

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Bitter Bread of War

MULTIDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES FROM ITALY AND THE DIASPORA

APRIL 25-26, 2025



JOHN D.
CALANDRA
ITALIAN
AMERICAN
INSTITUTE

QUEENS COLLEGE IS **CU**
NY

The Bitter Bread of War

War has been foundational to the shaping of modern Italian history, memory, and culture—from the wars of the Risorgimento to colonial and Fascist wars of expansion up to and including the two world wars. Furthermore, in all these Italian war efforts, emigrant and diasporic communities have played significant roles whether through moral and material support, serving in the Italian military, or through their opposition to Italian wars. As such, scholars are increasingly turning their attention to the theme of war and its importance to our understanding of the history of Italy, the Italian diaspora, and former colonial subjects. This interdisciplinary conference explores a wide range of topics concerning war from an Italian—broadly understood—perspective.

THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2025

6–8 pm

Welcome and Opening Comments

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

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

Dr. Frank Wu, President, Queens College, CUNY

Dr. Laura E. Ruberto, Berkeley City College, co-curator of
Creativity and World War II Italian POWs in the United States

Reception

FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2025

Unless otherwise indicated, all presentations will take place in the Conference Room.

9–9:30 am Coffee & Pastries

9:30–10:45 am

The Great War

Chair: LINA INSANA, University of Pittsburgh

Wheat Traitors: Propaganda and Autarchy on the Italian Front in World War I, MARIUS RUSU, Rutgers University

Italian Americans' Response to the Call of the Motherland in World War I, STEFANO LUCONI, University of Padua

Rewriting Nationalism: Italo Svevo and Narratives of War at the Northeastern Borderlands (1915–1918), DARIA KOZHANOVA, Duke University

11 am–12:15 pm

Untangling the Strands of Italian Wars in Southwestern Pennsylvania and West Virginia

Chair: ANGELYN BALODIMAS-BARTOLOMEI, North Park University

Garibaldi's Haunting Presence in Denise Giardina's *Storming Heaven*, NANCY CARONIA, Chatham University

Read the Room! Heritage Commemoration Between (Fascist) Dreams of Empire and Integration into the American Academy, LINA INSANA, University of Pittsburgh

Bitter Bread, If Yinz Were Lucky, MELISSA E. MARINARO, Senator John Heinz History Center

12:15–1:30 pm Lunch on your own

1:30–2:45 pm

Women, War, and Competing Legacies of the Risorgimento

Chair: SIÂN GIBBY, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, Queens College, CUNY

(Domestic) Battles Within Italy: Women and Brigandage in the 1860s, VICTORIA CALABRESE, Lehman College, CUNY

Italian Feminists and the African Question, 1885–1887, DIANA MOORE, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY

Jewish Women Artists and the Unfulfilled Promises of the Risorgimento, ALLISON SCARDINO BELZER, Georgia Southern University

3–4:15 pm

Italian Creativity in Captivity during World War II across the Pacific and Indian Oceans

Chair: JOSEPH SCIORRA, Queens College, CUNY

Italian Internees in Wartime Australia 1940–1945: Carceral Aesthetics, FLAVIA MARCELLO, Swinburne University and ANTHONY WHITE, University of Melbourne

Fascism, Art, and Aloha: The Legacies of Italian Prisoners of War in Hawaii, LAURA E. RUBERTO, Berkeley City College

Climbing beyond Borders: Italian Prisoners' Mountaineering Adventures in the Himalayas and Mount Kenya (1941–1947), GIORGIA ALÙ, University of Sydney and ELENA BELLINA, New York University

4:30–6:10 pm

Albania*Greece*Sicily

Chair: LUISA DEL GIUDICE, Independent Scholar

Reflections on Italian Soldiers in Ismail Kadare's *The General of the Dead Army*, SUSAN CAPERNA LLOYD, Independent Scholar

Mussolini's Invasion of Greece: Cold-Blooded Calculation or Vainglorious Imperial Adventure, ANDREW R. NOVO, National Defense University

Cittadinanza Egea Italiana: Struggling to Remain Greek in the Italian Dodecanese (1912–1943), ANGELYN BALODIMAS-BARTOLOMEI, North Park University

The Taste of Hunger: Sicilian Foodways before and after the 1943 Landing, TERESA FIORE, Montclair State University

SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2025

9–9:30 am Coffee & Pastries

9:30–10:45 am

Confinement and Texts during World War II

Chair: DONNA CHIRICO, York College, CUNY

Surviving the Years of Hardship: Microhistories of Detention in Africa Orientale Italiana, JAMES DE LORENZI, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY

Voices from the Isles of the Displaced: Italian British Memoirs of Internment in the Second World War, MANUELA D'AMORE, University of Catania

Between Love, Emancipation, and War, MARIE-CHRISTINE MICHAUD, Southern Brittany University (Lorient)

11 am–12:15 pm

Italian American Gl's

Chair: DAVID ALIANO, University of Mount Saint Vincent

The View from Connecticut: Italy, United States, and World War II in the Pages of *La verità: Corriere del Connecticut*, MARTINA DI FLORIO, Trinity College

From Private Maggio to War Brides to Real-Life Italian American Soldiers in World War II, GLORIA PASTORINO, Fairleigh Dickinson University

What Memory of Italian American Service Members in World War II?, MATTEO PRETELLI, University of Naples "L'Orientale"

12:15–1:30 pm Lunch on your own

1:30–2:45 pm

Language*Education*Propaganda

Chair: DENNIS BARONE, University of Saint Joseph

The Creation and Formation of Public Opinion during the European Colonial Events of the Nineteenth Century, ROBERTO REALI, Associazione Nazionale Ex Internati

Languages for War and Peace: Language Weaponization in World War II, ROBERTO DOLCI, University for Foreigners of Perugia
Italy in Representation: Class Wars to Gender Wars from Thomas Paine to Ben Morreale, PAUL FADOUL, Queens College, CUNY

Anti-Fascism and Resistance CLASSROOM

Chair: MANUELA D'AMORE, University of Catania

Women of War: Examining the Breadth of Contributions of Female Anti-Fascists during the German Occupation of Italy during World War II, SUZANNE COPE, New York University

Perché ancora? The Resistenza in Luciano Cecchinell's Poetry, FABIO FANTUZZI, Ca' Foscari University

3–4:15 pm

Occupation and Tourism in War's Aftermath

Chair: NANCY CARNEVALE, Montclair State University

Battlefield Tourism and the Shaping of Italian National Narratives at Home and Abroad, DAVID ALIANO, University of Mount Saint Vincent

"A Soldier's Guide to Italy": Identity Expectations of American Troops in Italy during World War II, DONNA CHIRICO, York College, CUNY

American Soldiers and Military in Postwar Italy, MICHAEL B. LIMMER, University of Missouri

4:30–6:10 pm

Remembering and Contending with the Trauma of World War II

Chair: NANCY CARONIA, Chatham University

"Now and at the Hour," DENNIS BARONE, University of Saint Joseph

Alberto Del Giudice: IMI—Internato Militare Italiano/Italian Military Internee 1943–1945, LUISA DEL GIUDICE, Independent Scholar

Eva Fischer, Painter of the Shoah, Not to Forget, ROSINA MARTUCCI, University of Salerno

An Inheritance of Trauma: Two Generations of Italian American Memoir, ANNIE LANZILLOTTO, Poet



JOHN D.
CALANDRA
ITALIAN
AMERICAN
INSTITUTE

John D. Calandra Italian American Institute
Queens College, The City University of New York
25 West 43rd Street, Floor 17
New York NY 10036
212-642-2094
calandrainstitute.org
calandra@qc.cuny.edu