

JOHN D.

CALANDRA
ITALIAN
AMERICAN
INSTITUTE

Annual Report
2016–2017

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Dear Friends,

Over the last thirty-eight 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 2016–2017.

The Calandra Institute was established to represent the largest European ancestral group in New York City and State, and 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 its diverse programming—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 black ink, reading "Anthony J. Tamburri". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and a stylized "J".

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, peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary two-day conference attended by scholars and participants from around the globe.

The 2017 conference, “Italian Sonorities and Acoustic Communities: Listening to the Soundscapes of Italianità,” focused on music and other sounds associated with Italy and the Italian diaspora. Thirty scholars from five countries gathered together to present their research findings to a wide audience of academics, students, and the general public.



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, 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. Counselors assist students to develop and refine their educational plans, from associate's degree to doctoral and professional levels. During the 2016–2017 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 2016–2017 academic year, counselors provided services to the following high schools: New Utrecht, Xaverian, Michael J. Petrides School, Moore Catholic High School, and Holy Cross.

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: Link Campus University Rome, Roma Tre University, University of Calabria, University for Foreigners Perugia, University of Perugia, and University of Siena. During the 2016–2017 academic year, four Italian students and four American students took part in the program. The exchange program also places faculty fellows and research scholars at the Institute and various CUNY campuses.



International Study

International scholar and 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.

ITALIAN DIASPORA STUDIES SUMMER SEMINAR

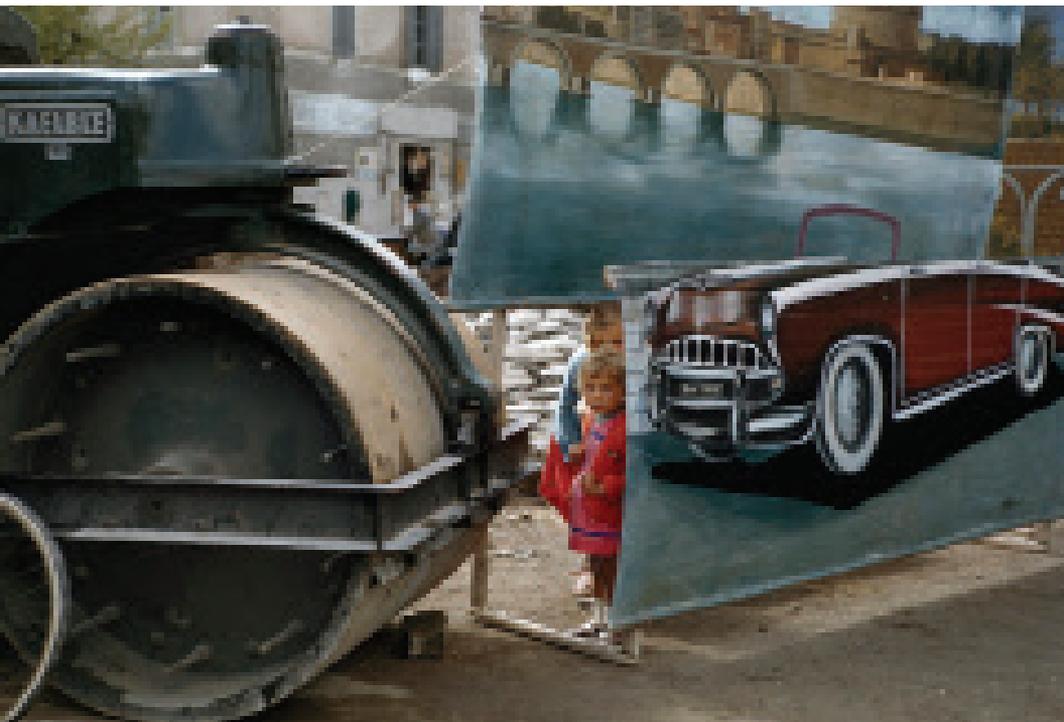
In 2015 the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute and the University of Calabria embarked on a collaborative endeavor designed to introduce doctoral students and professors to cultural studies of the Italian diaspora from a variety of academic perspectives. The program was funded by the Italian Language Intercultural Alliance, National Italian American Foundation, Order Sons of Italy in America Grand Lodge in New York, and Unico National. The summer 2017 seminar was attended by seventeen professors and doctoral students from Australia, Canada, Italy, the United Kingdom, and United States.

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 2017, ten 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, and contemporary Italian American life. *Italics* is now in its third decade serving the Italian American community and those interested in Italian American culture.



2016–2017 SEASON

JULY 2016

John's of 12th Street / Cheryl Della Pietra: *Gonzo Girl* /
NOIAW Honors Janet DiFiore and Maria Vullo

AUGUST 2016

Alex Leonard on Songwriter Harry Warren

OCTOBER 2016

Giovanni Reda, Skate Photographer and Director

NOVEMBER 2016

Natalie Abruzzo, *The Sixty-Six Percent* Documentary /
Garibaldi-Meucci Museum Gala

JANUARY 2017

Tony Vaccaro, Photographer

FEBRUARY 2017

Donato Di Camillo, Photographer

MARCH 2017

Historian Anna Pizzuti / Professor Marcella Bencivenni

APRIL 2017

Italytime Theater's Vittorio Capotorto

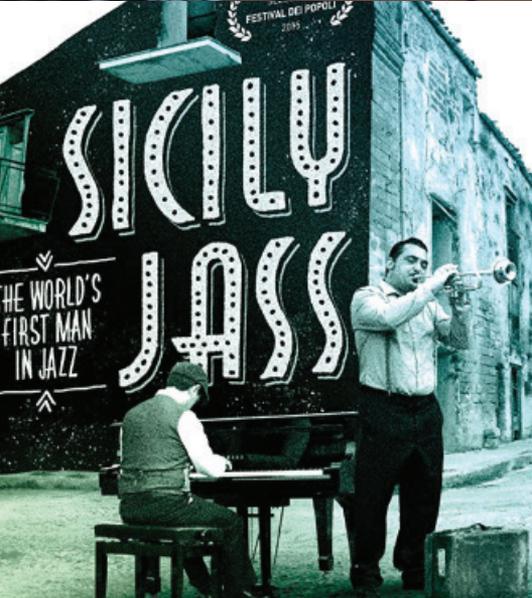
MAY 2017

NOIAW 36th Anniversary Gala / NIAF New York Gala

JUNE 2017

John Gennari: *Flavor and Soul: Italian America at Its African
American Edge*





Public Programs

"DOCUMENTED ITALIANS" FILM AND VIDEO SERIES

Film screenings documenting the Italian diasporic experience

OCTOBER 27, 2016

Andrea Doria: *Are the Passengers Saved?* (2016), 82 minutes, Luca Guardabascio, director. Post-screening discussion with the director led by Joseph Sciorra.

NOVEMBER 15, 2016

If Only I Were That Warrior (2015), 72 minutes, Valerio Ciraci, director. Post-screening discussion with the director led by AnneMarie Tamis-Nasello.

FEBRUARY 22, 2017

The Barese Icemen of New York (2015), 80 minutes, Carlo Magaletti, director. Post-screening discussion with the director led by Mark Naison.

APRIL 19, 2017

Sicily Jass: The World's First Man in Jazz (2015), 73 minutes, Michele Cinque, director. Post-screening discussion with the director led by George DeStefano.

THE PHILIP V. CANNISTRARO SEMINAR SERIES
IN ITALIAN AMERICAN STUDIES

A forum where scholars present their research to the public

OCTOBER 18, 2016

Italian Mobilities, Ruth Ben-Ghiat, New York University, and
Stephanie Malia Hom, Acus Foundation

NOVEMBER 10, 2016

Al Dente: Food in Italy between the Local and the Global, Fabio
Parasecoli, The New School

DECEMBER 1, 2016

*"No One Helped": Kitty Geneovese, New York City, and the
Myth of Urban Apathy*, Marcia Gallo, University of Nevada,
Las Vegas

MARCH 2, 2017

Beyond Memory: Italian Protestants in Italy and America,
Dennis Barone, University of Saint Joseph

MARCH 16, 2017

Flavor and Soul: Italian America at Its African Edge, John
Gennari, University of Vermont

MAY 2, 2017

*Neapolitan Postcards: The Canzone Napoletana as Transnational
Subject*, Giorgio Bertellini, Rosangela Briscese, Ana Cara, and
Joseph Sciorra

WRITERS READ SERIES

Presentations by creative writers reading from recently published works

SEPTEMBER 29, 2016

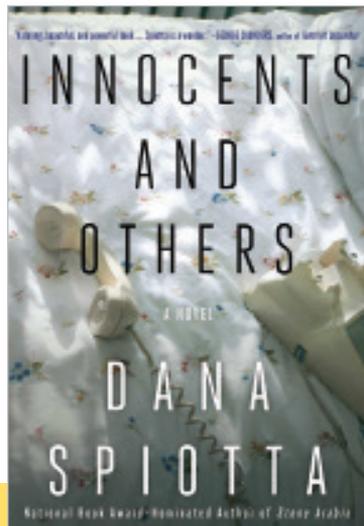
Readings from *Rabbit Ears: TV Poems*, edited by Joel Allegretti (NYQ Books, 2015)

DECEMBER 12, 2016

Dana Spiotta reads from *Innocents and Others* (Scribner, 2016)

MARCH 22, 2017

The Young and the Reckless: Emerging Italian American Writers.
Chloe DeFilippis, Marc Pollifrone, and Angelica Roman



FUORI COLLANA

Events organized and hosted by the Institute outside the pre-set calendar

JUNE 28–29, 2016

Workshop: Immigrant Stories, Elizabeth Venditto, Immigration History Research Center, University of Minnesota

SEPTEMBER 15, 2016

Panel discussion: “Beyond Ellis Island,” Brooklyn Book Festival

SEPTEMBER 26, 2016

Reception: Mvula Sungani Physical Dance Troupe and Italian American Faculty and Staff Advisory Council

OCTOBER 26, 2016

The Bridge Book Award: Nadia Terranova, *Gli anni al contrario* (Einaudi stile libero, 2015) and Marco Belpoliti, *Primo Levi di fronte e di profilo* (Guanda 2015)

OCTOBER 6, 2016

Symposium: “Forty Years of Italian American Civil Service Employment in New York City and New York State”

DECEMBER 15, 2016

Book presentation: *Branded: How Italian Immigrants Became ‘Enemies’ During World War II* by Lawrence DiStasi (Sanniti Publications, 2016)

FEBRUARY 8, 2017

Book presentation: *Memorie d’un cronista d’assalto* by John Cappelli, edited by Luigi Troiani (L’Ornitorinco, 2016)

MARCH 27, 2017

Book presentation: *The Usefulness of the Useless*, by Nuccio Ordine (Paul Dry Books, 2017)

MARCH 30, 2017

Symposium: Giuseppe De Santis Centennial: A New Way to
Entertainment, to Political and Militant Cinema

APRIL 7, 2017

Poetry reading: Celebrating Poetry and Two Italian American
Journals

MAY 10, 2017

Giambelli Foundation Lecture: Lessons from Once-
Dangerous Americans, Maria Laurino



GALLERIA

A showcase for the visual arts and history

NOVEMBER 20, 2016–MARCH 15, 2017

*Doors of Memory / Porte della Memoria:
Photographs by Eleanor Imperato*

MARCH 27–APRIL 7, 2017

*Beyond Borders: Transnational Italy / Oltre I Confini:
Italia Transnazionale*



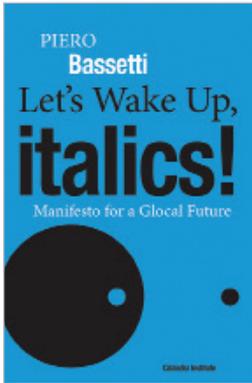
APRIL 20–AUGUST 31, 2017

*An Emigrant/Immigrant Journey through Southern Italy:
Paintings and Ceramics by William Papaleo*



Publications

BY THE INSTITUTE



Let's Wake Up, Italics!
Manifesto for a Glocal Future
By Piero Bassetti
Studies in Italian Americana, Volume 12

Italian American Review, a biannual, peer-reviewed social science and cultural studies journal, publishes leading scholarship on topics of interest in Italian American studies.
Volume 6, Number 2 / Volume 7, Number 1

Il Bollettino highlights semester activities and serves as a biannual report to the New York Conference of Italian American State Legislators.
Volume 9, Number 2 / Volume 10, Number 1

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

FROM THE STAFF

The Mediterranean Dreamed and Lived by Insiders and Outsiders

Edited by Antonio Vitti and Anthony Tamburri

Published by Bordighera Press

New Italian Migrations, Vol. I: Politics and History since 1945

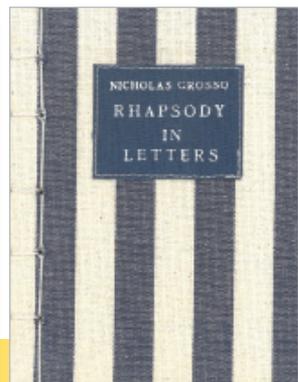
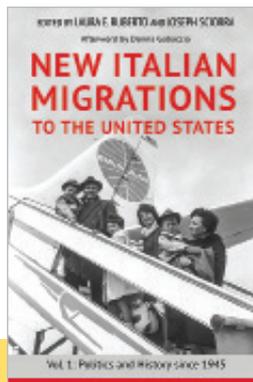
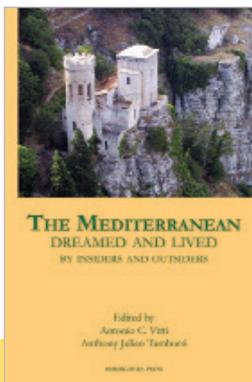
Edited by Joseph Sciorra and Laura Ruberto

Published by University of Illinois Press

Rhapsody in Letters

By Nicholas Grosso

Published by literaturhaus



Research

Institute initiatives employ a range of disciplines and methods—from interpretive humanistic analysis to hypothesis-driven, 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

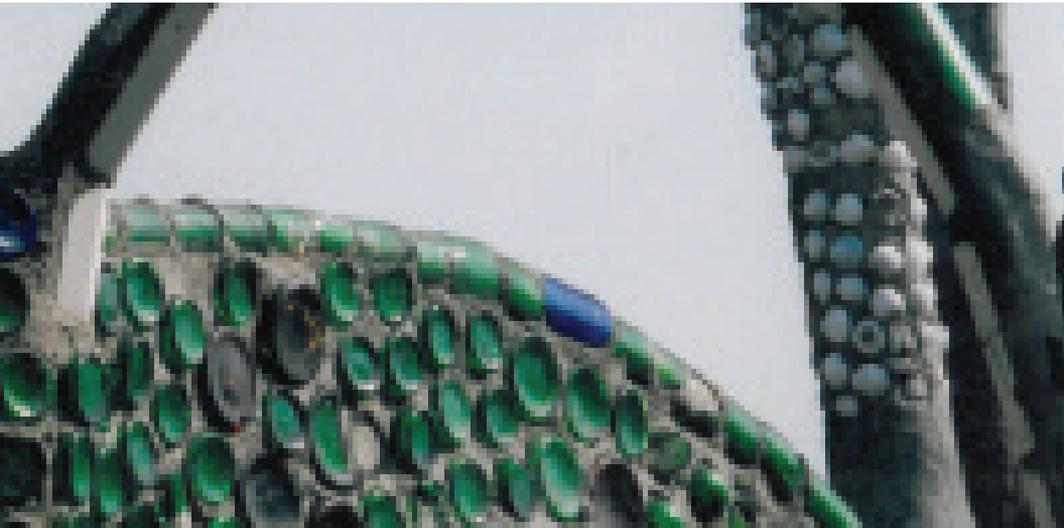
Research in the arts and humanities examines the ways in which Italian American culture is articulated in historical, social, economic, cultural, and political contexts. Areas of exploration include literature, music, cinema, theater, and the interdisciplinary fields of migration and diasporic studies,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



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.

Specific reports provide the basis for Italian American affirmative action data and personnel accountability at The City University of New York.





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 read and discussed during the 2016–2017 school year included: *Lightning Field*, by Dana Spiotta; *Sometimes I Dream in Italian*, by Rita Ciresi; *Sins of the Fathers*, by Gay Talese; *In Other Words*, by Jhumpa Lahiri.

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 Foundation

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 2016 theme was "Celebrating 40 Years of Italian Culture in America."



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

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.



Resources

Facilities

In 2016–2017, the Institute sponsored use of its office space and facilities to:

Bordighera Press (in-house press)
Italian American Studies Association
National Organization of Italian American Women
La Società Dante Alighieri of New York City
Roma Tre University

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

Rosangela Briscese	Assistant Director for Academic and Cultural Programs
Lisa Cicchetti	Communications and Publications Manager
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PHOTOGRAPHIC CREDITS

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Page 14: Girls behind a car in Rome, Italy, photograph by Tony Vaccaro.

Page 16: Mulu Ayele in *If Only I Were That Warrior*, photograph by Valerio Ciraci;
Sicily Jass film poster; Barese icemen, Manhattan, circa 1925, courtesy
Michael Chiarappa; SS Andrea Doria.

Page 21: Mvula Sungani Physical Dance Troupe.

Page 22: *Two Lemon Workers*, painting by William Papaleo.

Page 23: Green door, photograph by Eleanor Maiella Imperato.

Page 26–27: Watts Tower detail, photograph by Joseph Sciorra.

Page 32: Poster designed by John Battista De Santis.



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