



JOHN D.

CALANDRA  
ITALIAN  
AMERICAN  
INSTITUTE

Annual Report  
2017–2018



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Dear Friends,

Over the last thirty-nine 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 2017–2018.

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 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 blue ink, reading "Anthony Julian Tamburri". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Anthony" being the most prominent.

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 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 2018 conference, “Corporeal Restrictions, Embodied Freedoms: Italian Interventions on the Body,” explored the various ways in which the body figures in discourses and cultural productions concerning Italy’s histories and identities. More than sixty scholars from eight 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, 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 2017–2018 academic year, counselors provided liaison to CUNY college campuses at Baruch, Brooklyn, Hunter, John Jay, 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 2017–2018 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: Link Campus University Rome, Roma Tre University, University of Calabria, University for Foreigners Perugia, University of Perugia, and University of Siena. During the 2017–2018 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 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 Inter-Cultural Alliance, National Italian American Foundation, Order Sons of Italy in America Grand Lodge in New York, and Unico National. The summer 2018 seminar took place at Roma Tre University and was attended by seventeen professors and doctoral students from Canada, Italy, Poland, and the 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 2018, fifteen 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.

## 2017–2018 SEASON

MARCH 13, 2018

Nancy Savoca, film director, producer, and screenwriter.

APRIL 10, 2018

Laura Ruberto, Professor of Humanities, Berkeley City College, and Joseph Sciorra, Director of Academic and Cultural Programs/Folklorist, Calandra Institute, Queens College, CUNY. *New Italian Migrations to the United States. Volume 1: Politics and History since 1945 and Volume 2: Art and Culture since 1945.*

MAY 8, 2018

National Italian American Foundation Annual New York Gala.

JUNE 12, 2018

Donna Chirico, Professor and Dean of Arts and Sciences, York College, CUNY.

JULY 10, 2018

National Organization of Italian American Women Annual Luncheon Gala.



# Public Programs

## "DOCUMENTED ITALIANS" FILM AND VIDEO SERIES

Film screenings documenting the Italian diasporic experience

NOVEMBER 30, 2017

*Pizza Shop: An Italian-American Dream* (2017), 57 minutes,  
Antony Osso, director.

DECEMBER 6, 2017

*Underfire: The Untold Story of Pfc. Tony Vaccaro* (2016), 79  
minutes, Max Lewkowicz, director.

MARCH 15, 2018

*Frank Serpico* (2017), 95 minutes, Antonino D'Ambrosio,  
director.



THE PHILIP V. CANNISTRARO SEMINAR SERIES  
IN ITALIAN AMERICAN STUDIES

A forum where scholars present their research to the public

SEPTEMBER 18, 2017

*New Italian Migrations to the United States: Vol. 1: Politics and History since 1945*

Laura E. Ruberto, Berkeley City College

Joseph Sciorra, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute

OCTOBER 4, 2017

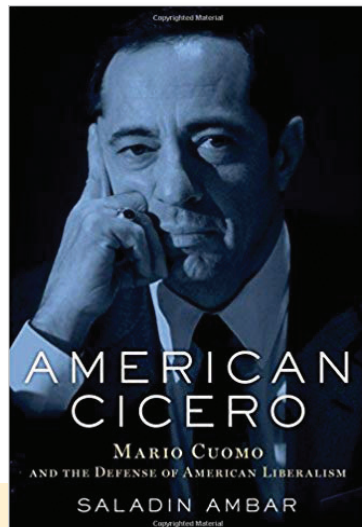
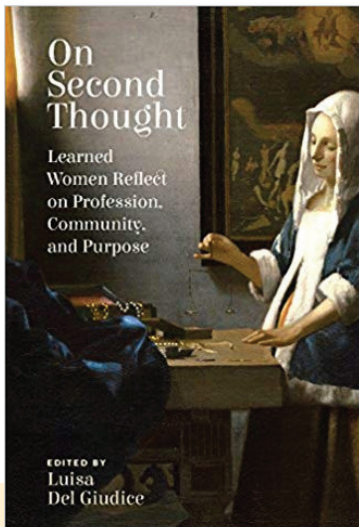
*On Second Thought: Learned Women Reflect on Profession, Community, and Purpose*

Luisa Del Giudice, Independent Scholar

APRIL 17, 2018

*American Cicero: Mario Cuomo and the Defense of American Liberalism*

Saladin Ambar, Rutgers University



## WRITERS READ SERIES

Presentations by creative writers reading from recently published works

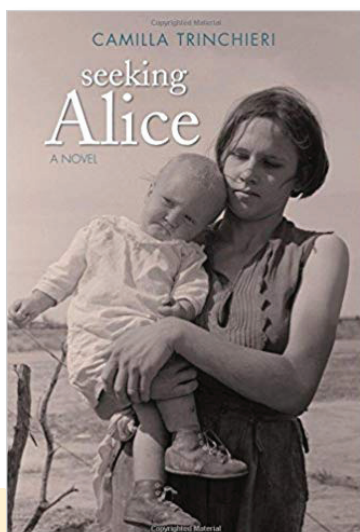
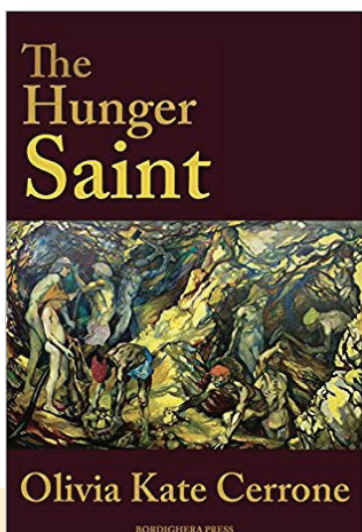
OCTOBER 18, 2017

Marianne Leone reads from *Ma Speaks Up: And a First Generation Daughter Talks Back* (Beacon Press, 2017)

Helene Stapinski reads from *Murder in Matera: A True Story of Passion, Family, and Forgiveness in Southern Italy* (Dey Street Books, 2017)

FEBRUARY 22, 2018

Olivia Kate Cerrone reads from *The Hunger Saint* (Bordighera Press, 2017) Camilla Trinchieri reads from *Seeking Alice: A Novel* (SUNY Press, 2016)





## FUORI COLLANA

Additional events organized and hosted by the Institute

JUNE 7, 2017

Book Launch: *Let's Wake Up, Italics!*

JUNE 28, 2017

Workshop: Two-Day Immigrant Stories

SEPTEMBER 14, 2017

Book Presentation: *Divergenze in celluloide: Colore, migrazione e identità nei film gay di Ferzan Özpetek*, by Ryan Calabretta-Sajder, University of Arkansas (Mimesis edizioni, 2016)

SEPTEMBER 19, 2017

Giambelli Foundation Lecture: Robert Viscusi presents “The Orphanage: Encounters in Transnational Space”

OCTOBER 19, 2017

Film Festival: Italy on Screen Today

OCTOBER 24, 2017

Panel Discussion: Monuments, Public Memory, and Group Identity—The Cultural Politics of Italian America in the Twenty-First Century

OCTOBER 27, 2017

Document Signing and Workshop: Società Dante Alighieri a NY

NOVEMBER 3, 2017

Conference: Mediterranean Hospitality from Magna Greece to the Twenty-First Century, John Jay College, CUNY

NOVEMBER 10, 2017

Fulbright Commission Conversation: Paola Sartorio discusses the Fulbright Program in Italy.

NOVEMBER 13, 2017

Presentation: *Italics as a Global Commonwealth*, with U.N. Ambassador Sebastiano Cardi

NOVEMBER 14, 2017

Symposium: Cultural Heritage Memory—Negotiating the Past in Order to Build on the Future

NOVEMBER 29, 2017

Giambelli Foundation Lecture: Fred Gardaphé presents “In Education Begin Responsibilities or ‘They don’t know what they don’t know.’”

DECEMBER 5, 2017

Book Presentation: *The Routledge History of Italian Americans*, Edited by William Connell and Stanislao Pugliese (Routledge, 2017)

DECEMBER 12, 2017

Giambelli Foundation Lecture: Donna Gabaccia presents “Sambuca—A Digital Return.”

JANUARY 31, 2018

Book Presentation: *Il dio di New York*, by Luigi Fontanella (Passigli, 2017)

FEBRUARY 6, 2018

Presentation: ‘Nation-Building through Antisemitism: Fascist Italy and the Jew as Internal Enemy,’ by Ernest Ialongo

MAY 25, 2018

Book Presentation: *Pasolini’s Lasting Impressions: Death, Eros, and Literary Enterprise in the Opus of Pier Paolo Pasolini*, by Ryan Calabretta-Sajder, University of Arkansas (Mimesis edizioni, 2016)

## 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, well-known for her work on graffiti and the early days of hip-hop, documents Italian American vernacular expressive culture in 1980s Brooklyn. These thirty-nine photographs were made as part of various documentation projects undertaken by folklorists some three decades ago. Cooper's photographs of everyday scenes and interactions, many of them involving public Catholic practices in Italian Brooklyn, shine a light on often overlooked details of the urban landscape. Digitized from their original slide formats and newly printed, the photographs depict Williamsburg's annual *giglio* feast, the Manteo Sicilian marionette theater, yard shrines, and sidewalk altars, as well as portraits of community members. This was the first exhibit of Cooper's extensive earlier Italian American oeuvre.



# 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 7, Number 2 / Volume 8, Number 1

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

Volume 10, Number 2 / Volume 11, Number 1

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

## FROM THE STAFF

*New Italian Migrations, Vol. 2: Art and Culture since 1945*

Edited by Joseph Sciorra and Laura Ruberto

Published by University of Illinois Press

*Scrittori Italiano[-]Americani: trattino sì trattino no*

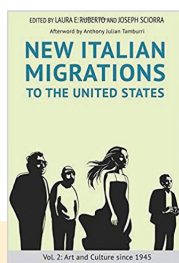
By Anthony Julian Tamburri

Published by MnM Print Edizioni

*Un biculturalismo negato: La letteratura "italiana" negli Stati Uniti*

By Anthony Julian Tamburri

Published by Franco Cesati Editore





# 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.

## 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 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 curriculum.

# Community Outreach

## 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 2017–2018 academic year included *Ma Speaks Up*, by Marianne Leone; *Elizabeth Street*, by Laurie Fabiano; *In the Garden of Papa Santuzzu*, by Tony Ardizzone; *Beneath a Scarlet Sky*, by Mark T. Sullivan; *Seeking Alice*, by Camilla Trinchieri; and *Kiss Carlo*, by Adriana Trigiani.

## 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.

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 2017 theme was "Celebrating Italian Americans in Cinema and Theater: Saluting Actors & Directors."

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## 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.

## 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.

## LA SOCIETÀ DANTE ALIGHIERI OF NEW YORK

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



# Resources

# Facilities

In 2017–2018, 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  
La Società Dante Alighieri of New York City  
National Organization of Italian American Women  
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 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

Rosangela Briscese	Assistant Director for Academic and Cultural Programs
Stephen Cerulli	College Assistant
Lisa Cicchetti	Communications and Publications Manager
Fred Gardaphé, Dr.	Distinguished Professor of English and Italian American Studies
Siân Gibby	Communications Writer-Editor
Lucia Grillo	Producer and Correspondent, <i>Italics</i>
Joseph Grosso	Counselor
Nicholas Grosso	Administrative Coordinator
Rachel Hoyle	Office Assistant
Maria LaRusso, Dr.	Counselor
Joan Migliori	Assistant Director for Community and International Programs
Vincenzo Milione, Dr.	Director of Demographic Studies
Rosaria Musco	Associate Director of Administration
Olga Pappas	College Assistant
Itala Pelizzoli	Demographer
Carmine Pizzirusso	Research and Technical Coordinator
Marianna Prestigiacomo	Office Assistant
Catalina Santamaria	Broadcast Associate
Joseph Sciorra, Dr.	Director for Academic and Cultural Programs
Anthony Tamburri, Dr.	Dean and Distinguished Professor of European Languages and Literatures
Phyllis Tesoriero	Office Assistant
Olivia Tursi	Counselor
Nancy Ziehler, Dr.	Counselor

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Italian American Studies Association

Italian Language Inter-Cultural Alliance

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## PHOTOGRAPHIC CREDITS

Page 12: Arcadia University, Umbra Institute.

Page 15: *Frank Serpico* film poster.

Page 21: The Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and St. Paulinus, Williamsburg, 1981.  
Photograph by Martha Cooper.

Page 28: Poster designed by John Battista De Santis.





John D. Calandra Italian American Institute  
Queens College, CUNY  
25 West 43rd Street, 17th Floor  
New York, NY 10036  
212-642-2094  
[www.qc.edu/calandra](http://www.qc.edu/calandra)

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