

An aerial photograph of a lush forest landscape. A river flows through the upper half of the image, surrounded by dense green trees. Below the river, the terrain is rocky and covered in moss. At the bottom of the image, a large body of water, likely a lake or a wide river, is visible, showing a vibrant turquoise color. The overall scene is a mix of green, brown, and blue tones, suggesting a natural, undisturbed environment.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE
April 28–30, 2022

ECO ITALIE

Material Landscapes and
Environmental Imaginaries

JOHN D.
CALANDRA
ITALIAN
AMERICAN
INSTITUTE

QUEENS COLLEGE IS 

Eco Italie: Material Landscapes and Environmental Imaginaries

Italians operating under diverse historical conditions within the national borders and beyond have participated in varied roles and perspectives in transforming the global environment. Building on the growing scholarship analyzing Italian histories and cultures from the perspective of the environmental humanities this interdisciplinary conference encompasses a wide range of topics concerning the environment, broadly understood, from backyard gardening practices to industrial farming, from Fascist-era agricultural projects to the dumping of toxic waste by perpetrators of organized crime. At the forefront of this scholarly encounter is the dire global climate crisis and the science, activism, and everyday cultural shifts involved in alleviating a future catastrophe.

THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2022

6:00-8:00pm

Welcome and Reception

Anthony Julian Tamburri, Dean, John D. Calandra Italian
American Institute

Cesare Bieller, Consul, Consulate General of Italy in New York

Fabio Finotti, Director, Istituto Italiano di Cultura New York

Frank H. Wu, President, Queens College, CUNY

Film Screening

Le figuier (2018), 28 minutes

Paul Tana, director

University of Quebec, Montreal

FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2022

9:00–9:30 am Coffee & Pastries

9:30–10:30 am

Gardening in Italy and Beyond, Part 1

Chair: Stefano Morello, The Graduate Center, CUNY

My Father's Garden: Cultivating Bonds Across Time and Space,
SUSAN AMATANGELO, College of the Holy Cross

Reframing Italian Cultures of Nature in the Nineteenth Century:
Alpine Gardens and the First Steps toward Nature Conservation,
ZOE LAURI, European University Institute

10:45 am–12:15 pm

Keynote

Green Traces: Vegetal Imagination in Italian Science Fiction from
Gilda Musa to Solarpunk, ENRICO CESARETTI, University of
Virginia

12:15–1:30 pm Lunch on Your Own

1:30–2:45 pm

Twenty-First Century Literature

Chair: Rosangela Briscese, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, Queens College, CUNY

Climate Change Narratives: Italy's Human and Non-Human Transformative Storytelling, LAURA DI BIANCO, Johns Hopkins University

Ecological Identities and Environmental Imaginaries in Fabrizia Ramondino's Writings, ROSSELLA DI ROSA, University of Pennsylvania

"Infinite Chromatic Games": Textual Visibility of Color in Caterina Franciosi's Eco-Dystopian *Terra nova* (2020), ROSE FACCHINI, Boston University

3:00–4:40 pm

Crisis in Italy

Chair: George De Stefano, Independent Scholar

Terremoto! Major Earthquakes and Their Consequences in Southern Italy, VICTORIA CALABRESE, Lehman College, CUNY

Danilo Dolci's *Acqua e potere*: A Posthuman View on Water in Western Sicily, VIKTOR BERBERI, University of Minnesota Morris

Polluted Land, Poisoned Futures: Trans-Corporeality in Scanzano's Antinuclear Protests, Past and Present, DYLAN GILBERT, The University of Texas at Austin

Territories on the Move: Biocultural Heritage, Rural Regenerations, and Poetics of "Restanza": Ethnographies from EARTH Project, LETIZIA BINDI, University of Molise

SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2022

9:00–9:30 am Coffee & Pastries

9:30–10:45 am

Twentieth-Century Literature

Chair: Fred Gardaphé, Queens College, CUNY

Central Italy's Countryside in *Il sole a picco* (1929): Writer Vincenzo Cardarelli and Painter Giorgio Morandi Facing Natural Landscape, VIRGINIA MAGNAGHI, Scuola Normale Superiore

To Dwell within this World: Political and Material Landscapes in Luigi Sturzo's *Ciclo della creazione*, DANIEL JOSEPH RIETZE, Brown University

Joseph Tusiani and His Naturalistic Poetry in Four Languages, ROSINA MARTUCCI, University of Salerno

11:00 am–12:15 pm

Migrating Landscapes

Chair: Donna Chirico, York College, CUNY

American Economy/Italian Ecology: Making and Unmaking the Lung Block, STEFANO MORELLO, The Graduate Center, CUNY, and KERRI CULHANE, University College London

Giacomo Sferlazzo's Lampedusa: Music, Art, and Political Commitment, from the "Middle of the Mediterranean," GEORGE DE STEFANO, Independent Scholar

Conserving Fascism's Legacy: The Politics of Waste, Preservation, and Erasure, SOPHIA MAXINE FARMER, University of Arkansas-Fort Smith

12:15–1:30 pm Lunch on Your Own

1:30–2:45 pm

Colonial and Fascist Agriculture in Africa

Chair: Joseph Sciorra, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, Queens College, CUNY

The Water of the Horn: Erratic Rivers and Irrigation Projects in the Italian Colonial Empire between Adwa and Mussolini (1897–1934), ANGELO MATTEO CAGLIOTI, Barnard College

Sciences and Agricultural Services of the Italian Colonies during the Fascist Period, RICCARDO DE ROBERTIS, University of Teramo

Nature, Race and Empire: Fascist Agricultural Projects in Libya, MICHELE MONSERRATI, Williams College

3:00–4:00 pm

Gardening in Italy and Beyond, Part 2

Chair: Siân Gibby, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, Queens College, CUNY

Crafting New Italian Landscapes in Captivity: Italian Prisoners of War in Kenya and South Africa during World War II, ELENA BELLINA, University of Rochester

Gardening to Preserve Ancient Roots, ILARIA SERRA, Florida Atlantic University



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