

# **TRANSCENDING BORDERS, BRIDGING GAPS**

**ITALIAN AMERICANA, DIASPORIC STUDIES,  
AND THE UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM**

## **MEETING 2**

JANUARY 8-11, 2018

John D. Calandra Italian American Institute  
25 West 43<sup>rd</sup> Street, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10036

### **GROUP LEADERS & COORDINATORS**

Mary Jo Bona • Fred Gardaphe • Rosaria Musco  
Joseph Sciorra • Anthony Julian Tamburri

## **AGENDA**

### **DAY ONE • JANUARY 8, 2018**

**LUNCH:** 12:00 to 1:30 PM

#### **POST-LUNCH CONVERSATION**

2:00 to 5:00 PM

This being the first day after everyone's arrival, the session begins at noon with an informal lunch at the Calandra Institute.

After lunch, the group will convene, and each participant will informally introduce her/himself to the group and offer a brief description of what s/he researches and teaches with regard to Italian diaspora studies.

**RECEPTION:** 6:30 to 9:00 PM

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## DAY TWO • JANUARY 9, 2018

*Objective:* To present the current state of affairs of Italian Diaspora Studies. One result of Day One will be to become keenly aware of each participant's position in the field and what he/she has accomplished.

### MORNING SESSION

9:00 to 10 AM

Opening Presentation by Professors Anthony Julian Tamburri, Fred Gardaphe, Joseph Sciorra, and Mary Jo Bona on the Status of Italian Diaspora Studies in the U.S. and in International Academies. Anthony opens with a welcome, then he, Fred, Joseph, and Mary Jo orient participants as to what we hope to accomplish through these three days of meetings.

This first day is to get a sense of what is going on in the U.S. and Italy regarding Italian Diaspora Studies. This will be done by each participant presenting for approximately 10 minutes on how he/she sees the current status of Italian-American studies through his/her own work. They should talk specifically to how they came to Italian Diaspora studies and how it fits into their home institutions. Followed by Q & A among participants.

SECTION 1A: 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Each participant will present what it is they do (10 min. circa), how they perceive their work in relation to the larger field of American Studies, and what they hope to achieve through their work. They should focus on [some of] their specific work and how they see it contributing to a greater development of Italian Diaspora studies. If their relationship to Italian Diaspora studies is more administrative and/or editorial, they should focus on this aspect. Namely, how does Italian Diaspora studies fit into their institutions and/or publishing venues.

OBJECTIVE: Create an exchange of research on how the study of Italian Diasporic experiences are related to Italian-American experiences, as well as the study of Italian historical emigration and current immigration from and to Italy.

Bencivenni, Marcella  
Burdett, Charles  
Cacioppo, Marina  
Carnevale, Nancy  
Chirico, Donna  
Cinotto, Simone  
DeAngelis, Massimo  
Donato, Clorinda  
Fiore, Teresa  
Francellini, Carla  
Gennari, John  
Giordano, Paolo  
Izzo, Donatella

Luconi, Stefano  
Marazzi, Martino  
Mazzucchelli, Chiara  
Messa, Paolo  
Polezzo, Loredana  
Pretelli, Matteo  
Ruberto, Laura  
Simonini, Carla  
Sturm, Circe  
Vellucci, Sabrina  
Vezzosi, Elisabetta  
Zanoni, Elizabeth A.

## POSSIBLE THEMES TO EXPLORE

- Literary Representations of the Italian experience in the United States
- Theory-based interventions to facilitate analysis across cultures: critical race studies, queer studies, women's, gender, sexuality studies
- Consumerism and the Italian Diaspora
- Remittances and Repatriation
- Reclaiming Italian Citizenship for Immigrants' Descendants
- Translating Italian Diaspora Writers
- Transnational American Studies
- The Study of Italian-American Politics in Italy
- Centro Studi Americani: Italian Diaspora Studies and Institutions
- Current Trends in History and the Italian Diaspora
- The Study in Italy of Contemporaries of Italian Diaspora Writers and Filmmakers
- Radicals and Subversives
- The Language of Italian Americans
- Educational Attainment among Americans of Italian Descent
- Italian Immigration and the Issue of Race
- Italian American and African American Crossroads
- Italian Writing in the U.S.
- Memoir Writing
- Regional (within the various countries) Representation in the Literature of the Italian Diaspora
- Post-World War II Italian Immigration
- Italian-American Gender Studies
- Ethnography and Vernacular Expressive Culture
- The Development of Italian-American Studies Programs in the U.S. and in Italy
- Italian Diaspora Components within Italian Studies
- The Development of Graduate Students and Italian Diaspora Studies
- Editing Italian Diaspora Studies in the U.S.
- AAIS, AATI, AISNA, ASA, IASA, MELUS: Italian Diaspora Studies, American Studies, Italian Studies

## LUNCH BREAK

1:00 to 2:00 PM

## AFTERNOON SESSION

SECTION 1B (CONT OF SESSION 1A): 2:00 to 5:00 PM

As in the morning session, each participant will present what it is they do (10 min. circa), how they perceive their work in relation to the larger field of American Studies, and what they hope to achieve through their work. They should focus on [some of] their specific work and how they see it contributing to a greater development of Italian Diaspora studies.

5:30 to 7:00 PM

Large group led by Tamburri, Gardaphe, Sciorra, and Bona setting up the agenda for the next day's work.

In this session the participants will divide up into groups: the Americans and the Italians. Each group will create an outline for what they see as the needs for developing Italian Diaspora Studies programs. Each group presents their outline and fields questions regarding it.

**DINNER ON YOUR OWN**

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## Day Three • January 10, 2018

*Objective:* Determine what needs to be done to create model Italian Diaspora Studies programs and developing methods for incorporating Italian-American Studies into high school and college curricula.

### **MORNING SESSION**

9:00 to 11 AM

Small group work:

Participants split up into mixed groups to design prototypes for Italian-American Studies programs.

11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Presentations to the large group

Small groups present their prototypes to the rest of the participants and field questions.

### **LUNCH BREAK**

1:00 to 2:00 PM

### **AFTERNOON SESSION**

2:30 to 5:00 PM

Participants break into two groups, mixed between U.S. and Italian focusing more on intellectual interests not limited necessarily to geography, in order to design strategies for incorporating Italian Diaspora and/or Italian-American studies in high school and college curricula

5:30 to 7:00 PM

Participants meet in large group to discuss strategies created in earlier session and to outline initiatives based on accepted strategies.

### **DINNER ON YOUR OWN**

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**Day Four**  
**January 11, 2018**

**MORNING SESSION**

9:00 to 11 AM

Open discussion on the Future of Italian Diaspora Studies

11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

- Develop strategies for future work in terms of national and international conferences;
- Develop strategies for faculty development through exchanges and the preparation of future teachers in American Studies;
- Develop strategies for creating a comprehensive plan of funding strategies for approaching such entities as the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Italian American Foundation, Globus et Locus, ILICA, and other public and private foundations whose mission is to support transnational education;
- Connecting the Community to Academia vis-à-vis Italian-American Studies.

**LUNCH BREAK**

1:00 to 2:00 PM

**AFTERNOON SESSION**

2:30 to 5:30 PM

Discussion of assignments and responsibilities for future work

Conference summary

– Italian Diaspora Studies Network –

**FAREWELL DINNER: 7:30-> TBD**



**FUTURE CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS**

- CRISA (Centro di Ricerca Interdipartimentale di Studi Americani) 28-30 May 2018, Roma Tre University: *submission deadline*, 18 Feb 2018;
- Italian American Studies Association – 18-21 October 2018, University of Illinois, Chicago: *submission deadline*, 27 Apr. 2018;
- Italian Diasporas, 2 – 1-3 November 2018, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, New York: *submission deadline*, June 1, 2018;