



ITALIAN BORDERLANDS

Restrictions, Breaches, Encounters

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

April 5–21, 2021, weekdays at 2pm EST on Zoom



JOHN D. CALANDRA ITALIAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE
Queens College, City University of New York

Italian Borderlands: Restrictions, Breaches, Encounters

Borders can be concrete parameters, and they can also be metaphorical markers. Either way, the border as a political, economic, cultural, and personal site, one to be policed, extended, breached, opened, celebrated, and/or erased, has long been of interest to those concerned with Italy. The areas of scholarly inquiry are as infinite as the varied Italian and Italianate borders themselves.

Irridentism and colonialism were policies the newly created nation-state officially promoted and enacted as a means to augment the scope of its boundaries. Italian immigrants, in turn, extended the boundaries of their respective villages and towns through transnational networks and diasporic realms. In the twenty-first century a global economy, digital communications, and migrants and refugees arriving to Italy, among other matters, have brought renewed attention to the question of political borders.

In addition, larger concepts of boundaries—those not necessarily tied to geopolitical questions—have more and more come to inform collective and self identities in ways that also connect to changing notions of Italy and Italian borders. In the cultural realm, a binary border demarcating inclusion/exclusion is a constantly articulated and negotiated site of discursive and performed authenticity even as it is disrupted or otherwise ruptured, leading to hybridic possibilities and formations. The “real Italian” embodied in such phenomena as a globalized and transcultural cuisine, or new migrations to and from Italy, is an example of enforced and ever-contested identities. If ethnicity can be understood as both identity construction and display, negotiated at points of encounter between various groups, as anthropologist Fredrik Barth proposed, then the boundary itself can also be seen as a dynamic source of cultural expressivity.

This interdisciplinary conference builds on recent books, symposia, and conferences investigating similar themes of Italian borderlands. The 2021 Calandra Institute conference proposes a transnational, mobile, and inclusive approach to Italy and “Italians”—including inhabitants of the nation-state, members of the diaspora, and former colonial subjects—as it positions itself at the border in an attempt to elucidate the consequences and possibilities that border studies suggest and to gain a deeper understanding of class, gender, and race.

MONDAY, APRIL 5

New York Borderlands

Negotiating the Upstate/Downstate Divide: Fiorello H. La Guardia, New York State's Milk Crises, and the Potential for Rural-Urban Coalitions Today

AMY E. TRAVER, Queensborough Community College, CUNY

Wyckoff Heights? Italian American Borderland on the Brooklyn/Queens Line

STEPHEN J. CERULLI, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, Queens College, CUNY

The Young Italians' Visions and Dreams of New York: Myth or Reality?

ROSEMARY SERRA, University of Trieste

TUESDAY, APRIL 6

Literature beyond Borders

Giose Rimaneli, a Border Writer

ROSINA MARTUCCI, Independent Scholar

Border Crossings and Kinship in Women's *Letteratura della Migrazione*

MERIEL TULANTE, Thomas Jefferson University

Albania as Perennial Italian Borderland in the Novels of Albanian Italophone Authors

VIKTOR BERBERI, University of Minnesota Morris

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7

ROUNDTABLE

Hope Amidst the Chaos of the New Migrations to Southern Italy: Principles, Realities, and Trends

FILIPPO PISCOPO, director, *It Will Be Chaos* (2018)

KATIA PASSERINI, Seton Hall University

ARTURO PAGÁN, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

THURSDAY, APRIL 8

Cultural Encounters between Italy and Latin America

Italian Immigrants and Ideas in Nineteenth-Century Argentina

HEATHER SOTTONG, University of California, Los Angeles

Crossing Cultural Borders: Fernando Ortiz and Italian Thought in Latin America

DAVID ALIANO, College of Mount Saint Vincent

FRIDAY, APRIL 9

Cinematic and Musical Borderlands

Italian American Borderlands in Spike Lee's *Jungle Fever*

MARIE-CHRISTINE MICHAUD, Université de Bretagne-Sud, Lorient

The Politics of Italian Identity: Alessandro Mahmoud and Sanremo 2019

ANTHONY D. SARGENTI, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

Bonding across Borders in Matteo Troncone's *Arrangiarsi (Pizza . . . and the Art of Living)*

EVELYN FERRARO, Santa Clara University

Mediterranean Border: The Case of Venice

GIULIANA MUSCIO, University of Padua

MONDAY, APRIL 12

Families, Neighborhoods, and Beyond

The Italian/American Question: Memory, Space, and Identity

JACQUELINE MAY, Independent Scholar

Breaking Down Borders in the Digital Age: A Case Study of the Descendants of

Gaspere Cario

AMY DEUINK, Pennsylvania State University, and MELISSA E. MARINARO, Senator John

Heinz History Center

Arbëreshë, Italian Albanians, Albanian Americans, Italian Americans: Intersecting

Borders during the Migrations of the 1890s–1920s

FRANCESCA CANADÉ SAUTMAN, Hunter College, CUNY

TUESDAY, APRIL 13

Italian Politics and Culture from Fascism to Postwar Democracy in the Life and Work of Uguccione Ranieri di Sorbello (1906–1969)

Uguccione Ranieri, Giuseppe Prezzolini, and the Teaching of Italian Language in the United States in the 1930s

ROBERTO DOLCI, University for Foreigners of Perugia

The Journey away from the Fascist Regime in the Wartime Experience of Uguccione Ranieri di Sorbello

RUGGERO RANIERI, Romeyne Robert and Uguccione Sorbello Foundation

"The Italian Scene": A Cultural Bridge between Postwar Italy and the United States

ANTONELLA VALOROSO, The Umbra Institute

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14

Colonial Africa

Research Resources on Italians in the Horn of Africa

COLLEEN BRADLEY-SANDERS, Brooklyn College Library

Italy's Recruitment of Migrants in the Interwar Years: Empire and Labor Mobilization

DONATELLA STRANGIO, Sapienza University of Rome

THURSDAY, APRIL 15

Negotiating Boundaries, Negotiating Identities

The Arrests of Alberto Mario and Jessie White Mario: British Exceptionalism, Transnational Families, and Derivative Citizenship

DIANA MOORE, John Jay College, CUNY

Testing Hybridity: Arab-Muslim Solidarity and the Italian Conquest of Ottoman Tripolitania, 1911–1912

CHRIS J. ROMINGER, University of North Florida

Returning Home as Enemies: Luigi Antonini, the Italian-American Labor Council, and the Fight against Italy during World War II

ANTONIA CUCCHIARA, The New School of Social Research

FRIDAY, APRIL 16

Sicily as Mediterranean Borderland

From Micheli to the *Baracche*: The Polis in Flux and Stasis after the 1908 Earthquake of Messina

LINA INSANA, University of Pittsburgh

The Rebirth of a Mediterranean Migration System: Migration between Sicily and Tunisia

GIULIANO FLERI, The Graduate Institute, Geneva

MONDAY, APRIL 19

Northeast Italy

Fostering a Nationalist Geographical Fantasy: Women Writers and the Italian Northeastern Border (1915–1918)

CRISTINA GRAGNANI, Temple University

Redrawing the Map, Reconstructing Identity: Italian-Yugoslavian Borderlands and Anti-Slavism in Italian Discourse during Fascism

LUISA MORETTIN, NCI University in London

TUESDAY, APRIL 20

ROUNDTABLE

Crossing Borders with Ulysses's Second Eye: Searching for Italy's Identity in *Il secondo occhio di Ulisse*

SILVIA CARLOROSI, Bronx Community College, CUNY

PETER CARRAVETTA, Stony Brook University, SUNY

WILEY FEINSTEIN, Loyola University Chicago

DANIELE FIORETTI, Miami University

SIMONA WRIGHT, The College of New Jersey

Discussant: SANTE MATTEO, Miami University

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21

KEYNOTE

Where Is Italy? Borders and Borderlands from Metaphor to Geopolitics

DONNA GABACCIA, University of Toronto (Emerita)



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