JOHN D.
CALANDRA
ITALIAN
AMERICAN
INSTITUTE

Annual Report 2018–2019

JOHN D. CALANDRA ITALIAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE

Annual Report 2018–2019

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Dear Friends,

Over the last 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 2018–2019.

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. With each new year the Institute reaffirms its dedication to the essential work of studying and preserving 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,

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. 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 TV program, *Italics*, to disseminate news about Italian America and feature influential figures in related fields.

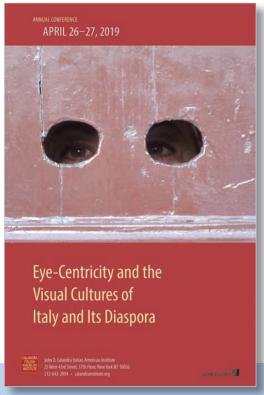


Research and Programs

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 2019 conference, "Eye-Centricity and the Visual Cultures of Italy and Its Diaspora," explored the visual cultures Italians have created, consumed, and been the subject of from early modernity to the contemporary "post-text" era. Thirty scholars from Italy and the United States 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, 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 2018–2019 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 2018–2019 academic year, counselors provided services to: Holy Cross High School, Michael J. Petrides School, Moore Catholic High School, and Xaverian 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 of Calabria, University for Foreigners of Perugia, University of Perugia, and the University of Siena. During the 2018–2019 academic year, five Italian students and four American students took part in the program. The exchange program also places researchers and interns at the Institute and various CUNY campuses.



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

In summer 2019, the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute and Roma Tre University organized the fifth edition of the Italian Diaspora Studies Summer Seminar in Rome, Italy. Designed to introduce doctoral students and professors to cultural studies of the Italian diaspora, the IDSSS allows fellows to return to their campuses with curricular resources and better equipped to offer courses on Italian Diaspora Studies. This year's program—attended by nineteen fellows and seven faculty members—was funded by CUNY's Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Alexandra de Luise Gift, Italian Language Inter-Cultural Alliance, the National Italian American Foundation, Unico Brookhaven, and Unico National.

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 2019, ten students studied abroad at the University for Foreigners of 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.

2018-2019 SEASON

JULY 2018 NOIAW Annual Luncheon Gala

AUGUST 2018 Bilinguismo in Manhattan

SEPTEMBER 2018 Italian Heritage Celebrations

OCTOBER 2018

Christian Picciolini: White American Youth

NOVEMBER 2018
The Elena Ferrante Phenomenon

DECEMBER 2018 NIAF 43rd Annual Gala

JANUARY 2019 ILICA 14th Annual Gala



FEBRUARY 2019

Francesco "Kento" Carlo: Resistenza Rap

MARCH 2019

Three Wise Women / Italian American Women Psychotherapists

APRIL 2019

Reframing the Sky: The Triangle Fire Memorial

MAY 2019

NIAF Annual Gala / NOIAW Annual Luncheon Gala

JUNE 2019

John Avelluto: "Goombarooch Resignified"



Public Programs

"DOCUMENTED ITALIANS" FILM AND VIDEO SERIES

Film screenings documenting the Italian diasporic experience

OCTOBER 1, 2018

Borsalino City (2016), Enrica Viola, director.

NOVEMBER 28, 2018

Shalom Italia (2016), Tamar Tal Anati, director.



THE PHILIP V. CANNISTRARO SEMINAR SERIES IN ITALIAN AMERICAN STUDIES

A forum where scholars present their research to the public

OCTOBER 9, 2018

Migrant Marketplaces: Food and Italians in North and South America, Elizabeth Zanoni, Old Dominion University

OCTOBER 25, 2018

Italian American Women, Food, and Identity: Stories at the Table, Andrea L. Dottolo, Rhode Island College, and Carol Dottolo, Liverpool Central School District, New York

DECEMBER 3, 2018

Searching for Subversives: The Story of Italian Internment in Wartime America, Mary Elizabeth Basile Chopas, Harvard Law School

FEBRUARY 28, 2019

Assassins against the Old Order: Italian Anarchist Violence in Fin de Siècle Europe, Fraser M. Ottanelli, University of South Florida

APRIL 11, 2019

Whom We Shall Welcome: Italian Americans and Immigration Reform, 1945–1965, Danielle Battisti, University of Nebraska–Omaha

MAY 9, 2019

Pre-Occupied Spaces: Remapping Italy's Transnational Migrations and Colonial Legacies, Teresa Fiore, Montclair State University

WRITERS READ SERIES

Presentations by creative writers reading from recently published works

SEPTEMBER 11, 2018

Christian Picciolini reads from White American Youth: My Descent into America's Most Violent Hate Movement—and How I Got Out (Hachette Books, 2017)

OCTOBER 16, 2018

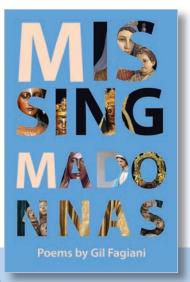
Readings from Gil Fagiani's *Missing Madonnas* (Bordighera Press, 2018)

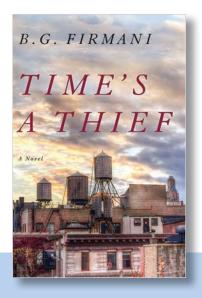
MARCH 7, 2019

Christopher Castellani reads from *Leading Men* (Viking, 2019)

APRIL 2, 2019

B.G. Firmani reads from *Time's a Thief* (Doubleday, 2017)





FUORI COLLANA

Additional events organized and hosted by the Institute

OCTOBER 4, 2018

Film Screening and Panel Discussion: Pane Amaro (2007),

Gianfranco Norelli and Suma Kurien, directors

OCTOBER 23, 2018

Symposium: Health and Nutrition, Italian Mediterranean Style

OCTOBER 26, 2018

Roundtable: The Interplay of Culture and Business

DECEMBER 5, 2018

Roundtable: Contextualizing Migration and Notions of Belonging

DECEMBER 11, 2018

Book Presentation and Discussion: Resistenza Rap, by Francesco

"Kento" Carlo (Bordighera Press, 2018)

JANUARY 17-18, 2019

Conference: Diversity in Italian Studies

JANUARY 29, 2019

Film Screening: 1938 Diversi (2018), Giorgio Treves, director

APRIL 5, 2019

Reading: Third Annual Evening of Poetry

MAY 2, 2019

Memorial: The Legacy of Louise DeSalvo

MAY 15, 2019

Symposium: Between Acceptance and Prejudice: One Hundred

Years of Italian E/i[m]migration

MAY 23, 2019

Book Presentation: Wild Fennel: Poems and Other Stories, by

Marisa Frasca (Bordighera Press, 2019)

GALLERIA

A showcase for the visual arts and history

APRIL-DECEMBER 2018

Italian Brooklyn: Photographs by Martha Cooper

In this collection of images, photojournalist Martha Cooper documents Italian American vernacular expressive culture in 1980s Brooklyn.



MAY–SEPTEMBER 2019 Goombarooch Resignified: Works by John Avelluto

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

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.

Volume 8, Number 2 / Volume 9, Number 1

Il Bollettino highlights semester activities and serves as a biannual report to the New York Conference of Italian American State Legislators.

Volume 11, Number 2 / Volume 12, Number 1

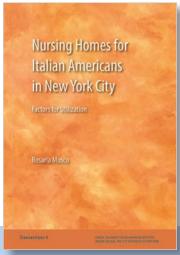
Il Giornalino showcases the writings of high school and college students studying Italian.

FROM THE STAFF

Nursing Homes for Italian Americans in New York City Rosaria Musco

Published by the Calandra Institute





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, linguisites, 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 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 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 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.

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.

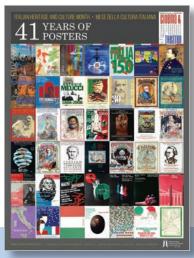
FRIENDS OF THE JOHN D. CALANDRA ITALIAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE

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 2018 theme was "Breaking Barriers, From Ellis Island to the Present: A Salute to Italian American Women."



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 advance the cause of the Advanced Placement exam in Italian language at high schools in the United States.

SOCIETÁ DANTE ALIGHIERI OF NEW YORK

In October 2017 a collaborative protocol was established between the Societá Dante Alighieri and the Institute, leading to the relaunch of the New York chapter.





Resources

Facilities

In academic year 2018–2019, 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

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Programs

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PHOTOGRAPHIC CREDITS

- Page 12: Perugia landscape detail.
- Page 15: Rendering of Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire Memorial designed by Uri Wegman and Richard Joon Yoo.
- Page 16: Borsalino City film poster.
- Page 20: The Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and St. Paulinus, Williamsburg, 1981. Photograph by Martha Cooper.
- Page 23: Order Sons of Italy in America Convention, Youngstown, Ohio, August 4–7, 1923.
 Photograph by Charles R. Brown. From the Titowsky Collection, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute.
- Page 28: Poster designed by John Battista De Santis.
- Page 29: Portrait of Dante Alighieri by Sandro Botticelli, 1495.

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