



ANNUAL CONFERENCE
APRIL 27-29, 2023

ITALY AND THE PACIFIC RIM

JOHN D. CALANDRA
ITALIAN
AMERICAN
INSTITUTE

QUEENS COLLEGE IS 

ITALY AND THE PACIFIC RIM

What happens to our understanding of modern Italy in the world when we shift our focus away from Atlantic and Mediterranean locales to consider the historical and contemporary connections between Italy and the Pacific Rim as part of transnational and transcultural interactions? How does a reconfigured study on Italy, Italians, or things Italian within contexts of lands bordering the Pacific heighten or challenge our understandings of national discourses and cultural spaces?

This interdisciplinary conference features panel presentations that will explore a wide range of topics concerning connections between Italy and the Pacific Rim.

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2023

6:00–8:00 pm

Welcome and Reception

Dr. Anthony Julian Tamburri, Dean, John D. Calandra Italian
American Institute

Hon. Fabrizio Di Michele, Consul, Consulate General of Italy in
New York

Dr. Fabio Finotti, Director, Italian Cultural Institute of New York

Dr. Frank Wu, President, Queens College, CUNY

A Conversation with Angela Wong Carbone, Actor and Writer

Reception

FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2023

9:00–9:30 am Coffee & Pastries

9:30–10:45 am

Orienting Italians

Chair: Rosangela Briscese, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute

Madama Butterfly, *Turandot*, and *Liù*: Manifestations of Puccini's Orientalism, ALFRED R. CRUDALE, University of Rhode Island

Haikai from Japan to Italy, ILARIA SERRA, Florida Atlantic University

Orienting Italy: China, Past and Present, in Italian Film, MARY ANN MCDONALD CAROLAN, Fairfield University

11 am–12:15 pm

Keynote

Italy's Chinese Migrant Fast Fashion in Contemporary Artworks, GAOHENG ZHANG, University of British Columbia

12:15–1:30 pm Lunch on your own

1:30–2:45 pm

Race on the Landscape

Chair: Abril Liberatori, York University

Italy on the Pacific: A Look Back through Racial Capitalism,
TOMMASO CAIAZZA, Liceo Federigo Enriques (Rome)

Italian Wine-scapes in the Anglo-Pacific Sphere, MICHELE
MONSERRATI, Williams College

From Farmers to *Padroni*? Ethnic Interactions between Italian
Entrepreneurs and Mexican and Filipino Workers in California
Agriculture (1930s and 1960s–1970s), PIETRO PINNA, University
of Bologna

3:00–4:15 pm

Literature in California

Chair: Siân Gibby, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute

Home, School, and the San Francisco Mission Neighborhood as
Ethnic “Stories So Far” in Dorothy Bryant’s *Miss Giardino*, EVELYN
FERRARO, Santa Clara University

John Fante’s *My Dog Stupid* and John G. Avildsen’s *The Karate Kid*:
A Curious, Humorous, and Unsettling Alliance, EMANUELE
PETTENER, Florida Atlantic University

SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2023

9:00–9:30 am Coffee & Pastries

9:30–10:45 am

Californian Transitions

Chair: Stephen J. Cerulli, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute

California: Our Italy, GIULIANA MUSCIO, University of Padua

Luigi Donato Ventura, A Witness of the Great Migration: Analysis and Comparison of Italian Communities between the American West and the East Coast, and Between Italy and California, MARIA RITA D'AVIERA, Independent Scholar

On the Trail of Italianness in California: Generational Transitions and New Forms of Sociability, ROSEMARY SERRA, University of Trieste

11:00–11:50 am

Italian Asian Connections

Chair: Donna Chirico, York College

Codeswitching between Khmer and Italian: Gendered Performances of Belonging and Marginalization of Cambodian Buddhist Women in Lombardy, SOPHEA SENG, California State University, Long Beach

The Marco Polo Day Festival and the Struggle for Recognition, MARIE-CHRISTINE MICHAUD, Université Bretagne Sud (Lorient)

12:00–1:15 pm

Political Crossings

Chair: Paola Sica, Connecticut College

“Non Cedete Nessun Pulviscolo agli Italiani”: Unlocking Archives, *Shanghai News*, and the Decentralization of Italian Colonialism, QIAN LIU, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Cold War Crossings: The United States and International Migration Management, 1945–1980, DANIELLE BAT*TISTI, University of Nebraska at Omaha

Asylum from Chile to Italy: Transnational Leftist Politics, Refugees, and Diplomacy in Nanni Moretti’s Documentary *Santiago, Italia*, TERESA FIORE, Montclair State University

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