

Re-thinking Italian-American Studies. A National Symposium at the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute

(September 08, 2010)



On Sept. 10-11, the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute of Queens College, CUNY will host a symposium of the current Distinguished Professors and holders of endowed/named chairs whose work has been, to a significant degree, definably part of the field of Italian/American Studies



In light of recent developments-such as those in the state of Arizona-regarding immigration and ethnic studies and their reverberations around the nation, the [Calandra Institute](#) [2] sees the need to gather our distinguished professors and holders of endowed chairs who, among other tasks, may also develop and direct programs in Italian/American Studies to discuss their work as it pertains to twenty-first-century Ethnic Studies. In this conversation of the research, education, and programming that subtend Italian/American Studies, the professors will engage in an exchange of ideas that will examine numerous topics, such as:

- The definition of Italian-American Studies;
- The development of the field over the years;
- New methodologies of examining the various modes of articulation of cultural expression;
- The building of national and international networks;
- The relationship between Italian Studies and Italian-American Studies;
- The sharing of resources that would facilitate their work and the work of others dedicated to the study and analysis of Italian America in all of its manifestations;
- The bridging of gaps, such as the proverbial "town-gown" dichotomy, a.k.a., bringing the academy to the streets;
- The relationship between the cultural brokers (i.e., professors, independent scholars, writers, filmmakers, etc.) and elected officials. The goal of this symposium is multifold: (1) to convene leading educators of Italian American culture and society; (2) to examine those debatable issues that surface and thus challenge current representations; (3) to better inform those present about the vastness of Italian Americana; and, (4) in the wake of Arizona Law HB 1070, to discuss practical applications of Ethnic Studies to the further development of Italian American Studies at the college / university level. In addition, this meeting offers to the public the opportunity to hear directly from and engage in dialogue with these intellectual leaders in the field.

The symposium has been organized with the co-sponsorship of [ILICA](#) [3] (Italian Language and Inter-Cultural Alliance), [NIAF](#) [4] (National Italian American Foundation), [NOIAW](#) [5] (National Organization of Italian American Women), [OSIA](#) [6] (Order Sons of Italy in America), and [The Italian Cultural Center of St. John's University](#) [7]

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Find the full calendar below:

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10th

5:00-6:00 pm

Press Conference

6:00-6:30 pm

Welcoming/Opening Comments

Anthony Julian Tamburri, Dean, Calandra Institute

James Muyskens, President, Queens College/CUNY

Senator Diane Savino, New York State Senate

Consul General Francesco Maria Talò



Representatives from ILICA, NIAF, NOIAW, OSIA, St. John's University

6:30-7:30 pm

Roundtable with all participating professors

What is Italian-American Studies and What are the Responsibilities of A Chair?

Reception to Follow

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

9:00-9:30 am

Coffee

9:30-11:00 am

Session One

Moderator: Anthony Julian Tamburri, Calandra Institute

Teresa Fiore, Montclair State University & CSULB

Paolo Giordano, University of Central Florida

11:00 am-12:30 pm

Session Two

Moderator: Jerome Krase, Brooklyn College/CUNY

Richard Alba, The City University of New York

Robert Viscusi, Brooklyn College/CUNY

12:30-1:30 pm

Lunch Break

1:30-3:00 pm

Session Three

Moderator: Anthony Julian Tamburri

Peter Carravetta, University at Stony Brook

William Connell, Seton Hall University

3:00-4:30 pm

Session Four

Moderator: Jerome Krase

Fred Gardaphé, Queens College/CUNY

Stanislao Pugliese, Hofstra University

4:30-5:30 pm

Round Table

Moderator: Anthony Julian Tamburri

Richard Alba, Peter Carravetta, William Connell, Teresa Fiore, Fred Gardaphé, Paolo Giordano,

Jerome Krase, Stanislao Pugliese, Robert Viscusi



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Italian-American Studies
A National Symposium**

September 10-11, 2010

The John D. Calandra Italian American Institute

Queens College
The City University of New York
25 West 43rd Street, 17th Floor
Manhattan

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