JOHN D. CALANDRA ITALIAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE

Annual Report 2022–2023

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Dear Friends,

This year, 2023, marks forty-four years of the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute. Through its several articulations and restructuring, the Calandra Institute has been committed to documenting, preserving, and promoting the Italian American experience.

To fulfill this mission, the Calandra Institute has built a comprehensive, multifaceted approach involving scholarly research, public programs, visual arts, literature, film, and counseling services. Since 2018 we have expanded our reach beyond the US and Italy. On the international level, we have also co-organized conferences in Australia and Argentina. This report highlights the Calandra Institute's work during the academic year 2022–2023.

The Calandra 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.

As with past administrators, Queens College President Frank Wu has consistently provided support to the Calandra Institute. Likewise, Chancellor Félix Matos Rodríguez continues to offer us invaluable encouragement. It is impossible for us to adequately express our deep gratitude both to them and to all those beyond the walls of The City University of New York for helping us to sustain our mission.

Please join us in moving toward a brighter future together.

Sincerely, fortmi

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.

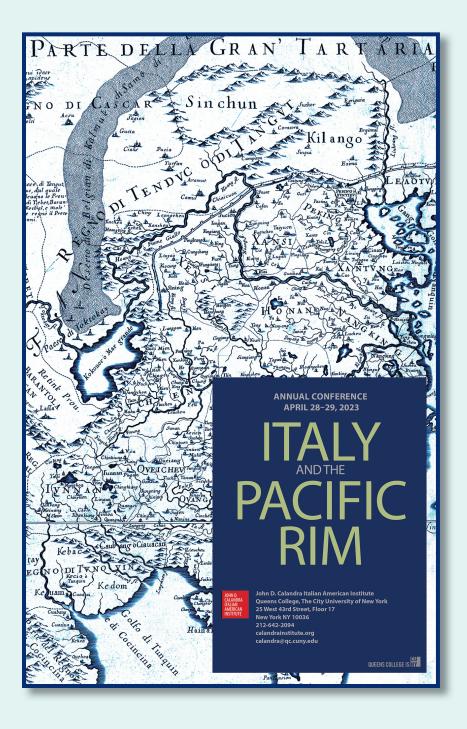
• Administer a CUNY/Italy Exchange Program between CUNY and Italian universities.

• 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 2023 conference, "Italy and the Pacific Rim," featured panel presentations that explored a wide range of topics concerning connections between the Italian peninsula and Asia and other areas along the Pacific Rim. Scholars from Canada, Italy, and the United States gathered together to present their research findings to an 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 in large part 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. Counseling services are provided to CUNY students at Queens College.

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 2022–2023 academic year, eight Italian students took part in the programs at Queens College and College of Staten Island. Scholars conducted research at the Calandra Institute, College of Staten Island, and the Graduate Center, CUNY.

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.



2022–2023 SEASON ON CUNY TV

JULY

NOIAW Annual Luncheon, Open Roads: New Italian Cinema

AUGUST

Documentary Films: *The Girl in the Fountain* and *Piano Lessons* SEPTEMBER

New Perspectives on Italian American Studies

OCTOBER

Center for Italian Modern Art

NOVEMBER

Columbus Citizens Foundation's Italian Culture Celebrations

DECEMBER

NIAF Gala, ILICA Gala

JANUARY

New Translation of Manzoni's Greatest Novel

FEBRUARY

Consiglio Generale degli Italiani all'Estero; NOIAW Epiphany Celebration

MARCH

Women's History Month: Claudia Cardinale

APRIL

Preserving Italian American Culture: A Zampogna's Journey MAY

Responsibilities of Italian American Organizations

JUNE

NOIAW Annual Luncheon, NIAF New York Gala



Public Programs

DOCUMENTED ITALIANS FILM AND VIDEO SERIES

Film screenings documenting the Italian diasporic experience

OCTOBER 5, 2022 *Calliari, QC* (2022), 48 minutes, Anita Aloisio, director. Post-screening discussion led by Joseph Sciorra.

NOVEMBER 15, 2022 *Ciao, Sesame Street!* (2019), 38 minutes, John Peter Didato, director. Post-screening discussion with the director led by Anthony Julian Tamburri.

MAY 25, 2023

Il Messaggero (2021), 63 minutes, Pete L. Ferraro, director. Post-screening discussion led by Joseph Sciorra.



PHILIP V. CANNISTRARO SEMINAR SERIES IN ITALIAN AMERICAN STUDIES

A forum where scholars present their research to the public

SEPTEMBER 27, 2022

Italian Women in Basilicata: Staying Behind but Moving Forward during the Age of Mass Emigration, 1876–1914 Victoria Calabrese, Lehman College, CUNY

OCTOBER 13, 2022 Talking to the Girls: Intimate and Political Essays on the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire Mary Anne Trasciatti, Hofstra University

MARCH 21, 2023 *Edward E. Boccia: The Painter of Nightmares and Dreams* Rosa Berland, The Edward E. Boccia Artist Trust

MAY 4, 2023

For a New Religious History of Italian Catholic Immigrants in the United States (1854–1921) Massimo Di Ciocoshino, New York University

Massimo Di Gioacchino, New York University

WRITERS READ SERIES

Presentations by creative writers reading from recently published works

SEPTEMBER 15, 2022 Kossi Komla-Ebri reads from *EmbarRACEments: Daily Embarrassments in Black and White . . . and Color* (Bordighera Press, 2019) and *Home* (Bordighera Press, 2022)

OCTOBER 20, 2022

John D'Emilio reads from *Memories of a Gay Catholic Boyhood: Coming of Age in the Sixties* (Duke University Press, 2022)

DECEMBER 5, 2022 Jonathan Galassi reads from *School Days: A Novel* (Other Press, 2022). Discussion led by Joseph Luzzi, Bard College.

MARCH 13, 2023 Annie Rachele Lanzillotto reads from *Whaddyacall the Wind?* (Bordighera Press, 2022). Discussion led by Stanislao Pugliese, Hofstra University.

APRIL 12, 2023 Anthony Marra reads from *Mercury Pictures Presents: A Novel* (Hogarth, 2022)

FUORI COLLANA Additional events organized by the Institute

SEPTEMBER 19, 2022 Lecture: "Tracing Threads and Weaving Stories: Creative Dialogues from within the Italian Diaspora," by Luci Callipari-Marcuzzo

OCTOBER 14–15, 2022 Conference: "Marking Telos 200: The New Politics of Class"

OCTOBER 19, 2022 Discussion: "Colonial Reminders between Rome and the US"

OCTOBER 21, 2022 Presentation: Joseph Tusiani Italian Translation Prize

NOVEMBER 2, 2022

Roundtable: "Shattered Madonnas—Exploring the Effects of Domestic Violence on the Lives of Women in Italy and the United States." Cosponsored with the Italian Language Inter-Cultural Alliance and National Organization of Italian American Women.

JANUARY 24, 2023

Panel Discussion: Giorno della Memoria: "Critical Thinking in Action: The Aesthetic and Political Writings of Eugenio Colorni"

MARCH 27, 2023

Webinar: "A Politics of [Self]Omission: The Italian/American Challenge in a Post–George Floyd Age" with Anthony Julian Tamburri MARCH 28, 2023 Book Presentation: *The God of New York*, by Luigi Fontanella, translated by Siân Gibby (Bordighera Press, 2021) at the Italian Cultural Institute in New York

APRIL 4, 2023

Presentation: "Rural Italian Immigration: An Experiment in Arkansas" with Rebecca Howard

MAY 9–11, 2023 Film Presentation: "Viewing Puglia through Films: A New York Festival"

MAY 15, 2023 Book Presentation: *Nonna Carla*, by Alain Elkann, translated by K.E. Bättig von Wittelsbach, at Instituto Italiano di Cultura di New York

MAY 16, 2023 Film Screening: *La porta dell'inferno*. Q&A with director Michael Cavalieri

MAY 22, 2023 Film Screening: *L'uomo più buono del mondo: La leggenda di Carlo Tresca* (2023). Q&A with director Angelo Figorilli, at Casa Italiana NYU.

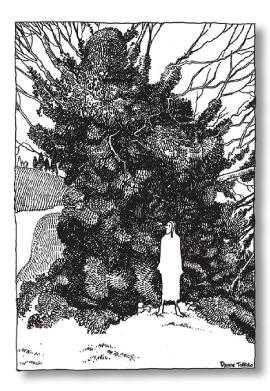
MAY 24, 2023 Book Presentation: *The Italians in America Before the Revolution*, by Giovanni Schiavo, introduction by Stephen Cerulli

MAY 31, 2023

Book Presentation: *Emma and the Angel of Central Park: The Story of a New York Icon and the Woman Who Created It*, by Maria Teresa Cometto (Bordighera Press, 2022), at the Italian Cultural Institute in New York

JUNE 6, 2023

Book Presentation: *Scoprirsi Italiani: I viaggi delle radici in Italia* (Rubbettino, 2022), by Marina Gabrieli, Riccardo Giumelli, Delfina Licata, and Giuseppe Sommario. Cosponsored by COM.IT.ES New York.



GALLERIA A showcase for the visual arts and history

SEPTEMBER 2021– AUGUST 2023 Il Sommo Poeta: Dante Alighieri, 1321–2021

Publications

BY THE INSTITUTE

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

Volume 15, Number 2 / Volume 16, Number 1

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 12, Number 2 / Volume 13, Number 1

La Diaspora Italiana in Canada: vecchie e nuove prospettive Edited by Anthony Julian Tamburri and Silvana Mangione Volume 16, Studies in Italian Americana

The Advanced Placement Program in Italian: History and Analysis Roberto Dolci

Volume 5, Transactions



FROM THE STAFF

STEPHEN CERULLI

"Giovanni Schiavo, The Great Chronicler of Italian America: A Critical Re-Introduction" in *The Italians in American Before the Revolution*, by Giovanni Schiavo. Bordighera Press, 2023.

"The Future of the Diaspora?" *La Voce di New York*. January 20, 2023.

DONNA CHIRICO

Preface to *La scuola degli italoamericani: Storia e pratiche inclusive negli articoli di Leonard Covello (1887–1982)*, by Carmen Petruzzi. Tab Edizioni, 2022.

FRED GARDAPHÉ

"Art of the State: The Politics of Multiculturalism in American Literary Studies; or, Who Hung the Rembrandt on the Multicultural Mural?" in *"Minor Minorities" and Multiculturalism: Italian American and Jewish American Literature*, edited by Dorothy M. Figueira. Edizioni Università di Macerata, 2022.

"Life Could Be a Dream: The Fiction of Mark Ciabattari" in *When the Mask Slips*, by Mark Ciabattari. Bordighera Press, 2022.

SIÂN GIBBY

Translation of *The God of New York*, by Luigi Fontanella. Bordighera Press, 2022.

NICHOLAS GROSSO

"Other than itself," with Sabrina Morreale and Lorenzo Perri of Lemonot Studio. Curators' Statement for Architecture Book Fair, 2023.

Editor of VIA: Voices in Italian Americana 33.2 and 34.1

JOSEPH SCIORRA

"Italian American Stuff: A Survey of Material Culture, Migration, and Ethnicity" (coauthored with Laura E. Ruberto), *SOAR: The Society of Americanists Review* 3, 2021–2022

"The Cultural Politics of the Presepio: Autoethnography, Artistry, and Protest from the Italian American Imaginarium," *Voci: Annuale di scienze umane* 19, 2022

ANTHONY JULIAN TAMBURRI

A Politics of [Self-]Omission: The Italian/American Challenge in a Post–George Floyd Age. Aracne, 2022.

"Facts that Suit Us? Italian Americans and a Politics of [Self-] Omission." In *Ricostruire: i luoghi di memoria nelle Americhe*, edited by Guido Baggio. Boridghera Press, 2023.

"Italian Diasporic Studies: The Then and Now." *Diasporic Italy 1*, 2022.

Editor, with Antonio Vitti, of *Mediterraneo e dialoghi di intercultura tra pandemie e guerra*. Bordighera Press, 2021.

Preface to *Trump and Mussolini. Images, Fake News, and Mass Media as Weapons in the Hands of Two Populists,* by Anna Camaiti Hostert and Enzo Cicchino. Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 2023.

Editor, introduction, and translation of *Una nuova e più grande Settefrati sul suolo d'America*, by Mario Vitti

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, linguisitcs, political science, psychology, and sociology highlights the cultural presence, economics, educational achievements, family structures, 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/



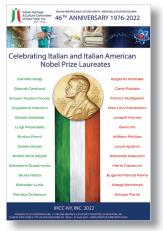
Twitter twitter.com/CalandraItal



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 2022 theme was "Saluting Italian and Italian American Nobel Prize Laureates."

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 2022–2023, the Institute sponsored use of its office space and facilities to:

Bordighera Press Italian American Studies Association Italian Heritage and Culture Committee, Inc. Italian Language Inter-Cultural Alliance 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

Additional funding is provided by: 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 10: 1682 map of China, by Giacomo Cantelli da Vignola

Page 14: Marco Tomassi (zampogna gigante) and Marco Cignitti (zampogna zoppa). Photograph © A. Maggio.

Page 16: Frame from film Calliari QC (2022)

Page 21: La prima terzina illustration by Davide Toffolo

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