LANGUAGE RESOURCE LABORATORY

In 2015 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. The laboratory publishes 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.

## SOCIODEMOGRAPHICS

Quantitative analyses in sociodemographic fields interpret the lives of Italian Americans in the United States. Research in the disciplines of demographics, linguistics, political science, psychology, and sociology highlights the cultural presence, economics, educational achievements, family structure, life cycles, and occupational participation of Italian Americans.

Periodic reports provide the basis for Italian American affirmative action accountability at The City University of New York.



## PUBLISHED RESEARCH BY STAFF

Fred Gardaphé. 2019. “Mascolinità italoamericana.” In *Storia degli italoamericani*, edited by William J. Connell, Stanislao G. Pugliese, and Maddalena Tirabassi, 677–691. Le Monnier Università.

Fred Gardaphé. 2020. “In Education Begin Responsibilities. Or, Why Italian Americans Don’t Know What They Don’t Know.” In *Interrogations into Italian American Studies*, edited by Anthony Julian Tamburri, 1–34. Bordighera Press.

Joseph Sciorra and Laura E. Ruberto. 2019. “Migrating Objects: Italian American Museums and the Creation of Collective Identity.” In *Storia degli italoamericani*, edited by William J. Connell, Stanislao G. Pugliese, and Maddalena Tirabassi, 755–772. Le Monnier Università.

Joseph Sciorra and Laura E. Ruberto. 2020. “‘Columbus might be dwarfed to obscurity’: Italian Americans’ Engagement with Columbus Monuments in a Time of Decolonization.” In *Public Memory in the Context of Transnational Migration and Displacement: Migrants and Monuments*, edited by Sabine Marschall, 61–93. Palgrave Macmillan.

Joseph Sciorra. 2019. “‘Protesta per Sacco e Vanzetti’—Compagnia Columbia; ‘Sacco e Vanzetti’—Raoul Romito (1927).” Library of Congress. National Recording Preservation Board. <https://www.loc.gov/static/programs/national-recording-preservation-board/documents/ProtestaperSaccoeVanzetti.pdf>.

Anthony Julian Tamburri. 2019. “La letteratura ‘italofona’ negli Stati Uniti.” In *Geocultura. Annuario della Società Dante Alighieri*, 357–369.

Anthony Julian Tamburri. 2019. “Food as Delineator in *Dinner Rush*: A Semiotic of Generational Difference among “Italians” in America.” In *E|C Rivista Online dell’Associazione Italiana di Studi Semiotici*, 1–14.

Anthony Julian Tamburri. 2019. “Segni e significabilità del cinema italiano/americano: code-switching in *Dinner Rush*, *Big Night* e *Mean Streets*.” In *Mirroring Myths*, edited by Vito Zagarrio, 175–184. Roma Tre-Press.

Anthony Julian Tamburri. 2019. “Aldo Palazzeschi and the Transgression of Humor.” In *The Manifestos of Aldo Palazzeschi*, edited by Katia Pansa and Nicholas Grosso, 111–127. Bordighera Press.

Anthony Julian Tamburri. 2019. “Gli americani italiani in televisione.” In *Storia degli Italoamericani*, edited by William J. Connell, Stanislao G. Pugliese, and Maddalena Tirabassi, 553–566. Le Monnier Università.

# 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 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.

ITALIAN AMERICAN STUDIES ADVISORY COUNCIL consists of members of the CUNY community and 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 curricula.

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

# Outreach

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Institute collates and disseminates monthly event information submitted by community organizations. The calendar is distributed via email to more than 6,000 subscribers.

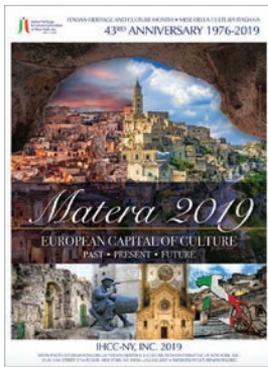
## FRIENDS OF THE JOHN D. CALANDRA ITALIAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE

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.

# Partnerships

## 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, Inc. 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 2019 theme was “Matera: European Capital of Culture.”

## ITALIAN LANGUAGE INTER-CULTURAL ALLIANCE

Since 2009, the Institute has cosponsored the Italian Language Inter-Cultural Alliance's annual conference and provided critical support to further the cause of the Advanced Placement exam in Italian language at high schools in the United States. In January 2020, ILICA celebrated fifteen years of its work.

## SOCIETÀ DANTE ALIGHIERI OF NEW YORK

In October 2017 a collaborative protocol was established between the Società Dante Alighieri and the Institute, leading to the relaunch of the New York chapter. In academic year 2019–2020 the two organizations cosponsored and hosted numerous academic and public programs.

# Resources

# Facilities

In academic year 2019–2020, the Institute sponsored use of its office space and facilities to:

Bordighera Press (in-house press)

Italian American Studies Association

Italian Heritage and Culture Committee, Inc.

La Commedia di Dante in Italiano in Midtown

National Organization of Italian American Women

Roma Tre University

Società Dante Alighieri of New York

# 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 its 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 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 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 Philip V. Cannistraro (Queens College, CUNY), contains books on Italian Fascism.

# Staff

Rosangela Briscece	Associate Director for Academic and Cultural Programs
Stephen Cerulli	College Assistant
Lisa Cicchetti	Communications and Publications Manager
Fred Gardaphé, Dr.	Distinguished Professor of English and Italian American Studies
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Joseph Grosso	Counselor
Nicholas Grosso	Editorial Coordinator
Rachel Hoyle	Office Assistant
Joan Migliori	Assistant Director for Community and International Programs
Vincenzo Milione, Dr.	Director of Demographic Studies
Rosaria Musco	Associate Director of Administration
Olga Pappas	College Assistant
Itala Pelizzoli	Demographer
Carmine Pizzirusso	Research and Program Manager
Eugenio Pizzorno	Broadcast Associate
Marianna Prestigiacommo	Office Assistant
Catalina Santamaria	Broadcast Associate
Joseph Sciorra, Dr.	Director for Academic and Cultural Programs
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Queens College

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Italian American Studies Association

Italian Language Inter-Cultural Alliance

Alexandra de Luise

For a complete list of sponsors, visit the Institute's website donors  
page: <https://calandrainstitute.org/the-institute/donors/>.



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