

**"Documented Italians"
Film & Video Series**

TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 2022, 6 PM



**Dear Sirs (2021), 93 minutes
Mark Pedri, dir.**

Filmmaker Mark Pedri had never heard his grandfather Silvio's story, despite spending nearly every day with him for ten years. It wasn't until after

Silvio's death that Mark found an archive of old photos, letters, and documents detailing Silvio's horrifying experiences as a prisoner of war during World War II. The discovery inspired Mark to bike across Europe with his wife, the film's producer Carrie McCarthy, following the original POW transportation routes in an effort to better understand his grandfather and tell his story.

Post-screening discussion with the director led by Joseph Sciorra, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, Queens College, CUNY.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2022, 6 PM



**Revelstoke: A Kiss in the Wind (2015), 74 minutes
Nicola Moruzzi, dir.**

On October 15, 1915, in the mountains of Western Canada, a tragic work accident ended the

life of 28-year-old Angelo Conte, a young immigrant from Veneto. Throughout the 30 months spent far away from his wife, Anna, Angelo had written to her continually. One hundred years later, Angelo's love letters, hidden in a drawer, were discovered, giving rise to a new adventure. Nicola Moruzzi, the film's director and Angelo's great-grandson, travels to Canada with his partner Irene Vecchio searching for traces of Angelo's story. From Italy to Vancouver and finally Revelstoke, where Angelo is buried, the couple uncover his mystery, crossing paths with Canada's contemporary residents.

Post-screening discussion led by Joseph Sciorra, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, Queens College, CUNY.

Cover: Photographs and documents detailing Silvio Pedri's experience as a POW during World War II

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QUEENS COLLEGE
John D. Calandra Italian American Institute
25 West 43rd Street, 17th floor
New York, NY 10036

THE MONTHLY SERIES

Spring 2022

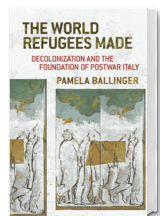


**CALANDRA
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**John D. Calandra Italian American Institute
25 West 43rd Street, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10036**

**The Philip V. Cannistraro Seminar Series
in Italian American Studies**

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2022, 6 PM



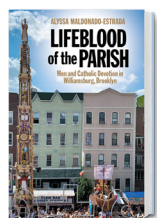
**The World Refugees Made:
Decolonization and the Foundation
of Postwar Italy**

**Pamela Ballinger
University of Michigan**

In *The World Refugees Made* (Cornell University Press, 2020), Pamela

Ballinger reframes our understandings of early postwar Italy by explaining the transformative role played by both decolonization and the “return” migrants from possessions in Africa and the Balkans lost with Fascism’s defeat. While these so-called “national refugees” ultimately became the Italian state’s responsibility, the debates over their legal status and who should provide them humanitarian assistance reveal the ways international and intergovernmental networks overlapped in the nascent Italian Republic. Such discourses were critical in the consolidation of the international refugee regime as well as in the remaking of the Italian state and citizenship after empire.

MONDAY, JUNE 6, 2022, 6 PM



**Lifeblood of the Parish: Men and
Catholic Devotion in Williamsburg,
Brooklyn**

**Alyssa J. Maldonado-Estrada
Kalamazoo College**

Every year, the Shrine Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel hosts the Feast

of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and San Paolino di Nola in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. Its crowning event is the Dance of the Giglio, where men lift and carry a seventy-foot-tall tower through the streets. Drawing on six years of research, Alyssa Maldonado-Estrada’s *Lifeblood of the Parish* (NYU Press, 2020) evocatively presents Catholicism in Brooklyn, where religion is raucous and playful. It offers a new lens through which to understand men’s religious practice, showing how men and boys become socialized into their tradition and express devotion through unexpected acts like woodworking, fundraising, and sporting tattoos.

Writers Read Series

MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2022, 6 PM



**Claudia Durastanti reads
from *Strangers I Know*
(Riverhead, 2022)**

Strangers I Know is the fourth novel by Claudia Durastanti and her first to be translated to English; the book is a bestseller in Italy and winner of the

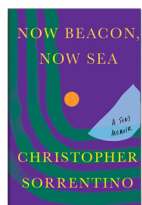
Premio Pozzale Luigi Russo and the Premio Strega Off. The autobiographical novel is a subversive story about family and coming of age; it crosses oceans, languages, and generations, bringing readers into Southern Italian villages and the NYC punk rock scene. The novel’s narrator finds herself living in a strange transnational atmosphere in which communication is nearly nonexistent. An outsider in every way, she longs for a freedom she isn’t sure exists and attempts to create her own version of her life.

“Durastanti, celebrated in Italy for her intelligent voice and her hybrid perspective, speaks to all who are outside and in-between.”

— Jhumpa Lahiri, author of *Whereabouts*

Discussion led by Joseph Salvatore, The New School.

TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2022, 6:30 PM



**Christopher Sorrentino reads
from *Now Beacon, Now Sea:
A Son's Memoir*
(Catapult, 2021)**

The death of Christopher Sorrentino’s mother in 2017 marked the end of a journey that had begun eighty years

earlier in the South Bronx. Victoria Ortiz’s life took her to New York City’s vibrant downtown art scene—where she met her husband, the writer Gilbert Sorrentino—to the sedate Stanford campus, and finally to south Brooklyn. Her son watched helplessly as she grew more isolated, distancing herself from everyone and everything she loved. Sorrentino excavates his own memories in an effort to reveal the ways in which Victoria seemed trapped between conflicting identities: the Puerto Rican girl identified on her birth certificate as Black, and the white woman she had decided

to become. Meanwhile Christopher experiences his own transformation, emerging from under his father’s shadow and his mother’s thumb to establish his identity as a writer.

In partnership with Centro, The Center for Puerto Rican Studies, Hunter College

“I had to reach back to Nabokov’s *Speak, Memory* to find another memoir as powerful and poignant as this one and to find one that as profoundly explores the art of memory.”
— David Treuer, author of *The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee*

Discussion led by Vanessa Pérez-Rosario, Queens College, and Joseph Salvatore, The New School.

THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2022, 6 PM



**Gianna Patriarca reads from *This
Way Home: Selected and New Work*
(Guernica Editions, 2021)**

This Way Home, Gianna Patriarca’s new poetry collection, is, among other things, a challenge to invisibility. This book offers a uniquely and universally powerful voice

from a poet who writes about immigrant communities, anger, love, displacement, religion, and violence and about young and older women who defy their socially designated roles.

“Gianna Patriarca has contributed decades of intense and inspiring poetry to the Canadian literary landscape. She ... offers us hauntingly powerful poems with a spirited humour and a full heart.”

— Karleen Pendleton Jimenez, author of *Are You a Boy or a Girl?*

Discussion led by Anthony Julian Tamburri, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, Queens College, CUNY.

All events are free and open to the public and held at the
John D. Calandra Italian American Institute
25 West 43rd Street, 17th Floor
New York, NY 10036

RSVP by calling (212) 642-2094

COVID protocols will be followed: Attendance is limited to 15 people, and face masks and proof of vaccination and ID are required.

For further information, see www.calandrainstitute.org.

The Calandra Institute is a university-wide institute under the aegis of Queens College, The City University of New York.