



CALANDRA
ITALIAN
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INSTITUTE

REIMAGINING WHITE ETHNICITY EXPRESSIVITY, IDENTITY, RACE

APRIL 27-28, 2012

Cosponsored by the Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies,
Queens College, CUNY

REIMAGINING WHITE ETHNICITY

This conference seeks to reclaim white ethnicity as a complex and historically situated site that invites reflections on those heterogeneous and hybridic identities that often challenge hegemonic narratives and histories. It locates European-American ethnicities in relation to recent scholarship on whiteness, transnationalism, and diaspora. The conference positions collectives such as Greek America, Irish America, Italian America, Polish America, and others as historically distinct yet interrelated cultural fields, whose complexities have not been sufficiently recognized by scholarship. Conference participants investigate historical trends and recent developments in the cultural expression of these ethnicities, including revitalization of heritage, institution-building, transnational exchanges, hybridities, and progressive cultural politics that emerge in the wake of globalization and multiculturalism.

THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2012

6:00–8:00 PM

WELCOME AND RECEPTION

FRED GARDAPHÉ, Queens College, CUNY

JOSEPH SCIORRA, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute

CHRISTOS P. IOANNIDES, Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies

KATHARINE COBB, Queens College, CUNY

LUCIA PASQUALINI, Consulate General of Italy in New York

EXPRESSIVITY, IDENTITY, RACE

FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2012

9:30–10:45 AM

REPRESENTING ITALIAN AMERICANS [Conference Room](#)

Chair: Dennis Barone, Saint Joseph College

Images of Italian Americans in African-American Literature during Jim Crow, SAMUELE F. S. PARDINI, Elon University

Colum McCann's *Let the Great World Spin* and the Erasure of Italian-American Experience, NANCY CARONIA, University of Rhode Island

Homespun History, Youngstown Style: Ethnic Representation in Do-It-Yourself Narratives, ANTHONY D. MITZEL, Università di Bologna

MISSED OPPORTUNITIES: THE 1970s RESURGENCE OF WHITE ETHNIC IDENTITY AND THE LEFT [La Galleria](#)

Chair: Gaia Giuliani, Università di Bologna

The Threat of a Good Example: Twentieth-Century Solidarity Identities in Working-Class White Communities, JAMES TRACY, San Francisco Community Land Trust

White Lightning: Organizing the White Working Class in the Bronx, 1971–1975, GIL FAGIANI, Italian American Writers Association

Beyond Whiteness, LYNN LEWIS, Picture the Homeless

11:00 AM–12:15 PM [Conference Room](#)

KEYNOTE : Ethnic Acts: On “European Ethnicity” Cultural Politics, YIORGOS ANAGNOSTOU, Ohio State University

1:30–2:45 PM

NEGOTIATING SCANDINAVIAN IDENTITIES [Conference Room](#)

Chair: Samuele F.S. Pardini, Elon University

Lox and Lax: How Marcus Samuelsson Merges Ethnicities for Consumption,
JONATHAN BEAN, The New School

Latex, Hijabs, and the Refiguration of the Swedish Folk Costume, ANNA BLOMSTER,
University of California, Los Angeles

Heritage Envy: Selecting the “Danish Days” Maid in Solvang, California, HANNE PICO
LARSEN, Columbia University

FAMILY, FOOD, AND CULTURAL CAPITAL [La Galleria](#)

Chair: Robert Oppedisano, Editor

Traditional Greek-American Child-Rearing, MARILYN ANN VERNA, St. Francis College

Italian Foodways as a Marker of Ethnicity: Italians Are What They Eat, PATRIZIA
LA TRECCIA, University of South Florida

Italian-American Cultural Capital, PAOLA MELONE, John D. Calandra Italian
American Institute

3:00–4:15 PM

**THE GREEKS OF NEW YORK CITY: CONTEMPORARY TRENDS AND HISTORICAL
CONTEXTS** [Conference Room](#)

Chair: Christos P. Ioannides, Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies,
Queens College, CUNY

Greek Americans of Queens: Ethnic Identity in the Second Generation of Post-1965
Immigrants, NICHOLAS ALEXIOU, Queens College, CUNY

Greek Immigrants and Greek Americans in New York City Observed through the
National Census, ANNA KARPATHEAKIS, Kingsborough Community College, CUNY

Films about Greek Americans in New York: A Case Study of the Greek-American
Image in American Cinema, DAN GEORGAKAS, Center for Byzantine and Modern
Greek Studies, Queens College, CUNY

CLEF NOTES ON MUSIC [La Galleria](#)

Chair: Gil Fagiani, Italian American Writers Association

The Wanderers: Italian-American Doo Wop, Sense of Place, and Racial Crossovers in Postwar New York City, SIMONE CINOTTO, Università degli Studi di Scienze Gastronomiche

Living the Dance in Tarpon Springs, PANAYOTIS LEAGUE, Hellenic College

Polishness in Terms of Authenticity, Social Conservatism, and Whiteness in Buffalo, New York, MARTA MARCINIAK, University at Buffalo, SUNY

4:30–5:45 PM

WHITE PRIVILEGE [Conference Room](#)

Chair: David Michalski, University of California, Davis

Beyond Racism, Beyond Whiteness: A Critical Investigation of White Privileged Discourse, KATHRYN PETERSON, New York University

The Dialectic of White Privilege: Resisting Habits of Privilege with Merleau-Ponty, KRISTIN ANNE RODIER, University of Alberta

Antiracism as Rhetoric: Arizona's House Bill 2281 and Saving Ethnic Studies through a "Dis-Knowing" Critical Pedagogy, JULIA ISTOMINA, Ohio State University

[SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2012](#)

9:30–10:45 AM

HISTORICIZING ITALIAN AMERICANS AND RACE [Conference Room](#)

Chair: Cristina Lombardi-Diop, Loyola University Chicago

"Fatti di sangue": Italian Americans, Race, and Justice in the Late Nineteenth Century, BÉNÉDICTE DESCHAMPS, Université Paris Diderot

A Race Destined to Expire: *Prominenti*, Native Americans, and the Boundaries of Civilization and Race, PETER G. VELLON, Queens College, CUNY

The Social Construction and Contestation of Whiteness in York County, Pennsylvania, JUSTIN D. GARCIA, Millersville University

THE BODY AND SEXUALITY [La Galleria](#)

Chair: Donna M. Chirico, York College, CUNY

The Sports Race: Alexi, Cioffari, and Body Versus Brain, DENNIS BARONE, Saint Joseph College

"I Must Maintain This Rigid Posture or All Is Lost": The Trials and Tribulations of R. Crumb's Whiteman, JOSEPH COSCO, Old Dominion University

Public Sexuality and Whiteness in Gentrifying Neighborhoods: A Comparative Case Study in Williamsburg and Park Slope, Brooklyn, LAURA BRASLOW, Graduate Center, CUNY and LIDIA K. C. MANZO, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute

11:00 AM–12:15 PM [Conference Room](#)

KEYNOTE : White Ethnicity and the Discourse of Authenticity in Modern Paganisms, SABINA MAGLIOCCO, California State University, Northridge

1:30–2:45 PM

QUESTIONING RACE AND WHITENESS [Conference Room](#)

Chair: Peter G. Vellon, Queens College, CUNY

How Ethnicity Trumps Race in the Struggle for Self-Identity, DONNA M. CHIRICO, York College, CUNY

Italian Americans and Whiteness through the Lens of Americanization: Toward a Critique of Racial Reason, JAMES S. PASTO, Boston University

From Oppressed to Oppressor without Even Trying, JAMES S. PULA, Purdue University North Central

IMAGINING GREEK AMERICANS [La Galleria](#)

Chair: Dan Georgakas, Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, Queens College, CUNY

Changing Images of Greek Immigrants within American Mainstream Society: A Historical Overview Based on Documentary Sources and Case Studies, CONSTANTINE G. HATZIDIMITRIOU, New York City Department of Education

The Book Culture of Greek Americans, MARIA KALIAMBOU, Yale University

Schadenfreude, Anxiety, and Representation in the Era of the Greek Debt Crisis in a Greek Diasporic Community, LEO VOURNELIS, Southern Illinois University

3:00–4:15 PM

CONTINUITIES AND DISCONTINUITIES IN ITALY'S RACIAL IDENTITY

Conference Room

Chair: Patrizia La Trecchia, University of South Florida

An Anthropological Perspective on Italian Ethnicity from the Colonial Age to Post-Colonialism, MOIRA LURASCHI, Università degli Studi dell'Insubria, Varese

The Construction of Italianness: Masculinity and Race in Liberal and Early Fascist Italy, GAIA GIULIANI, Università di Bologna

Spotless Italy: Hygiene, Advertisement, and the Ubiquity of Whiteness, CRISTINA LOMBARDI-DIOP, Loyola University Chicago

COMPARATIVE APPROACHES **La Galleria**

Chair: Bénédicte Deschamps, Université Paris Diderot

White on Arrival?: A Comparison of the Racial Status of Italian Immigrants on the East and West Coasts, STEFANO LUCONI, Università degli Studi di Padova

"What if I'm Too Spicy-Italian for Them?": Italian Canadians and Whiteness Studies, KRYSTA PANDOLFI, York University

Foreign Shades of White: The Transnational Experience of Greek and Italian Communities in Australia and the United States, ANDONIS PIPEROGLOU, La Trobe University

4:30–5:45 PM

HERITAGE FESTIVALS AND ROOTS JOURNEYS **Conference Room**

Chair: Sabina Magliocco, California State University, Northridge

Czech Heritage Festivals in the Midwest: Symbolizing Ethnicity in Rural Spaces, KAREN KAPUSTA-POFAHL and ELIZABETH NECH, Washburn University

The Lost Apostrophe: Race and the Irish-American Roots Journey, SINÉAD MOYNIHAN, University of Exeter

Reconsidering White Ethnic Revivals: Italian Americans and Italian Immigration in the 1950s and 1960s, DANIELLE BATTISTI, Colby College

DECONSTRUCTING AND RECONFIGURING ITALIAN AMERICANS [La Galleria](#)

Chair: Joseph Cosco, Old Dominion University

Race and Taste in the Olive Garden: On the Tuscanization of American Culture, DAVID MICHALSKI, University of California, Davis

"Calling Myself Olive": Italian Americans as Mediterranean Americans, JIM COCOLA, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Beyond the Ghetto: Deconstructing White Italian-American Ethnicity, DORA LABATE, Rutgers University

Note: On Saturday, April 28, enter the building at 28 West 44th Street.



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Queens College/CUNY

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