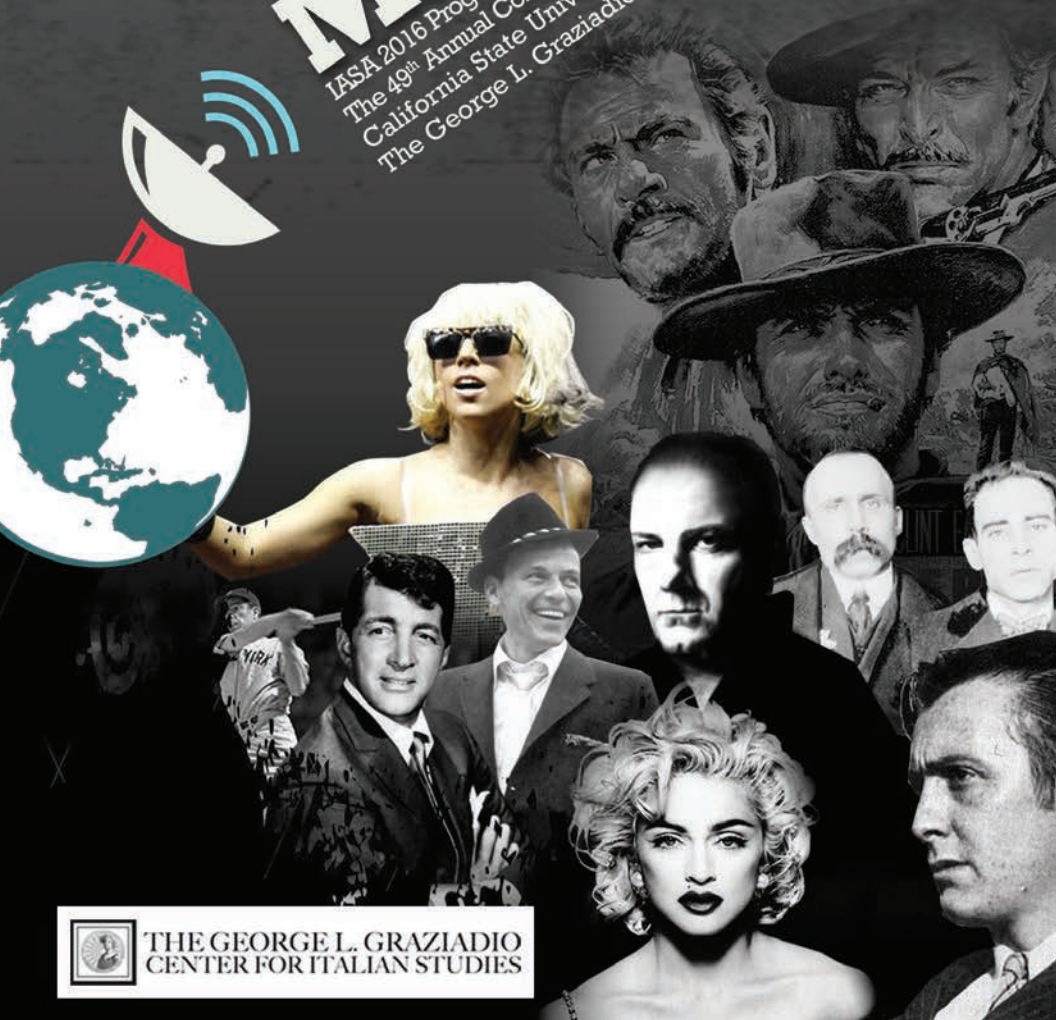


RECORDED,  
REPORTED,  
PROJECTED,  
& PIXILATED

# Italian Americans in MASS MEDIA

IASA 2016 Program

The 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Italian American Studies Association  
California State University, Long Beach | November 3-5, 2016  
The George L. Graziadio Center for Italian Studies



THE GEORGE L. GRAZADIO  
CENTER FOR ITALIAN STUDIES

# PROGRAM

**Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016**

3:00-6:30 PM	Registration	The Karl Anatol Center
3:30-6:30 PM	Executive Council Meeting	AS-385, 3rd floor Academic Services Building
6:30-7:00 PM	Wine & Cheese	The Karl Anatol Center
7:00-8:00 PM	<b>Keynote Address: Louisa Ermelino</b> <i>"From Sinatra to Gaga: Seventy Years of Italian Americans Center Stage and Behind the Scenes in Art, Music, Theater, Literature, and Sports"</i>	The Karl Anatol Center
8:00-10:00 PM	Buffet Dinner	The Karl Anatol Center

**Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup>**

8:00-8:30 AM	Continental Breakfast	Outside Courtyard, LA2 (Liberal Arts Building)
8:30-4:45 PM	Registration	Outside Courtyard, LA2 (Liberal Arts Building)
8:30-4:45 PM	Book Table Displays	The George L. Graziadio Center for Italian Studies, 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor Academic Services Building

## CONCURRENT SESSIONS

**8:30-9:45AM**

### Session 1A: Popular Media High and Low. Jazz, Facebook, and TV Ads

Chair: Anthony D. Mitzel, University College London/  
Università di Bologna

Location: LA2-105

Joshua Alan Hoxmeier University of Nebraska-Omaha	"Effects of Military Service during World War II on the Identity of Italian American Men."
--	--

Enrico Vettore CSU, Long Beach	"The Italian American Contribution to the Art of Jazz Guitar: Joe Pass and Pat Martino."
-----------------------------------	--

Anthony D. Mitzel University College London/ Università di Bologna	"Italians in the Backseat, Humor up Front: Italians as a Comedic Trope in Car Advertisements."
--	--

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**  
**8:30-9:45AM**

<b>Session 1B: Roundtable: Built with Faith: Italian American Imagination and Catholic Material Culture in New York City</b>		Location: LA2-106
Chair: Joseph Sciorra (John D. Calandra Institute & Queens College, CUNY)		
Discussants	Luisa Del Giudice (Independent Scholar) Circe Sturm (University of Texas at Austin) John Gennari (University of Vermont)	
Respondent	Joseph Sciorra (John D. Calandra Institute & Queens College, CUNY)	

**10:00-11:15AM**

<b>Session 2A: Italian American Cinema I: Italian Culture/ Film in Dialogue with Italian American Cinema</b>		Location: LA2-105
Chair: Ryan Calabretta-Sajder, University of Arkansas		
Francesco Chianese Independent Scholar	"Furio Giunta in The Sopranos: When the Lacanian Real Enters Italian Americana."	
Giuseppe Sorrentino Wagner College	"The 'Other' Italians: Italian-Americans in Italian Cinema and Television."	
Mary Ann McDonald Carolyn Fairfield University	"Once upon a Time in Quentin Tarantino's New West."	

<b>Session 2B: Race, History, and Italian American Working-Class Identity</b>		Location: LA2-106
Chair: Samuele F. S. Pardini, Elon University		
Samuele F.S. Pardini Elon University	"Structures of Invisible Blackness. Racial Difference, (Homo)Sexuality, and Italian American Identity in Richard B. Nugent's Gentleman Jigger."	
Mary Bucci-Bush CSU, Los Angeles	"Silenced Voices, Erased Histories: African Americans and Italians on a Mississippi Delta Cotton Plantation 1900-1907."	

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

**10:00-11:15AM**

**Session 2C: Demography, Newspapers, and Copyrights**

Chair: Maria Protti, Independent Scholar

Location: LA2-107

Vincenzo Milione John D. Calandra Institute/ CUNY	"Changes in Italian American Ancestry from 1980 to 2012."
---	---

Barbara Minafra	"L'Italo-Americano Newspaper: the Ancient and Modern Sense of Being Italian-Americans."
-----------------	---

Maria Protti Independent Scholar	"Wartime Taking of Music Rights: An Account of the La Scala Catalog, Italian Copyright, and Custody by the United States Government."
-------------------------------------	---

**11:30-12:45AM**

**Session 3A: Italian American Rebels...with a Cause**

Chair: Mark Pietralunga, Florida State University

Location: LA2-105

Alberto Zambenedetti University of Toronto	"Acting Transcultural: Craft and Transformation in the 'Tony Musante Papers.'"
---	--

Mark Pietralunga Florida State University	"Henry Armetta, 'the Italian American's Charlie Chaplin': A Voice of the Italian American Community and a Voice of Unease."
--	---

Silvia Stefania CST, Long Beach	"From Italian American Icon to Working Class Hero: Edward Dmytryk's Christ in Concrete."
------------------------------------	--

**Session 3B: Roundtable: Ghosts and Presences.  
Complicated Grief in Italian American Memory**

Chair: Edvige Giunta, New Jersey City University

Location: LA2-106

Discussants	Francesca Borrione (University of Rhode Island) Peter Covino (University of Rhode Island) Edvige Giunta (New Jersey City University) Joanna Clapps Herman (Manhattanville College)
-------------	---

11:30-12:45AM

<b>Session 3C: Storytelling Italian America(ns) in the Small and Big Screen</b>		Location: LA2-107
Chair: Joanne L. DeTore, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University		
Joanne L. DeTore Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University	"Dropping a 'Nuclear megaton bomb:' Exploding the stereotypes of Gender, Race and Ethnicity in Spike Lee's Jungle Fever."	
Fred L. Gardaphè John D. Calandra Italian American Institute & Queens College, CUNY	"Running Joke: Paulie Walnuts as Village Idiot in The Sopranos."	
Joseph Conte SUNY Buffalo	"The Ritornati: Migration and Remigration in Sciascia's 'The Long Crossing' and Tucci's Big Night."	

12:45-2:00 Lunch (on your own)

2:00-3:15PM

<b>Session 4A: Staging Italian American Alterity and Reality</b>		Location: LA2-105
Chair: Joseph Tumolo, UCLA		
Joseph Tumolo UCLA	"The Mafioso as Other: Mass Media, the Mafia, & the Displacement of Italian-American Alterity."	
Federico Pacchioni Chapman University	"Teatro di Figura, Cinema e Identità Italo-Americana."	
Robert M. Lombardo Loyola University	"Deconstruction of the Mob/Mafia: The Societal Response to Black Hand Extortion."	
<b>Session 4B: Poetry, Popular Media, and (Trans?) Generational Reference</b>		Location: LA2-106
Chair: Dennis Barone, University of Saint Joseph		
Participants	Dennis Barone (University of Saint Joseph) Peter Covino (University of Rhode Island) Jessica Femiani (Binghamton University) Laura Marciano (University of Rhode Island)	

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**  
**2:00-3:15PM**

**Session 4C: Protesting The Godfather, Nixon, and The New York Times: A Conversation with Anthony Colombo of the Italian American Civil Rights League**

Chair: Fred Gardaphé (John D. Calandra Italian American Institute & Queens College, CUNY) Location: LA2-107

Participants Jeffrey Louis Decker (University of California, Los Angeles)  
Anthony E. Colombo, Sr., Former Activist and Independent Author

Respondent Fred Gardaphé (John D. Calandra Italian American Institute & Queens College, CUNY)

**3:30-4:45PM**

**Session 5A: The Coincidence of Italian Cultural Hegemonic Privilege and the Historical Amnesia of Italian Diaspora Articulations**

Location: LA2-105

Chair: Donna Chirico, York College, CUNY

Paolo Giordano  
University of Central Florida “Veneti in Brazil: Language, Culture, and Literature.”

Donna Chirico  
York College, CUNY “Hegemonic Perceptions as a Negative Factor in Identificational Assimilation Among the Italian Diaspora.”

**Session 5B: Surveys of Italian and Italian American Film and Performance through the 20th Century**

Location: LA2-106

Chair: Giuliana Muscio, University of Padua, Italy

Anthony Smith  
University of Dayton “Reconverting to Italy: War, Peace and Neorealist Films in 1940s America.”

Giuliana Muscio  
University of Padua, Italy “From Caruso to Frank Sinatra: Italian Performers in the American Media.”

**Session 5C: On Writing Italian American Fiction: A Reading and Roundtable Discussion**

Location: LA2-107

Chair: Joanna Clapps Herman

Participants George Guida (New York City College of Technology)  
Marisa Labozzetta  
John Domini  
Fred Misurella (East Stroudsburg University)



5:00-6:15 PM

<b>Session 1A: Roundtable. Teaching Italian American Studies in North America: Challenges and Successes</b>		Location: LA2-100
Chair: Ryan Calabretta-Sjder, University of Arkansas		
<hr/>		
Discussants	Nancy Caronia (West Virginia University) Clorinda Donato (California State University, Long Beach) Colleen Ryan (Indiana University, Bloomington)	

6:30-7:30 PM

Keynote Speaker: Pasquale Verdicchio	“Italian Americans Represented: The Pleasure of Pixels and the Wisdom of Images”	The Karl Anatol Center
--------------------------------------	--	------------------------

Dinner on Your Own

Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup>

8:00-9:00 AM	Continental Breakfast	Outside Courtyard, LA2 (Liberal Arts Building)
9:00-11:45AM	Registration	Outside Courtyard, LA2 (Liberal Arts Building)
8:30-4:45 PM	Book Table Displays	The George L. Graziadio Center for Italian Studies, 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor Academic Services Building

CONCURRENT SESSIONS  
8:00-8:45 AM

<b>Business Meeting</b>		
<hr/>		
<b>9:00-10:15AM</b>		
<b>Session 1A: Italian Americans in the Classroom and the Libraries</b>		Location: LA2-105
Chair: Lisa Paolucci, Columbia University/Saint Francis College		
<hr/>		
Evelyn Ferraro Santa Clara University	“Whatcha looking at?”: Images of Italian Americans in the Digital Classroom	
Alexandra de Luise Queen’s College	Where are the Italian American Books? Making a Case for a Current, Essential Collection of Italian American Books in Academic Libraries	
Lisa Paolucci Columbia University/Saint Francis College	Italian American English Teachers “Without Organs”: Speaking “from” the “Welcome Back Kotter” School	

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**  
**9:00-10:15AM**

**Session 1B: New Media, Myths, and Public History**

Chair: Luisa Del Giudice, Independent Scholar

Location: LA2-106

Giacomo Sproccati  
CSU, Long Beach

“Shaping Cultural Identity Through New Media: The Italy-U.S. Case.”

Shira Klein  
Chapman University

“Italian American Jews and the Myth of the Good Italian.”

Luisa Del Giudice  
Independent Scholar

“‘I Build the Tower, People Like, Everybody Come’: Sabato Rodia and The Watts Towers Common Ground Initiative.”

**Session 1C: Italian American Margins of Hollywood**

Chair: Dennis Barone, University of Saint Joseph

Location: LA2-107

RoseAnn Giannini Quinn  
De Anza College

“Fashioning Culture: Lady Gaga, Madonna, and the Figurative Influence of Elsa Schiaparelli.”

Kirby Pringle  
Independent Scholar

“Waiting on Hollywood: Crafting the Tale of a Forgotten Italian American Bit Player.”

Dennis Barone  
University of Saint Joseph

“Full of Fante: John Fante as Screenwriter.”

**10:30-11:45AM**

**Session 2A: Italian American Cinema II: Gender, Ethnicity, and Masculinities in Italian American Cinema**

Chair, Ryan Calabretta-Sajder, University of Arkansas

Location: LA2-105

Alan Gravano  
Shawnee State University

“From Rocky to Creed: Multiple Boundaries and Frustrated Ethnocentric Identities.”

Colleen Ryan  
Indiana University,  
Bloomington

“Enclaves and Ensembles: Performative Masculinities in Galluccio’s Mambo Italiano.”

Ryan Calabretta-Sajder  
University of Arkansas

“Sex, Power, and Coming Out of the Closet in Nunzio’s Second Cousin.”



**10:30-11:45AM**

**Session 2B: Sex, Drugs, and...Disco in Italian American Popular Film and Media**

Location: LA2-106

Chair: Laura E. Ruberto, Berkeley City College

Laura E. Ruberto  
Berkeley City College

"Love with a Proper Stranger and Other Kinds of Italian American Intimacy in Film."

Clarissa Clò  
San Diego State University

"Saturday Night Fever and Italian American Disco."

JoAnne Ruvoli  
Ball State University

"Italian American Period Dramedies: Penny Marshall's Nostalgic Melancholia."

**Session 2C: Diasporic Representations: Italian Americans, African Americans and Puerto Ricans in Postwar Media**

Location: LA2-107

Chair: Pasquale Verdicchio, UCSD

Nancy Carnevale  
Montclair State University

"Postwar Representations of Race and Ethnicity: Blacks, Whites, and Italian Americans in Newark, NJ."

Simone Cinotto  
Università di Scienze  
Gastronomiche

"In Color and Black and White: Film Representations of Puerto Rican-Italian Race Relations in Postwar New York City."

John Gennari  
University of Vermont

"Everybody Eats: Jazz, Food, and Black/Italian Discourses of Flavor-and-Soul."

**11:45 -1:00 Lunch (on your own)**

**1:00-2:15PM**

**Session 3A: Roundtable. The Place of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire in Italian American Studies**

Location: LA2-105

Chair: Edvige Giunta, New Jersey City University

Discussants

Marcella Bencivenni (Hostos Community College, CUNY)  
Nancy Caronia (West Virginia University)  
Laura Ruberto (Berkeley City College)  
Joseph Sciorra (John D. Calandra Italian American Institute)

**Session 3B: Roundtable. The Future of Our Past: The Role of Endowed Studies Programs in Preserving, Promoting and Expanding IA Culture**

Location: LA2-106

Chair: Dominic Candeloro, Loyola University, Chicago.

Discussants

Clorinda Donato (CSU, Long Beach)  
Dominic Candeloro (Loyola University Chicago)  
Stan Pugliese (Hofstra University)

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**  
**1:00-2:15PM**

Session 3C: (Un)Staging Stereotypes		Location: LA2-107
Jessica Whitehead York University	"Italian Showmen in Canada: The Case of Leo Mascioli in Timmins, Ontario."	
Mikki del Monico Independent Filmmaker	"Is There Room for Stereotypes in Innovation?: How to Make Media Stereotypes Work For You and Make Specificity Your Greatest Asset."	
Frank Pellicone University of Pennsylvania	"Italians in American Theater: Unstaged Ethnicity."	

**2:30-3:45PM**

Session 4A: John Fante's Ask the Dust: Los Angeles Italian American Classic at the 75-Year Mark		Location: LA2-105
Chair: Clorinda Donato, CSU, Long Beach		
Megan Meylor CSU, Long Beach	"'Sad Flower in the Sand': The Figure of Camilla Lopez and Los Angeles' Mexican Past in John Fante's Ask the Dust."	
J'aime Morrison CSU, Northridge	"Dancing with the Dust: Translating John Fante's Ask the Dust for the Stage."	
Suzanne Roszak Occidental College	"Migration Debates, Egotism, and Reclaimed Spirituality in Ask the Dust."	
Stephen Cooper CSU, Long Beach	"Prelude to 'Prologue to Ask the Dust.'"	

## **6:00-7:30PM Reception at the Italian American Museum, Los Angeles**

Following panel sessions on Saturday, November 5th, shuttle buses will transport attendees to and from the Italian American Museum of Los Angeles, which is sponsoring the conference's closing reception, from 6:00 to 7:30 PM. The reception will include beverages, a tour of the museum, remarks by IASA President, Alan Gravano, NIAF President, John Viola, Clorinda Donato, and Marianna Gatto, Director of IAMLA, and the presentation of IASA award and travel stipend recipients. IAMLA is providing staffing, staging, seating, and bottled water.

## **8:00-10:00PM Dinner at Casa Nostra Ristorante & Bar**

### **Casa Nostra Ristorante & Bar**

825 James M. Wood Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90015

Ph: 213.362.3311

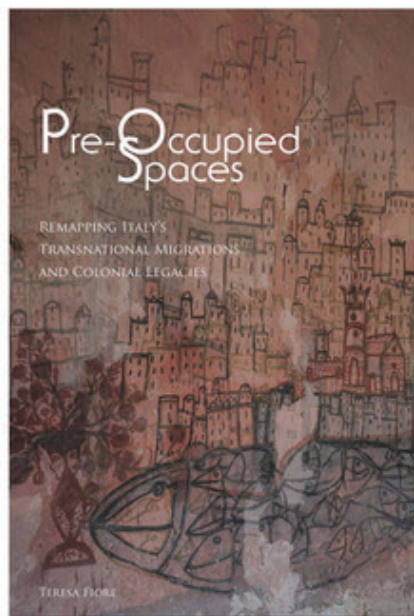
### **5 Hour Free Parking Validation**

TCW Building Garage Located at 930 Eight Place



FORDHAM UNIVERSITY PRESS

Forthcoming February 2017



"Teresa Fiore reminds readers that Italy is a country that has long been defined by 'border crossing, movements, displacements and differences.' Its 'emigrants' and 'immigrants' have sparked similarly troubled preoccupations wherever, whenever and in whatever direction they have moved. Using the tools of cultural analysis, Fiore offers a stunning analysis of the boats, houses, and workplaces where nations have repeatedly imagined both themselves and their others, usually through futile efforts to culturally and permanently affix people to particular places."

—**Donna R. Gabaccia**, University of Toronto

320 pages, 7 x 10

978-0-8232-7433-8, Paper, \$35.00

978-0-8232-7432-1, Cloth, \$125.00

*Critical Studies in Italian America*

*Simultaneous electronic edition available*

Support the Association of American University Presses #ReadUP

[www.fordhampress.com](http://www.fordhampress.com) | 800-451-7556

**Forthcoming in Spring 2017**



*The Routledge History of*  
**Italian Americans**

Edited by **WILLIAM J. CONNELL**  
and **STANISLAO G. PUGLIESE**

**40 Essays. 30 Color Plates. 60 B&W Photos**  
**Glossary. Timeline. Index**  
**609 pages**  
**[www.routledge.com](http://www.routledge.com)**

## CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Alan Gravano (Chair)

Joanne L. DeTore

George Guida

Samuele F. S. Pardini

---

## SPONSORS



THE GEORGE L. GRAZADIO  
CENTER FOR ITALIAN STUDIES

**MR. MARK CANGIANO**



THE NATIONAL  
ITALIAN AMERICAN  
FOUNDATION