HOFSTRA CULTURAL CENTER, HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY
ITALIAN ACADEMY FOR ADVANCED STUDIES, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
CASA ITALIANA ZERILLI-MARIMÒ, NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

present a Conference

FOR A DANGEROUS PEDAGOGY:
A MANIFESTO FOR ITALIAN AND ITALIAN AMERICAN STUDIES

Wednesday-Saturday, April 14-17, 2010

A conference intended to provoke a radical rethinking of Italianistica. Join us in a very ambitious effort to explore possibilities for a revitalization and refocusing of the field.

CONFERENCE DIRECTOR
Pellegrino D’Acierno
Professor of Comparative Literature and Languages,
Queensboro UNICO Distinguished Professor of Italian and Italian American Studies
Hofstra University

SPECIAL CONFERENCE ADVISER
Stanislao Pugliese
Professor of History
Hofstra Cultural Center Fellow
Hofstra University

Hofstra University gratefully acknowledges the participation and generous support of:
Queensboro UNICO Foundation, Inc.; Tiro a Segno Foundation; Coccia Foundation;
Angelo Fonte Family Foundation; James Periconi, Esq.; National Italian American Foundation (NIAF);
Long Island Regional Council/American Italian Historical Association.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 2010  HOFSTRA CULTURAL CENTER
HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY

10 a.m.-5 p.m.  REGISTRATION and COFFEE
Rochelle and Irwin A. Lowenfeld Conference and Exhibition Hall
Joan and Donald E. Axinn Library, 10th Floor, South Campus

11-11:15 a.m.  WELCOMING REMARKS
Herman A. Berliner
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Lawrence Herbert Distinguished Professor
Hofstra University
A NECESSARY DIALOGUE, OR FOR A RAPPROCHEMENT BETWEEN ITALIAN STUDIES AND ITALIAN AMERICAN STUDIES

I. ON METHODOLOGY: RETHINKING ITALIANISTICA (11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m.)

Soliciting the Discipline: Italianistica in the Contemporary University and a Plea for a “Dangerous” Pedagogy

Pellegrino D’Acierno, Professor of Comparative Literature and Languages, Queensboro UNICO Distinguished Professor of Italian and Italian American Studies, Hofstra University
Conference Director

II. “THEORY-WORK”: DIALOGIZING ITALIAN AMERICAN STUDIES/ITALIANIZING THE CURRICULUM

Manifestos/Blasts:

Peter Carravetta, Stony Brook University
Thomas Ferraro, Duke University
John Gennari, University of Vermont

III. FOR A TRANSNATIONAL PEDAGOGY: ITALIAN AND ITALIAN AMERICAN CATEGORIES (12:45-9 p.m.)

12:45-1:30 p.m. A: “Border-Work”: Learning From the Diaspora: The Old and New Emigration/Immigration

Teresa Fiore, California State University, Long Beach
Gregory Pell, Hofstra University

1:30-3:15 p.m. B: Spectacle Culture: The Artist as Manifesto

1:30-2:15 p.m. The Next 475 Years of My Art and Life
Lucio Pozzi, Artist, Verona, Italy
Tiro a Segno Foundation Conference Scholar

2:30-3:15 p.m. The Self as Spectacle
Annie Lanzillotto, Performance Artist, New York, NY

3:15-6 p.m. C: Ticklish Subjects, or The Migration of the Symptoms of the Nation

3:15-4 p.m. C-1: Anarchism and the Radical Tradition

Terrorism Translated
Nunzio Pernicone, Drexel University

Learning From Sacco and Vanzetti
Mary Anne Trasciatti, Hofstra University
4:4:30 p.m. C-2: Teaching The Mafia – A Symptomatic Reading

Stefano Vaccara, Editor, America Oggi

4:30-5:30 p.m. C-3: Diagnosing Mafia – Movie Madness

Contributors to The Mafia Movie Reader
Dana Renga, Editor, Ohio State University
Elizabeth Leake, Rutgers University
Giancarlo Lombardi, The Graduate Center/CUNY and The College of Staten Island

5:30-6 p.m. C-4: Matteo Garrone’s Gomorra

Dana Renga, Editor, Ohio State University
Simone Castaldi, Hofstra University
Gregory Pell, Hofstra University

6-6:30 p.m. D: Diaspora Blues

Learning From Ellis Island/Dialogizing Italian and Italian American Art
B. Amore, Artist, New York, NY

6:30-8 p.m. DINNER (on your own)

8-9 p.m. E: Bis: Diaspora Blues

Between Fable and Documentary: Screening Immigration and the Immigrant Experience – Nuovomondo Versus Pane Amaro

Moderator:
Christine Noschese, Hofstra University
Gianfranco Norelli, Director, Pane Amaro
Teresa Fiore, California State University, Long Beach

9 p.m. SCREENING OF PANE AMARO (2009), directed by Gianfranco Norelli
THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2010       HOFSTRA CULTURAL CENTER
                          HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY

8 a.m.-5 p.m.           REGISTRATION and COFFEE
Rochelle and Irwin A. Lowenfeld Conference and Exhibition Hall
Joan and Donald E. Axinn Library, 10th Floor, South Campus

FOR A CRITICAL AND SELF-CRITICAL PEDAGOGY: ITALIAN AMERICAN CATEGORIES

IV.                  (COUNTER-) IDENTITY-WORK (9 a.m.-Noon)

9-9:45 a.m.            A: Speaking as an Italian American: Language/Silence: The Dialect as
                       Language of the Skin and the Advent of Literacy
                       Nancy Carnevale, Montclair State University
                       Mary Anne Trasciatti, Hofstra University

10-10:30 a.m.              B: Writing as an Italian American: The Construction of a Scriptural Persona
                       Maria Laurino, Creative Writing Program, New York University
                       Author, Old World Daughter, New World Mother and Were You Always an Italian?

10:30-11 a.m.            C: Writing/Desiring Italy From America
                       Cross-Cultural Love: Italy/L’America
                       Martha McPhee, Hofstra University
                       Author, L’America

11 a.m.-Noon              D: Workshop: Teaching as an Italian American
                       On the Modern Language Association Textbook
                       Teaching Italian American Literature, Film, and Popular Culture
                       Moderator: Edvige Giunta, New Jersey City University
                       Kathleen Zamboni McCormick, SUNY Purchase
                       Peter Covino, University of Rhode Island
                       Robert Viscusi, Wolfe Institute for the Humanities, Brooklyn College, CUNY
                       Marisa Trubiano, Montclair State University

Noon-1 p.m.              LUNCH (on your own)

1-2 p.m.                 KEYNOTE ADDRESS
                       Writing Fiction as an Italian American
                       Frank Lentricchia, Duke University
                       Queensboro UNICO Distinguished Conference Scholar
V.  OPPOSITIONAL-WORK: POLITICIZING THE DISCIPLINE AND DECONSTRUCTING THE AMERICAN SOCIAL IMAGINARY (2-3:15 p.m.)

2-2:40 p.m.  A: Confronting “Dagotude” or Stigmatic Ethnicity: The Figure and Image of the Italian American Within the Regime of Stereotypes

Donald Tricarico, Queensborough Community College, CUNY
Carl Capotorto, Actor; Author, Twisted Head

2:40-3:15 p.m.  B: “STIM” on “Dagotude”: Tutti insieme appassionatamente

Thomas Ferraro, Robert Viscusi, John Gennari, Edvige Giunta, Pellegrino D’Acierno, Stanislao Pugliese

VI.  MEMORY-WORK: CONSTRUCTING A COUNTER-HISTORY OF THE ITALIAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE (3:15-5:30 p.m.)

3:15-4 p.m.  A: For a Rosary of Memories: Italian American Poets and “Memory-Work”
Moderator: Edvige Giunta

Maria Mazziotti Gillan, Binghamton University, SUNY
Peter Covino, The University of Rhode Island

4-5:30 p.m.  B: Italoamericana
Moderator: James Periconi, Esq.
New York, NY

Dialogue:
Francesco Durante, University of Salerno, Italy
Joseph G. Astman Distinguished Conference Scholar

Robert Viscusi, Wolfe Institute for the Humanities, Brooklyn College/CUNY

Supplement: James Periconi, Esq.: On the Necessity of Archival Fever

6-8 p.m.  BANQUET

8:15-9:15 p.m.  PERFIDIA: A TALE OF INTERNMENT
A performance of Jo Ann Tedesco’s play on the internment of Italian Americans during the Second World War
Directed by Bobby Funaro
8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.  
REGISTRATION

9-9:15 a.m.  
WELCOMING REMARKS

David Freedberg  
Director, The Italian Academy for Advanced Studies in America,  
Columbia University

ITALIAN STUDIES: NEW ANATOMIES, NEW THRESHOLDS

9:15-9:30 a.m.  
OPENING REMARKS

Why Study Italy?  
Pellegrino D’Acierno, Professor of Comparative Literature and Languages,  
Queensboro UNICO Distinguished Professor of Italian and Italian American Studies,  
Hofstra University  
Conference Director

I.  
LITERATURE (9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.)

9:30-10:50 a.m.  
A: Rethinking Dante

9:30-9:50 a.m.  
Globalizing Dante  
Teodolinda Barolini, Columbia University

9:50-10:30 a.m.  
Rethinking the Dante-Centric Curriculum  
Simone Marchesi, Princeton University  
Ronald Martinez, Brown University

10:30-10:50 a.m.  
Discussion: Tutti

11-11:40 a.m.  
B: Rethinking the Canon: Missing Texts, Authors, and Problematics

Reclaiming Leopardi’s Lo Zibaldone: A Conversation  
Franco D’intino, University of Rome, La Sapienza, Italy  
Jonathan Galassi, Editor-in-Chief, Farrar, Straus & Giroux

11:40 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
C: Learning From the Renaissance, or the Humanism That Lasts Forever

Moderator:  
Jo Ann Cavallo, Columbia University

Jane Tylus, New York University  
David Marsh, Rutgers University

12:30-1:45 p.m.  
LUNCH (on your own)
1:45-3 p.m. D: Insegnare la Letteratura Oggi?
Moderator: Frank Lentricchia, Duke University
Queensboro UNICO Distinguished Conference Scholar

The View From Italy
Romano Luperini, University of Siena, Italy
Tiro a Segno Foundation Conference Scholar

The View From America
Fabio Finotti, University of Pennsylvania

3-3:30 p.m. E: Rethinking Periods and Cultural Dominants
Learning From the Novecento or, the Modernism that Failed?

Wrestling With Two Angels: Communism and the Church in the Work of Ignazio Silone
Stanislao Pugliese, Hofstra Cultural Center Fellow
Special Conference Adviser, Hofstra University

The Modernist Gambit: Male Consciousness in the Modern Italian Novel
Andrea Malaguti, Columbia University

3:30-4:30 p.m. F: Rethinking Forms and for a Suturing of Italianistica and Comparative Literature

Sonnet Pedagogy: “Rhyme and Freedom”

Moderator: Phillis Levin, Hofstra University

Sandra Bermann, Princeton University
Robert Viscusi, Brooklyn College, CUNY

4:30-5:30 p.m. G: Rethinking Genres and Registers

A Defense of Poetry (Which Needs None)
Paolo Valesio, Columbia University
Peter Covino, University of Rhode Island
Jonathan Galassi, Editor-in-Chief, Farrar, Straus & Giroux
Jennifer Scappettone, University of Chicago

5:30-6 p.m. BREAK

II. DANGEROUS TEXTS (5:40-7:40 p.m.)

5:40-6:20 p.m. A: Dangerous Texts: First Movement

A Manifesto for Two-Voices
Mario Biagioli, Harvard University
Kriss Ravetto, University of Edinburgh
6:20-6:40 p.m.  B: Dangerous Texts: Intermezzo

   A Manifesto for Love and Luck in the Voice of a Fedele d’amore
   Gioia Timpanelli, cantastorie
   Author, What Makes a Child Lucky
   Kingston, NY

6:40-7:20 p.m.  C: Dangerous Texts: Second Movement

   Visconti as Opera Queen
   Peter Brunette, Wake Forest University

   Dialogue:
   Where Have You Gone, Manfredo Tafuri?
   Joan Ockman, Van Alen Institute
   Pellegrino D’Acierno, Conference Director, Hofstra University

7:40-8 p.m.  Discussion: Tutti

8-9 p.m.  RECEPTION
SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 2010  CASA ITALIANA ZERILLI-MARIMÒ, NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.  REGISTRATION

9:15-9:30 a.m.  WELCOMING REMARKS

Stefano Albertini
Director, Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimò, New York University

THE ITALIAN DIFFERENCE

I.  CULTURAL STUDIES: NEW DIRECTIONS (9:30-11 a.m.)

9:30-10 a.m.  ‘Ma la superficie delle cose è inesauribile’: Il fumetto e l’estetica del postmoderno nel dopo-’77 Italiano
Simone Castaldi, Hofstra University

10-10:30 a.m.  Rethinking Fascist Culture: Empire Cinema
Ruth Ben-Ghiat, New York University

10:30-11 a.m.  The Uncertain Future of the Past: Italian Studies in a Preposterous Present
Massimo Riva, Brown University

II:  THE OTHER PHILOSOPHY, OR WHY ITALIAN PHILOSOPHY MATTERS (11 a.m.-1:40 p.m.)

A:  The Difference of Italian Philosophical and Theoretical Culture

11-11:30 a.m.  KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Remo Bodei, University of California, Los Angeles
Joseph G. Astman Distinguished Conference Scholar at Hofstra University

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  Dialogue:
Franca D’Agostini, Politecnico di Torino, Italy
Tiro a Segno Foundation Conference Scholar
Achille Varzi, Columbia University

12:40-1:40 p.m.  B:  The Differences of Italian Philosophy

12:40-1 p.m.  Vattimo: Weak Thought and Its Aftermath
Peter Carravetta, Stony Brook University

1-1:20 p.m.  Cacciari and Sini: Between Venice and Milan
Alessandro Carrera, University of Houston

1:20-1:40 p.m.  Discussion: Tutti
1:45-2:30 p.m. LUNCH (on your own)

### III. THE SPECTERS OF GRAMSCI: ITALIAN CULTURE AFTER POSTMODERNISM – GLOBAL CULTURE OR "COMA CULTURE'? (2:30-6:30 p.m.)

**OPENING REMARKS**

**2:30 p.m.**

*Italy as the Repeating Peninsula, or — To Pose the Old Crocean Question — What Is Alive and What Is Dead in Contemporary or Post-Italian Culture?*

**Pellegrino D’Acierno**, Professor of Comparative Literature and Languages, Queensboro UNICO Distinguished Professor of Italian and Italian American Studies, Hofstra University

*Conference Director*

**2:30-2:50 p.m.**

*The Way We Were: Is Italy a Racist Country?*

**Stefano Albertini**, New York University

**2:50-3:10 p.m.**

*From Organic Intellectual to Pure Vaseline: Cultural Labor in a Society of Spectacle*

**Roberto Dainotto**, Duke University

**3:10-3:30 p.m.**

*The View From Napoli*

**Francesco Durante**, University of Salerno, Italy

*Joseph G. Astman Distinguished Conference Scholar at Hofstra University*

**3:30-3:45 p.m.** BREAK

**3:45-4:05 p.m.**

*The New Art Scene: The View From Verona*

**Lucio Pozzi**, Artist, Verona, Italy

*Tiro a Segno Foundation Conference Scholar*

**4:05-4:25 p.m.**

*The New Architectural Culture: The View From Rotterdam*

**Pier Vittorio Aureli**, Berlage Institute, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

**4:25-5 p.m.** KEYNOTE ADDRESS (invited)

**Francesco Erspamer**, Harvard University

**5:5:15 p.m.** BREAK
5:15-5:25 p.m.  Italian History 101: Belusconi’s Re-Writing of La Storia  
Stanislao Pugliese, Hofstra University

5:30-5:50 p.m.  Globalized Italy  
Victoria de Grazia, Columbia University

5:50-6:10 p.m.  Identity/Identities?  
Silvana Patriarca, Fordham University

6:10-6:30 p.m.  Discussion: Tutti

6:30-7 p.m.  BREAK

IV.  THE NEW ITALIAN CINEMA (7-8:15 p.m.)

Round Table Discussion:

Peter Brunette, Wake Forest University  
Kriss Ravetto, University of Edinburgh, Canada  
Gianfranco Norelli, Documentary Filmmaker, New York, NY  
Maurizio Grimaldi, Studio Head, Alberto Grimaldi Productions

8:15-9 p.m.  CLOSING RECEPTION
LODGING INFORMATION
The Long Island Marriott Hotel and Conference Center in Uniondale, La Quinta Inn & Suites in Garden City, have been designated the official conference hotels. The following are the special discounted rates for room reservations.

LONG ISLAND MARRIOTT HOTEL AND
CONFERENCE CENTER
101 James Doolittle Blvd.
Uniondale, NY 11553
Attn: Reservations Manager
Tel: (516) 794-3800 or (800) 832-6255
Fax: (516) 794-5936
Room rate: $159 per night,
single/double/triple/quadruple occupancy
Cutoff date: Based on availability

LA QUINTA INN & SUITES
821 Stewart Avenue
Garden City, NY 11530
Tel: (516) 705-9000 or (800) 531-5900
Fax: (516) 705-9100
Room rate: $149 per night,
single/double occupancy
Cutoff date: Based on availability

NOTE: ALL RESERVATIONS WILL BE HELD
UNTIL 6 P.M. ON DAY OF ARRIVAL UNLESS
ACCOMPANIED BY THE FIRST NIGHT’S
ROOM DEPOSIT OR SECURED BY A
MAJOR CREDIT CARD. RESERVATIONS AT
THE DISCOUNTED RATE ARE SUBJECT
TO AVAILABILITY. WHEN MAKING YOUR
RESERVATIONS, PLEASE IDENTIFY YOURSELF
AS A PARTICIPANT IN THE MANIFESTO FOR
ITALIAN AND ITALIAN AMERICAN STUDIES AT
HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY.

Scheduled transportation will be arranged
between the Hofstra University campus and
contracted hotels. Schedules will be available at
the Conference Registration Desk as well as at
the hotels.
Mail or fax to:
Dangerous Pedagogy Conference
Hofstra Cultural Center
113 Hofstra University
Hempstead, NY 11549-1130
Tel: (516) 463-5669 • Fax: (516) 463-4793
To register online, please visit hofstra.edu/culture.

Name _______________________________________________________________________
Address _____________________________________________________________________
City/State/ZIP ___________________________________________________________________
Affiliation _____________________________________________________________________
Telephone _____________________________________________________________________
Fax ___________________________________________________________________________ E-mail _____________________________________

I have made lodging reservations at:
[ ]Long Island Marriott 
[ ]LaQuinta Inn & Suites

Method of Payment
[ ]Enclosed is a check in the amount of $ __________________________
(payable to Hofstra University – Dangerous Pedagogy Conference).

[ ] MasterCard        [ ] Visa

Amount: $ __________________ Cardholder’s Name _________________________________
Card Number __________________ Expiration Date _______________ Security Code _____________
Cardholder’s Signature _________________________________________________________

Returned Checks: A $25 handling fee will be charged for returned checks.

REGISTRATION FEES

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Daily Rate (Please indicate day) $25
[ ] Wednesday [ ] Thursday [ ] Friday [ ] Saturday

Senior citizen (65 and over) $50 $ _____________

Matriculated non-Hofstra/Columbia
New York University student $25 $ _____________
(must include copy of current school ID)

Dinner (Thursday, April 15) $50 $ _____________

Total $ _____________

Hofstra University is 100-percent program accessible to persons with disabilities.

All events (with the exception of meals) are FREE to Hofstra/Columbia/New York University students, faculty and staff upon presentation of a current ID card.