JOHN D.
CALANDRA
ITALIAN
AMERICAN
INSTITUTE

Annual Report 2021–2022

# JOHN D. CALANDRA ITALIAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE

Annual Report 2021–2022

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#### Dear Friends,

For more than 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 2021–2022.

The Institute was established to represent the largest European ancestral group in New York City and State and to foster 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.

These most recent years, as difficult as they have been, have offered the Institute unforeseen opportunities for creative thinking about how to fulfill our mission. Working remotely, we adapted our research and publishing projects only slightly and have reimagined our public programming to host more viewers and an international audience for online events.

It is impossible to adequately express our gratitude for your steadfast support during this time. Please join us in moving toward a brighter future together.

Sincerely,

Cav. Anthony Julian Tamburri, PhD 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.

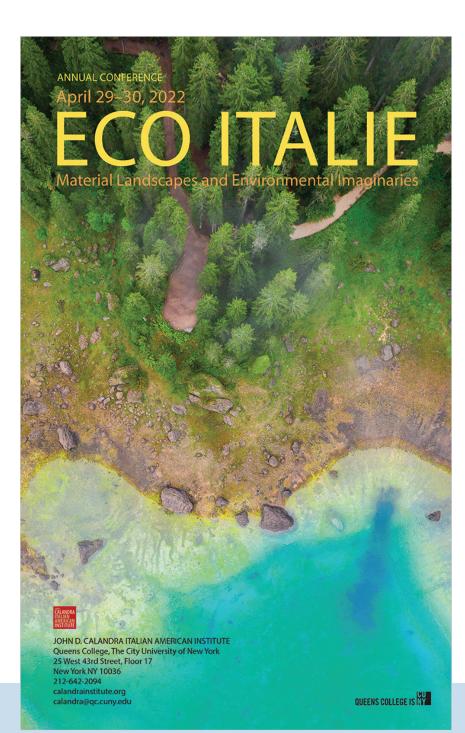
The New York Conference of Italian American State Legislators funded the institution in 1979 to respond to the educational needs and concerns expressed by Italian American students, faculty, and staff at CUNY. Eight years later, the Institute was renamed the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, in honor of the late senator. In 1995, the CUNY Board of Trustees officially placed the Institute under the aegis of Queens College and designated it as a university-wide research institute devoted to the Italian American experience.

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 and video material 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 interdisciplinary conference attended by scholars and participants from around the globe.

The 2022 conference, "Eco Italie: Material Landscapes and Environmental Imaginaries," built upon the growing scholarship analyzing Italian histories and cultures from the perspective of the environmental humanities. Scholars from Canada, Italy, the United Kingdom, 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, employing licensed clinicians trained in and sensitive to the history, culture, and experience of Italians in America. The critical goal of student retention and development is accomplished through academic advising, career development, personal counseling, and workshops to foster psychosocial wellness. The Institute provides an array of services to help students develop and refine their educational plans, from associate degrees to doctoral and professional levels. During the 2021–2022 academic year, counseling services were provided to CUNY campuses at Queens and Queensborough Colleges.

# **International Study**

The Institute's international study initiatives involve the participation of undergraduate and graduate students, research fellows, and visiting scholars.

#### 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 for Foreigners of Perugia, University of Perugia, and the University of Siena. During the 2021–2022 academic year, four Italian students took part in the program at Queens College and College of Staten Island. The exchange program also places researchers at the Institute and various CUNY campuses.

#### 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, Italy. This program is offered in collaboration with the Department of European Languages and Literatures at Queens College, CUNY.

# Italian Diaspora Studies Summer Seminar

The Italian Diaspora Studies Summer Seminar was established in 2015 as a three-week professional development seminar conducted primarily for college professors and advanced graduate students. It is held in Rome in collaboration with Roma Tre University.

Fellows have come from as far away as Asia, Eastern Europe, and Latin America to participate in the program. IDSSS provides participants with a foundation of knowledge of the Italian diaspora so that they may return to their home institutions and offer a course on any aspect of Italian migration and its impact on host countries. Scholars have gone on to develop coursework and lead courses based on research conducted during the Seminar.

The Seminar is the recipient of a recurring gift from Alexandra de Luise and Normand Tourangeau and a five-year grant from the Francesco and Mary Giambelli Foundation. Additional supporting institutions include the American Association of Teachers of Italian, Italian American Studies Association, Italian Language Inter-Cultural Alliance, National Italian American Foundation, Order Sons of Italy Grand Lodge of New York, Unico Brookhaven, Unico National, and CUNY's Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

## **Italics**

Italics: Television for the Italian American Experience is a monthly half-hour magazine-format presentation in the CUNY Presents timeslot featuring prominent Italian Americans in academia, the arts, business, government, sports, and more. Each episode explores the Italian diaspora, Italian American history and traditions, and contemporary Italian American life. *Italics* has been in production since 1988, serving the Italian American community and those interested in Italian American culture.



#### 2021-2022 SEASON ON CUNY TV

JULY

New Approaches on Italian American Studies

AUGUST

Italics Celebrates New York City Restaurant Week

**SEPTEMBER** 

"I Am Henry Fiol and I Am a Nectarine"

**OCTOBER** 

NOIAW: National Organization of Italian American Women, Italian Heritage and Culture Month Special #1 and 2

**NOVEMBER** 

NIAF President Robert Allegrini

**DECEMBER** 

Alison Cornish on Dante, Cav. Joan Migliori Receives Christopher Columbus Award

**JANUARY** 

Berardo Paradiso Promotes Italian Language, John Avelluto Exhibition, "FooGayZee"

**FEBRUARY** 

Italian American Studies

MARCH

Women's History Month: Mariza Bafile

APRIL

John Peter Didato, Ciao, Sesame Street! Documentary

MAY

Ricardo Illy, The Art of Excellent Products

JUNE

Preserving Italian Immigrant Music Making



# **Public Programs**

#### DOCUMENTED ITALIANS FILM AND VIDEO SERIES

Film screenings documenting the Italian diasporic experience

MARCH 22, 2022

Dear Sirs (2021), 93 minutes, Mark Pedri, director. Post-screening discussion with the director led by Joseph Sciorra.

MAY 25, 2022

Revelstoke: A Kiss in the Wind (2015), 75 minutes, Nicola Moruzzi, director. Post-screening discussion with the director led by Joseph Sciorra.



# PHILIP V. CANNISTRARO SEMINAR SERIES IN ITALIAN AMERICAN STUDIES

A forum where scholars present their research to the public

APRIL 7, 2022

The World Refugees Made: Decolonization and the Foundation of Postwar Italy, Pamela Ballinger, University of Michigan

JUNE 6, 2022

Lifeblood of the Parish: Men and Catholic Devotion in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, Alyssa J. Maldonado-Estrada, Kalamazoo College

#### WRITERS READ SERIES

Presentations by creative writers reading from recently published works

**APRIL 4, 2022** 

Claudia Durastanti reads from *Strangers I Know*. Discussion led by Joseph Salvatore, The New School.

MAY 10, 2022

Christopher Sorrentino reads from *Now Beacon, Now Sea:* A Son's Memoir. In partnership with Centro, The Center for Puerto Rican Studies, Hunter College. Discussion led by Vanessa Pérez-Rosario, Queens College, and Joseph Salvatore, The New School.

MAY 19, 2022 (CANCELED BY PRESENTER)

Gianna Patriarca reads from *This Way Home: Selected and New Work*. Discussion led by Anthony Julian Tamburri.

#### **FUORI COLLANA**

Additional events organized by the Institute

#### OCTOBER 25, 2021

Lecture: "Il monumento al cafone: Obfuscation of Class and Race and the Mythologies of Italian American Columbus Commemorative Landscapes," by Joseph Sciorra at the Italian Cultural Institute.

#### DECEMBER 2, 2021

Book Presentation: Adriana Ink interviews Anthony Julian Tamburri, author of *Signing Italian/American Cinema: A More Focused Look*.

#### DECEMBER 8, 2021

Book Presentation: *Gli Italiani in USA*, edited by Anthony Julian Tamburri and Silvana Mangione.

Lecture: "The Strange Artistic Genius of This People: Ephemeral Art and Impermanent Architecture of Italian Immigrant Catholic Feste," by Joseph Sciorra at the Victorian Society of New York.

#### **DECEMBER 10, 2021**

Book Presentation: *Italia, Italia: Studi in onore di Hermann Haller* with contributing authors Daniela D'Eugenio, Roberto Dolci, Alberto Gelmi, Hermann Haller, Dario Marcucci, and Anthony Julian Tamburri.

#### JANUARY 13, 2022

Roundtable: "Our Voyage: Italian American Stories" with Patricia Dunn, Chiara Durazzini, Nicola Orichuia, and Anthony Julian Tamburri. Sponsored by I AM Books of Boston and the National Italian American Foundation.

#### JANUARY 18, 2022

Memorial: *This Hope Sustains the Scholar: Essays in Tribute to the Work of Robert Viscusi*, edited by Siân Gibby, Joseph Sciorra, and Anthony Julian Tamburri.

#### FEBRUARY 1, 2022

Roundtable: "The Garden of the Finzi-Continis: The Novel, the Film, and the Opera." Cosponsored by the Calandra Institute, Casa Italiana Zerilli Marimò, New York University, Centro Primo Levi NY, and Italian Academy for Advanced Studies in America, Columbia University.

#### APRIL 12, 2022

Lecture: "A Reconsideration of Italian/American Cinema," by Anthony Julian Tamburri at Columbus Citizen's Foundation.

#### APRIL 14, 2022

Lecture: "Preserving Italian Immigrant Music Making," by Joseph Sciorra at the Center for Modern Italian Art.

#### APRIL 19, 2022

Roundtable: "The Columbus Affair: Imperatives for an Italian/American Agenda," with Anthony Julian Tamburri and Giuseppe Gazzola at Stony Brook University Center for Italian Studies.

#### APRIL 23, 2022

Lecture: "Embroidered Stories: Interpreting Women's Domestic Needlework from the Italian Diaspora," by Joseph Sciorra at the Italian American Museum of Los Angeles

#### GALLERIA

A showcase for the visual arts and history

SEPTEMBER 2021

"Il Sommo Poeta: Dante Alighieri, 1321–2021"



# **Publications**

Italian American Review, a biannual, peer-reviewed social science and cultural studies journal, publishes leading scholarship on topics of interest in Italian American studies. It is designated a category I journal by the Ministry of Education, University and Research, Italy.

Volume 11, Number 2 / Volume 12, Number 1

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

Volume 14, Number 2 / Volume 15, Number 1

VIA: Voices in Italian Americana is a biannual literary and scholarly review of and about the cultures of Italy and its diasporas.

Volume 32, Number 1 / Volume 32, Number 2

Gli italiani in USA: nuove prospettive di una diaspora secolare Edited by Anthony Julian Tamburri and Silvana Mangione Volume 15, Studies in Italian Americana

#### BY STAFF

Mediterranean Encounters and Legacies/Incontri e lasciti mediterranei Edited by Anthony Julian Tamburri and Antonio C. Vitti Published by Bordighera Press

The Columbus Affair: Imperatives for an Italian/American Agenda By Anthony Julian Tamburri

Published by Casa Lago Press

Signing Italian/American Cinema: A More Focused Look By Anthony Julian Tamburri

Published by Ovunque Siamo Press

#### ARTICLES BY STAFF

#### Donna Chirico

"On Italian American Identity without Catholicism." In *La Voce di New York*, May 19, 2022.

#### Fred Gardaphé

"Transnational Modernism: Life Courses in Italian and Italian American Modernist Literature." In *Ici, là-bas, ailleurs: Le transnationalisme dans les Amériques (XVIe-XXIe siècles)*, edited by Marie-Christine Michaud, Emmanuelle Sinardet, and Bertrand Van Ruymbeke. Les Perseides, 2022.

"Writing Old Soldiers: Me and My Shadow." In *Voices of Liberty Allied Service members of Italian Descent in WWII*, exhibition catalog. Edizione Università di Trieste, 2022.

"Una faccia, una razza: More to It than Meets the Eye." Preface to *Redirecting Ethnic Singularity: Italian and Greek Americans in Conversation*, edited by Yiorgos Anagnostou, Yiorgos Kalogeras, and Theodora Patrona. Fordham University Press, 2022.

"Dal vecchio mondo al vecchio quartiere: riflessioni sulle origini della letteratura italiano/americana." In *Campi immaginabili* vol. 2, 2021.

"Italian-American Literature." In *Oxford Bibliographies* in *American Literature*, edited by Jackson Bryer. Oxford University Press, 2021.

"White Immigrant Trajectories in US Urban Literature: The Italian American Case." In *The City in American Literature and Culture*, edited by Kevin McNamara. Cambridge University Press, 2021.

#### Joseph Sciorra

"Gli oggetti e il quotidiano: Uno studio della cultura materiale della diaspora italiana negli Stati Uniti" (with Laura E. Ruberto). In *Gli italiani in USA: Nuove prospettive di una diaspora secolare*, edited by Silvana Mangione and Anthony Julian Tamburri. John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, 2021.

Review of Lifeblood of the Parish: Men and Catholic Devotion in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, by Alyssa Maldonado-Estrada. In Material Religion: The Journal of Objects, Art and Belief 17.5, 2021.

"Disrupted and Unsettled: An Introduction to Monuments, Memorials, and Italian Migrations" (with Laura E. Ruberto). In *Italian American Review* 12.1 "Monuments, Memorials, and Italian Migrations," 2022.

Guest editor (with Laura E. Ruberto) for a special issue on the topic of "Monuments, Memorials, and Italian Migrations," *Italian American Review* 12.1, 2022.

Interviewed for article "Where Is Pete Panto?" by Helene Stapinski, *New York Times*, July 9, 2022.

Mentioned in "Union Man Took His Ideas to the Grave Sans Tombstone," by Bill Miller, *The Tablet*, April 9, 2022.

### Anthony Julian Tamburri

"Una bibliografia della scrittura italiana negli Stai Uniti: seconda parte, gli anni successivi." In *Studi Italiani* 66.1, 2022.

"Observations on Why Promotors of Italian American Culture Need to Know More: The Italian/American Experience of Religion." In *Journal of Religion & Society* 24, 2021.

- "Luigi Fontanella: A Narration of Poetry." In Italica 98.4, 2021.
- "Una bibliografia della scrittura italiana negli Stai Uniti: i primi anni." In *Studi Italiani* 65.1, 2021.
- "L'America non esiste di Antonio Monda: una semiotica della migrazione." In *Italia, Italie. Studi in onore di Hermann W. Haller*, edited by Daniela D'Eugenio, Alberto Gelmi, Dario Marcucci. *Mimesis*, 2021.
- "Gianna Patriarca: Identity in Language" as "Preface to Gianna Patriarca." In *This Way Home: Selected and New Work*. Guernica Editions, 2021.
- "More Graduate Italian-American Studies to Bridge the Gap of Our Cultural Knowledge." In *La Voce di New York*. March 4, 2022.
- "In Memoriam, Professor Gerald Meyer of CUNY, Hostos Community College." In *La Voce di New York*. November 12, 2021.
- "Nearly Two Years on from His Death, We Recall Robert Viscusi's Wise Words." In *La Voce di New York*. December 19, 2021.

# 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.

Periodic 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 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 report on the concerns of students, faculty, and staff at individual campuses and recommend methods of resolution.

ITALIAN AMERICAN STUDIES ADVISORY COUNCIL consists of members of the CUNY community and 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.

ITALIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL includes members from major Italian American organizations. The council facilitates the development and growth of various Italian American associations.

## Outreach

#### **COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

The Institute collates and disseminates monthly events 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.

#### SOCIAL MEDIA

The Institute engages with a wide range of organizations and individuals through its presence across social media platforms.

Facebook

facebook.com/CalandraInstituteCUNY

Instagram

instagram.com/calandra\_institute/

**Twitter** 

twitter.com/CalandraItal

Youtube

youtube.com/c/ItalicsTV/about

# **Partnerships**

#### ITALIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE MONTH

Since 1976, leading institutions in New York's Italian American community have organized a series of events each year 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 2021 theme was "Dante 700! Celebrating the Genius of Dante."

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

#### SOCIETÀ DANTE ALIGHIERI OF NEW YORK

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

# Resources

# **Facilities**

In academic year 2021–2022, the Institute sponsored use of its office space and facilities to:

Bordighera 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 nearly 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.

# **Funding**

Funding for the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute is provided by:

The State of New York
The City University of New York
Queens College

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Francesco and Mary Giambelli Foundation
Italian American Studies Association
Italian Language Inter-Cultural Alliance
Alexandra de Luise

For a complete list of sponsors, go to the Institute's donors page: https://calandrainstitute.org/the-institute/donors/.

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#### PHOTOGRAPHIC CREDITS

Page 14: Sheet music, "Patria Luntana" ©E. Rossi, 1928, "Primmavera d' 'e Marie" ©F. Pennino, 1927

Page 16: Frame from Revelstoke: A Kiss in the Wind (2015)

Page 20: I tre specchi, by Anna Cercignano

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