

FRIDAY, APRIL 24

9:30–10:45 am

Women's Spiritual Awakenings

Chair: Luisa Del Giudice, Independent Scholar

Sacred Spiritual Awakenings in Nineteenth-Century Venice, Ombretta Frau, Mount Holyoke College

War Propaganda and Hybrid Spiritual Awakenings in Anna Franchi's *Il figlio alla guerra*, Cristina Gragnani, Temple University

Heretical Femininity: Ecstasy, Spiritual Awakening, and the Catholic Church in Sebastiano Vassalli's Novels, Meriel Tulante, Jefferson University

11 am–12:15 pm

CONFERENCE ROOM

The Visual and the Digital

Chair: Rebecca Bauman, Fashion Institute of Technology, The State University of New York

Photography between the Catholic Religion and Psychiatry: The Role of Images in the Pathologizing of Female Sanctity, Cristina Bucciaglia, Photographer

Presence, Destorification, Repetition: Reinterpreting Ernesto de Martino in the Context of Digital Religion, Emanuele Palumbo, University of Turin

Sustenance and Suffocation: *Italianità*, Patriarchy, and the Gendered Table in Italian American Instagram Discourse, Cristina Migliaccio, Medgar Evers College, The City University of New York

THE GALLERY

Resituating Belief and the Madonna

Chair: Rosangela Briscese, Queens College, The City University of New York

Religious Beliefs and Practices among the Bruninis of Vicksburg, James Deutsch, Smithsonian Institution

Mothers of Re-invention: Virgin Mary and Shekhinah in Exile, Siân Gibby, Queens College, The City University of New York

The Figure of the Virgin Mary in Grazia Deledda, Mary Ann McDonald Carolan, Fairfield University

1:30–2:45pm

CONFERENCE ROOM

The Evil Eye

Chair: Stephen J. Cerulli, Queens College, The City University of New York

Rituals, Beliefs, and Identity: Italian Vernacular Religiosity and the Evil Eye in Italian American Diasporic Contexts, Achirpita Fatima Falcone, Sapienza University

The Evil Eye in Italian Canadian Folk Culture: A Visual and Oral Inquiry, Cassandra Marsillo and Marisa Portolese, Concordia University

The Transnational Fascination of *Sfascinare*, Simone Maria Gugliotta, Smith College

THE GALLERY

Catholicism during Fascism

Chair: Erica Moretti, Fashion Institute of Technology, The State University of New York

The Politics of Being Apolitical: The Catholic Church, Religious Education, and the Fight over Moral Authority in a Fascist Borderland, 1922–1928, Eden McLean, Auburn University

Propagandists of Fascism? Italian Missionaries in France and the United States during the Interwar Period, Pietro Pinna, University of Turin

Albania's Bektashi Community and the Resistance to the Italian Occupation, Viktor Berberi, University of Minnesota, Morris

3:00–4:15pm

On Death

Chair: Stanislao G. Pugliese, Hofstra University

Translating the Lament: Amelia Rosselli and Lucanian Folk Religious Practices, Isabella Livorni, New York University

Women's Funerary Traditions Brought from Southern Italy to America in the Early Twentieth Century, Lisa Barone Braun, Pacifica Graduate Institute

Lampedusa's Cross to Bear: The Transformation of Migrants' Boat Fragments into Relics, Giorgia Mirto, Columbia University

4:30–5:20pm

CONFERENCE ROOM

Religious Pluralism and (Invisible) Architectures in Rome

Chair: Pietro Pinna, University of Turin

Multisensory Dimensions of Religious Heritage: Visibility and Memory in Rome (1870–Today), Valeria Fabretti, Bruno Kessler Foundation, and Maria Chiara Giorda, Roma Tre University

The Forms of Religious Plurality in the Roman Context: The *Gurdwaras* of the Punjabi Sikh Community, Silvia Omenetto, Sapienza University

THE GALLERY

Le feste in America

Chair: Nicole Kruse, Queens College, The City University of New York

Madonna del Carmine, Patrona Durata: How Italian Devotion to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Has Endured and Evolved, Adam Romanelli, Hunter College, The City University of New York

Hoboken and the Feasts: Do Religious Cultural Traditions Matter in Gentrified Communities?, Angela Murolo, St. Francis College, Lena Campagna, Caldwell University, and Connie Silletti-Cafaro, Middlesex College Edison

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

9:30–10:45am

The Saints

Chair: Donna Chirico, York College, The City University of New York

Backyard Angels: San Michele the Archangel, the Household Saint in the Lives of Valvese and Valvese Americans, Christine Zinni, The State University of New York at Brockport

Running Faiths Reenacted: San Cono from Teggiano to Brooklyn and Sant'Anna from Monte San Giacomo to Hoboken, Nicola Nitido, Independent Scholar

Saint Francis of Paola in America and Canada: A Legacy of Faith and Hope, Rosina Martucci, University of Salerno

11am–12:15 pm

CONFERENCE ROOM

Sacred Spaces and Devotional Practices

Chair: Isabella Livorni, New York University

The Sacred and the Resignification of Historic Centers: Inland Areas, Festivals, and New Territorial Resonances, Alessandra Broccolini, Sapienza University, and Daria De Grazia, Sapienza University

Configuring the Sacred in Buddhism: Space, Consciousness, and Social Transformation, Francesca Benna, Sapienza University

“We try to make it look like a shrine”: St. Joseph Altars as Votive Sites of Vernacular Philanthropy in Queens, New York, Joseph Sciorra, Queens College, The City University of New York

THE GALLERY

Revisiting Death

Chair: Nancy C. Carnevale, Montclair University

Religion, Race, and Memory in the Italian Catholic Cemetery of West Blocton, Alabama, Matteo Brera, University of Padua

Visiting Our Dead, Joanna Clapps Herman, Writer

Neapolitan Relationships to Death, Stanislao G. Pugliese, Hofstra University

1:30–2:45pm

CONFERENCE ROOM

Catholicism and Protestantism in the United States

Chair: Diana Moore, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, The City University of New York

Becoming Italian in the Shadow of the Cross: Catholicism and the Renegotiation of Italian Immigrants' Ethnic Identity in the United States, Stefano Luconi, University of Padua

Baptist Belonging in Buffalo and Barre: Ariel Bellondi and the Formation of Protestant Italian Immigrant Congregations, Alessia Martini

Un Miracolo dello Spirito Santo: Italian American Catholic-to-Pentecostal Conversion, Christine Grimaldi, Independent Scholar

THE GALLERY

Art and Architecture

Chair: Sabina Magliocco, University of British Columbia

The Failure of Saint Joachim Church, New York City, 1958, Mary Elizabeth Brown, Marymount Manhattan College

The Success of the Most Precious Blood Church, New York City, from 1914 to Today,
Janice Carapellucci, Carapellucci Design

The Catholic Imprint: Religiosity in the Designs of Gaetano Pesce, Anthony D.
Cavaluzzi, State University of New York at Adirondack

3:00–3:50pm

CONFERENCE ROOM

Mythical Beings

Chair: David Aliano, University of Mount Saint Vincent

Strega Non[n]a, La Befana, and Other “Hagitudes,” Luisa Del Giudice, Independent
Scholar

Lupi Mannari: Werewolves of Southern Italy in Regional Folklore and Oral History
Accounts: An Antithesis to Marian or Saintly Apparitions to Italian/Italian American
Devout Catholics, Anne-Marie Lucchese, Indiana University Bloomington

THE GALLERY

Women, Patriarchy, and the Catholic Church in Italy

Chair: Marcella Bencivenni, Hostos Community College, The City University of New
York

Navigating the Culture Wars: The Alliance of Anti-Catholicism and Women’s
Emancipation in the Newly Created Italian State, Diana Moore, John Jay College of
Criminal Justice, The City University of New York

Confession to Complicity: Catholicism, Sexual Violence, and the Case of *Fuitina*,
Antonella Vitale, University of California, Berkeley

4:05–5:45pm

Re-enchanting Religiosity

Chair: Joseph Sciorra, Queens College, The City University of New York

Cabinet of Curiosities: Exploring Contemporary Italian Wiccan Altars and Practices,
Emiliano Russo, Sapienza University

The Revival of Southern Italian Folk Magic Amongst Queer Italy and Italian America in a
Post-COVID Era, Ronnie M. Nocella, Independent Scholar

Religious Resignifications and Development of Identities: Goddess Spirituality in Italy,
Miriam Padovani, Sapienza University

Reclaiming Vernacular Magic: Italian American Paganism after the Collapse of Neopagan Origin Myths, Sabina Magliocco, University of British Columbia