



ITALIAN DIASPORA STUDIES SUMMER SEMINAR

June 9 – June 27, 2025 • Rome, Italy

Dipartimento di Lingue, Letterature e Culture Straniere
Università degli Studi Roma Tre

&

John D. Calandra Italian American Institute
Queens College, The City University of New York

9 YEARS!

2015-2019, 2022-2025

Un caloroso grazie a tutti!

Corsisti, sostenitori, colleghi,
amministratori, università!

*Senza di voi, non sarebbe
stato possibile!*



Roma Tre

Dipartimento di
Lingue Letterature
e Culture Straniere
LLS

**JOHN D.
CALANDRA
ITALIAN
AMERICAN
INSTITUTE**



**The City
University
of
New York**

The Italian Diaspora Studies Summer Seminar is a three-week summer program at the Università degli Studi Roma Tre that takes place June 9 through June 27, 2025. The Seminar is designed to introduce participants to cultural studies of the Italian Diaspora from a variety of academic perspectives and to foster the development of individual projects responding to the materials covered in the series of seminars in literature, film, and the social sciences.

All the courses are taught by leading scholars in the field. Faculty includes David Aliano, Donna Chirico, Roberto Dolci, Daniele Fiorentino, Fred Gardaphé, Joseph Sciorra, Anthony Julian Tamburri, Sabrina Vellucci.

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We wish to thank the many organizations that have contributed to making this seminar possible. First, our two home institutions, Università degli Studi Roma Tre and the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, Queens College, The City University of New York, have made it possible for us to work on the notion of an Italian diaspora summer seminar and put it into effect.

None of this could be possible without substantial support. Italian American organizations and colleges and universities have offered the opportunity in the form of fellowships for many of the participants to attend this year. This is no small deed, to be sure. Thus, we offer a heart-felt thanks to the numerous organizations that have contributed to this year's seminar.

Queens College President Frank Wu, the former Rector of Roma Tre University Luca Pietromarchi, and the Director of the Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Cultures Giorgio De Marchis have offered their unmitigated support of this seminar, an historical understanding within the greater realm of Italian-American and Italian Diaspora studies.

Un caloroso grazie a tutti quanti!

The Program Directors

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AWARDS

José Chacón, Borough of Manhattan CC	CUNY Office of EVC for Academic Affairs, CUNY; Giambelli Foundation; UNICO National
Carla Cornette, University of Missouri	Giambelli Foundation; Italian Language Inter-Cultural Alliance
Antonietta D’Amelio, Baruch College,	CUNY Office of EVC for Academic Affairs, CUNY; Giambelli Foundation; UNICO National
Christine Griffiths, SUNY Stony Brook	Giambelli Foundation; Italian Language Inter-Cultural Alliance
Kristen Hoffman, Queensborough CC,	CUNY Office of EVC for Academic Affairs, CUNY; Giambelli Foundation; UNICO National
Cassandra Marsilio, Concordia University	National Italian American Foundation, Sons of Italy Foundation
Veronica Nocella, University of Pennsylvania	Alexandra De Luise Gift; Italian American Studies Association
Sonal Soni, Queens College,	CUNY Office of EVC for Academic Affairs, CUNY; Giambelli Foundation; UNICO National
Jeanette Vuocolo, The Guston Foundation	Alexandra De Luise Gift; Italian Language Inter-Cultural Alliance

WEEK 1

Seminar meetings last 1 hour 15 minutes

	June 9	June 10	June 11	June 12	June 13
8:00 — 9:45	BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST
10:00 – 11:15	<i>Italian Diaspora Cinema</i> Lecture & discussion Prof. Anthony Julian Tamburri	<i>History of the Italians in the Diaspora</i> Lecture & discussion Prof. David Aliano	<i>Italian Diaspora Cinema</i> Lecture & discussion Prof. Anthony Julian Tamburri	<i>History of the Italians in the Diaspora</i> Lecture & discussion Prof. David Aliano	
11:30 — 12:45	<i>Italian Diaspora Literature</i> Lecture & discussion Prof. Fred Gardaphé	<i>Folklore & the Aesthetics of Everyday Life</i> Lecture & discussion Prof. Joseph Sciorra	<i>Italian Diaspora Literature</i> Lecture & discussion Prof. Fred Gardaphé	<i>Folklore & the Aesthetics of Everyday Life</i> Lecture & discussion Prof. Joseph Sciorra	
13:00 – 14:30	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	
14:30 – 15:45	<i>Language and the Italian Diaspora I</i> Lecture & discussion Prof. Roberto Dolci	<i>Identity in the Italian Diaspora: Psychological Perspectives</i> Lecture & discussion Prof. Donna Chirico	<i>Italy / US Relations in the 19th and 20th Centuries</i> Lecture & discussion Prof. Daniele Fiorentino	<i>Identity in the Italian Diaspora: Psychological Perspectives</i> Lecture & discussion Prof. Donna Chirico	
16:00 – 17:15	<i>Free to roam Rome; or return to hotel</i>	<i>Digital Humanities</i> Lecture & Discussion Prof. Domenico Fiormonte	<i>Free to roam Rome; or return to hotel</i>	<i>Free to roam Rome; or return to hotel</i>	
	GROUP DINNER 20:00 @ Hotel		GIAMBELLI LECTURE 17:30 @ Hotel GIORGIO DE MARCHIS “«Tegno sodades, ai de ti — Zan Paolo!»: Italian diaspora in Brazilian literature”		

WEEK 2

	June 16	June 17	June 18	June 19	June 20
8:00 — 9:45	BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST
10:00 – 11:15	<i>Italian Diaspora Cinema</i> Lecture & discussion Prof. Anthony Julian Tamburri	<i>History of the Italians in the Diaspora</i> Lecture & discussion Prof. David Aliano	<i>Italian Diaspora Cinema</i> Lecture & discussion Prof. Anthony Julian Tamburri	<i>History of the Italians in the Diaspora</i> Lecture & discussion Prof. David Aliano	
11:30 — 12:45	<i>Italian Diaspora Literature</i> Lecture & discussion Prof. Fred Gardaphé	<i>Folklore & the Aesthetics of Everyday Life</i> Lecture & discussion Prof. Joseph Sciorra	<i>Italian Diaspora Literature</i> Lecture & discussion Prof. Sabrina Vellucci	<i>Folklore & the Aesthetics of Everyday Life</i> Lecture & discussion Prof. Joseph Sciorra	
13:00 – 14:30	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	
14:30 – 15:45	<i>Language and the Italian Diaspora I</i> Lecture & discussion Prof. Roberto Dolci	<i>Identity in the Italian Diaspora: Psychological Perspectives</i> Lecture & discussion Prof. Donna Chirico	<i>Italy / US Relations in the 19th and 20th Centuries</i> Lecture & discussion Prof. Daniele Fiorentino	<i>Identity in the Italian Diaspora: Psychological Perspectives</i> Lecture & discussion Prof. Donna Chirico	
16:00 – 17:15	<i>Digital Humanities</i> Lecture & Discussion Prof. Domenico Fiormonte	<i>Free to roam Rome; or return to hotel</i>	<i>Free to roam Rome; or return to hotel</i>	<i>Free to roam Rome; or return to hotel</i>	
	GROUP DINNER 20:00 @ Hotel		GIAMBELLI LECTURE 17:30 @ Hotel MARTINO MARAZZI “Re-focusing the Diasporic Gaze while Atlanticism is Drying up. Other Lenses for Other Sources”	GIAMBELLI LECTURE 17:30 @ Hotel	

WEEK 3

	June 23	June 24	June 25	June 26	June 27
8:00 — 9:45	BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST
10:00 – 11:15	<i>Italian Diaspora Cinema</i> Lecture & discussion Prof. Anthony Julian Tamburri	<i>History of the Italians in the Diaspora</i> Lecture & discussion Prof. David Aliano	<i>Italian Diaspora Cinema</i> Lecture & discussion Prof. Anthony Julian Tamburri	<i>History of the Italians in the Diaspora</i> Lecture & discussion Prof. David Aliano	
11:30 — 12:45	<i>Italian Diaspora Literature</i> Lecture & discussion Prof. Sabrina Vellucci	<i>Folklore & the Aesthetics of Everyday Life</i> Lecture & discussion Prof. Joseph Sciorra	<i>Italian Diaspora Literature</i> Lecture & discussion Prof. Sabrina Vellucci	<i>Folklore & the Aesthetics of Everyday Life</i> Lecture & discussion Prof. Joseph Sciorra	
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16:00 – 17:15	<i>Digital Humanities</i> Lecture & Discussion Prof. Domenico Fiormonte	<i>Free to roam Rome; or return to hotel</i>	<i>Free to roam Rome; or return to hotel</i>	<i>Free to roam Rome; or return to hotel</i>	
	GROUP DINNER 20:00 @ Hotel		GAMBELIA LECTURE 17:30 @ Hotel KATIA BALLACCHINO “Ethnography of the Festa dei Gigli between Nola and Brooklyn”		

FACULTY

All courses are taught by leading scholars in the field, who, besides their scholarship, are also part of editorial boards of major journals (*Italian American Review*, *Letterature d'America*, *Voices in Italian Americana*) and book series (Bordighera Press, Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, Fordham University Press, Franco Cesati Editore, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, SUNY Press) both in the United States and in Italy.

DAVID ALIANO is Professor of Italian and History at the University of Mount Saint Vincent in New York City and is the founding director of its B.A. program in Italian and Italian Diaspora Studies. He is the Editor of the *Italian American Review*, the peer-reviewed journal of the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute and is on the Advisory Board of H-TransItalian Studies. He holds a Ph.D. in History from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. His areas of research include Modern Italy and Latin America; Italian transnational and comparative studies; National and ethnic identities; and Italian Fascism and anti-Fascism. He is the author of *Mussolini's National Project in Argentina* (Fairleigh Dickinson UP, 2012), which was awarded the annual Outstanding Book Award of the *Association for Ethnic Studies*. He has also published widely on Italian emigration to other parts of the Americas as well as on notions of citizenship and the Italian vote abroad. His most recently published chapters appear in *Philosophy, Travel, and Place: Being in Transit* (Palgrave, 2018) and in *Italy and the Military: Cultural Perspectives from Unification to Contemporary Italy* (Palgrave, 2020). His current book project examines American travel encounters with Italy's changing landscape in the twentieth century.

DONNA CHIRICO is Professor of Psychology, York College/CUNY, and Resident Faculty, The John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, Queens College/CUNY. Her field research is Ladakh, India studying moral and spiritual development constitutes the foundation for her ongoing research program exploring the nature of imagination as it relates to aspects of psychological development. One implication is the role of the imaginative process in educational attainment among Americans of Italian descent. The objective of this work is to understand the function of esoteric or transcendent imagination in personal development, attainment of valued goals, and psychological well-being. Related to this, matters of personal identity formation are explored to understand how ethnic identity contributes to the psychological development of the self, specifically within the Italian Diaspora. She has published numerous papers on these topics and is a sought-after speaker on these matters vital to the Italian diaspora.

ROBERTO DOLCI is Professor of Educational Linguistics at the University for Foreigners in Perugia. He is also visiting Scholar at the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, Queens College, CUNY. His main areas of research are educational language policies with a focus on the teaching of Italian language and culture in the world. He has extensively written on Educational Linguistics and Teacher Education. With Anthony Julian Tamburri he has co-edited *Why Study Italian: Diverse Perspectives on a Theme* (2013) and *Intercomprehension and Plurilingualism. Assets for Italian Language in the USA* (2015), both published by the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute. He is the author of *Il Giornalino di Preziosi. La lingua Italiana tra promozione e propaganda nella New York degli anni '30 e '40* (Franco Cesati Editore, 2018); his most recent book is *The Advanced Placement Program in Italian: History and Analysis*. Transactions 5 (John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, 2023). He is co-editor of the peer-reviewed journal, *TILCA (Teaching Italian Language and Culture Annual)* and co-editor of the peer-reviewed journal *Mosaic (Journal for Language Teachers)*. He is member of the *Osservatorio per la lingua italiana negli USA*, at the Italian Embassy in the USA.

DANIELE FIORENTINO is Professor of U.S. History at Roma Tre University in Italy and Editor in chief of the history journal *Rivista Italiana di Storia Internazionale*. He currently sits on the Board of the Center for American Studies in Rome and on the International Committee of the Organization of American Historians (OAH). He also serves on the editorial board of *American Studies with American Studies International*. He was a Fulbright student and scholar at the University of Kansas, at the National Archives, and the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC. He taught for several years at the University of Macerata and directed a book series on the United States and the process of Italian unification published by the Center for American Studies. He was the director of this Center between 1995 and 2002, after working in the cultural office of the US Embassy in Rome. He served as Dean of the Department of Political Science (2019-2022) at Roma Tre University. Among his numerous publications: *Il pluralismo culturale. Un dibattito americano (1915-1916)* (2022) (*Cultural Pluralism. An American Debate*); and *Gli Stati Uniti e il Risorgimento d'Italia, 1848-1901* (2013), (*The United States and the Italian Risorgimento, 1848-1901*). A specialist of the relations between the United States and Italy in the 19th and 20th centuries, he has also written extensively about American Indian history and culture.

DOMENICO FIORMONTE (PhD University of Edinburgh) is currently Associate Professor in Comparative Literature at the University of Roma Tre and Research Associate at the University of Dar es Salaam. In 1996 he created *Digital Variants*, one of the first online resource on literary texts (www.digitalvariants.org). He has edited and co-edited a number of collections on Digital Humanities, and has published books and articles on digital philology, new media writing, text encoding, and the geopolitics of knowledge. He coauthored with Teresa Numerico and Francesca Tomasi *The Digital Humanist. A critical inquiry* (New York, Punctum 2015). With Sukanta Chaudhuri and Paola Ricaurte he edited the first DH collection devoted to the Global South: *Global Debates in the Digital Humanities* (Minnesota University Press, 2022). He is a yoga student, practitioner and teacher since 2008 and in this field has edited a collection of interdisciplinary essays on consciousness (*La coscienza. Un dialogo interdisciplinare e interculturale*, Rome, 2018). His latest book is *Para una crítica del texto digital. Filología, literatura y redes* (A Coruña, 2023).

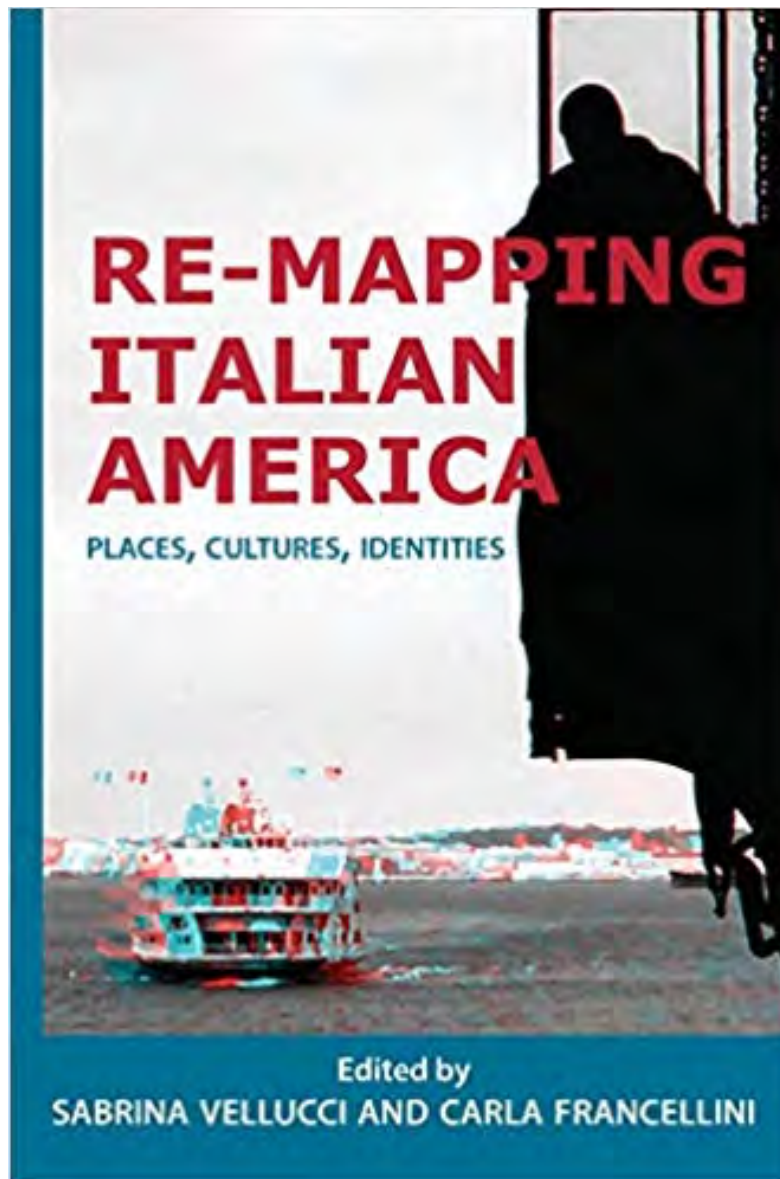
FRED GARDAPHÉ is Distinguished Professor of English and Italian American Studies at Queens College and the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute. He is director of the Italian/American Studies at Queens College. Gardaphe is Associate Editor of *Fra Noi*, an Italian American monthly newspaper. He is past President of the American Italian Historical Association and served as Vice President of the Italian Cultural Center in Stone Park, IL from 1992-1998. He is past President of the Italian American Studies Association, MELUS: The Society for the Study of Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States and the Working Class Studies Association. His books include *Italian Signs, American Streets: The Evolution of Italian American Narrative* (Duke UP, 1996), *Dagoes Read: Tradition and the Italian/American Writer* (Guernica, 1997), *Moustache Pete is Dead!* (Bordighera, 1997/ 2010), *Leaving Little Italy* (SUNY, 2003), *The Art of Reading Italian Americana* (Bordighera, 2011), *From Wiseguys to Wise Men: Masculinities and the Italian American Gangster* (Routledge, 2013), and *Read 'em and Reap: Gambling on Italian American Writing* (Bordighera, 2017). With Paul Giordano and Anthony Julian Tamburri, he is co-founding, co-editor of Bordighera Press, publisher of *VIA: Voices in Italian Americana*, and editor of the Italian/American Culture Series of SUNY Press. He is presently at work on a book on humor and irony in Italian American culture, as well as a novel and a play based on his life.

JOSEPH SCIORRA is the director of Academic and Cultural Programs at Queens College's John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, a City University of New York research institute. As an ethnographer interested in vernacular expressive culture, he has researched and published on

popular music, material culture, religious practices, and among other topics. He is the author of *R.I.P.: Memorial Wall Art* (with photographs by Martha Cooper) and *Built with Faith: Italian American Imagination and Catholic Material Culture in New York City*, and co-editor of *Embroidered Stories: Interpreting Women's Domestic Needlework from the Italian Diaspora*, *Neapolitan Postcards: The Canzone Napoletana as Transnational Subject*, the two-volume collection *New Italian Migrations to the United States*, and the special issue of *Italian American Review* on the topic of "Monuments, Memorials, and Italian Migrations." He has published on Italian Americans' shifting and diverse relationships to Columbus commemorations, as well as the material culture of monuments and memorials, during ongoing decolonization initiatives. His current research project is on the "vernacular philanthropy" of contemporary Italian American St. Joseph altars.

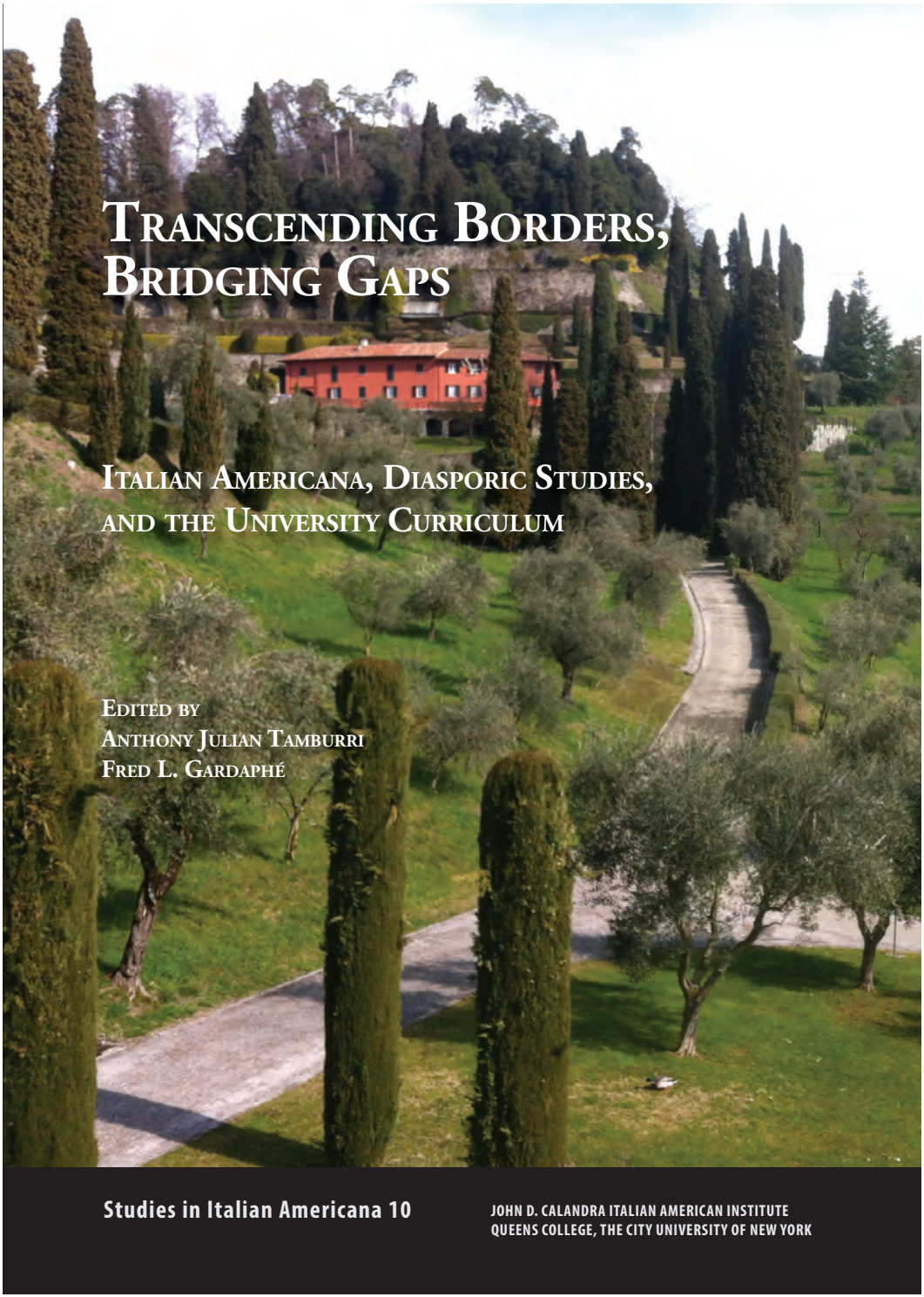
ANTHONY JULIAN TAMBURRI is Dean of the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute (Queens College, CUNY) and Distinguished Professor of European Languages and Literatures. He is past president of the Italian American Studies Association and of the American Association of Teachers of Italian. His authored books on Italian/American studies include *Una semiotica dell'etnicità: nuove segnalature per la letteratura italiano/americana* (Cesati, 2010); *Re-viewing Italian Americana: Generalities and Specificities on Cinema* (Bordighera, 2011); and *Re-reading Italian Americana: Specificities and Generalities on Literature and Criticism* (Fairleigh Dickinson UP, 2014). His book on Italian writing in the U.S. is *Un bi-culturalismo negato: la letteratura "italiana negli Stati Uniti"* (Cesati, 2018). More recent are: *The Columbus Affair: Imperatives for an Italian/American Agenda* (Casa Lago, 2021); *Signing Italian/American Cinema: A More Focused Look* (Ovunque Siamo Press, 2021); and *A Politics of [Self-]Omission: The Italian/American Challenge in a Post-George Floyd Age* (Aracne, 2022). His forthcoming book is *Expanding Diasporic Identity: A Multi-directional Path to the New "Italian" Writer*. His is co-editor, with Robert Viscusi and James Periconi, of the English version of *Italoamericana: The Literature of the Great Migration, 1880-1943* (Fordham UP, 2014), Francesco Durante, ed; and with Giordano and Gardaphé, *From The Margin: Writings in Italian Americana* (Purdue UP, 1991/2000). He is the director of the Italian Studies Series for Fairleigh Dickinson University Press; he is also executive producer of *Italics*, produced in collaboration with CUNY TV.

SABRINA VELLUCCI is an Associate Professor of Anglo-American Literature at Roma Tre University. Her research interests focus mainly on Italian/American literature and culture, women's writing, ecocriticism, cinema, and intermediality. She is the author of *New Girls. Adolescenti nella cultura statunitense, 1865-1890* (Loffredo, 2008) and *Italian American Poetics of Place: An Environmental Perspective* (Fairleigh Dickinson UP, 2024), and has co-edited, among others, *Re-Mapping Italian America: Places, Cultures, Identities* (Bordighera Press, 2018), *Circolazione di persone e di idee. Integrazione ed esclusione tra Europa e Americhe* (Bordighera Press, 2020), and a special issue of the *Italian American Review* 13.1 (Winter 2023), dedicated to Italian/American literature. She recently translated with an introduction Anna Cora Mowatt's *Fashion: Or, Life in New York* (1845) as *La moda: Vita a New York* (Linea Edizioni, 2023). She has published essays on, among others, Carole Maso, Louise DeSalvo, Sandra M. Gilbert, Kym Ragusa, Nancy Savoca, Marylou and Jerome Bongiorno, Don DeLillo, Rudolph Valentino. Since 2004, she has been Assistant Editor of the international quarterly *Letterature d'America*. She co-directs the Seminar on American Literature, History and Culture of the Center for American Studies in Rome and is a former Vice President of the Italian Association for North-American Studies (AISNA). She was the recipient of the Romeyne Robert and Uguccione Sorbello Fellowship (2021) and of an Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fellowship at The Huntington Library (2022).



Working from an interdisciplinary standpoint and taking as basis the latest developments in the field, the essays in this volume are meant as a contribution to the ongoing, collective effort at expanding and updating knowledge concerning Italian/American literature, cinema, and culture in their various articulations. They explore the effects that the texts' imaginary—often linked to the idea of space, mobility, and change—produces on our understanding of Italian/American culture. This knowledge can help construct a new narrative of Italian/American life, as well as provide a more complex understanding of American history and culture in a transnational context.

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TRANSCENDING BORDERS, BRIDGING GAPS

ITALIAN AMERICANA, DIASPORIC STUDIES,
AND THE UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM

EDITED BY
ANTHONY JULIAN TAMBURRI
FRED L. GARDAPHÉ

Studies in Italian Americana 10

JOHN D. CALANDRA ITALIAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE
QUEENS COLLEGE, THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Transcending Borders, Bridging Gaps: Italian Americana, Diasporic Studies, and the University Curriculum. Anthony Julian Tamburri and Fred L. Gardaphé, eds.
New York: John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, 2015.



Seminario Il gruppo di studiosi che si è riunito nelle aule della Scuola di Lettere, Filosofia e Lingue

La Diaspora Italiana tra storia e cinema Tamburri e il dibattito con 16 accademici

La Diaspora Italiana, tra storia, letteratura, cinema, folclore. A Roma un gruppo di sedici tra accademici e studenti con PhD arrivati da tutto il mondo, si è riunito nelle aule della Scuola di Lettere, Filosofia e Lingue dell'Università degli Studi Roma Tre per approfondire i contorni di quel processo migratorio che coinvolse dalla fine dell' '800 alla metà del '900 milioni di italiani diretti verso Stati Uniti, Germania, Svizzera, Francia.

Proprio ieri, l'ultima giornata di incontri (e l'arrivederci al prossimo anno, sempre nella Capitale). «Sono state tre settimane intense» ha commentato Anthony Julian Tamburri, a capo del Calandra Italian American Institute (Queens College, CUNY): «Siamo a Roma Tre innanzitutto perché l'Università ha una lunga tradizione di Studi Americani, e la nostra co-direttrice, Sabrina Vellucci, è fra i migliori studiosi di letteratura italiano/americana (si legga, "italoamericana"). Inoltre, nel 2018 Roma è il fulcro di tutte le discussioni in merito alla diaspora italiana, sia quella uscente che quella entrante».

Nel suo corso «Italian American Film» Tamburri ha affrontato il tema partendo dalla vi-

sione di capolavori come «The Godfather» di Coppola, «Mean Streets» di Scorsese, «True Love» di Nancy Savoca: dopo un primo intervento sulla struttura e sulla semiotica, la discussione delle tematiche sociali rappresentate nella pellicola.

«Il seminario ha accolto una serie di esperti studiosi di queste discipline, che hanno avuto l'opportunità di approfondire i loro progetti di ricerca e perfezionare la loro didattica per insegnare in corsi di livello universitario» ha spiegato il terzo direttore del programma Fred Gardaphé (Calandra Italian American Institute).



Gardaphé (sin.), Vellucci, Tamburri

Insieme agli altri docenti Mary Jo Bona, Nancy Carnevale, Laura Ruberto, Joseph Sciorra, si sono confrontati nell'arco dei 21 giorni con John M. Ryan (University of Northern Colorado), Charlotte Fressilli (Washington University), Antonia Cucchiara (The New School) e il romano Tommaso Caiazza, per citare alcuni degli iscritti.

In agenda anche i nodi dell'attualità, con un focus sulle nuove migrazioni, dalla 'fuga di cervelli' alle doppie immigrazioni.

Roberta Petronio

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NOTES

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