

Critical Histories

Towards a New Perspective on Italian Americans

Saturday, September 22, 2007

9:30 AM – 4:00 PM

25 West 43rd Street, 18th Floor
between 5th and 6th Avenues
Manhattan

Keynote Speakers

- ❖ **Donna R. Gabaccia**, Immigration History Research Center, University of Minnesota

“Do We Still Need Italian American Studies?”

In 1965, studies of immigration and of immigrant Italians were marginal to almost all scholarly enterprise in the U.S. In the intervening 40 years they have entered the mainstream, with endowed professorships, degree programs, professional societies and annual scholarly conferences. Italian-American Studies has become more interdisciplinary and more international in perspective.

Is it possible for a scholarly field to become irrelevant as it achieves success? What are the directions that best promise to keep a new generation of scholarly researchers in conversation with each other, with the communities that still give them sustenance, and with the broader fields of ethnic studies and immigration studies in which they participate?

- ❖ **Maddalena Tirabassi**, Centro *Altreitalie* sulle Migrazioni Italiane, Fondazione Giovanni Agnelli

“Representing Migration: New Views from Italy”

The presentation will start with a brief introduction on how the representation of Italian migrations have changed over the last decades, and on how Italian migrations have entered the public debate thus encouraging the new research. The main focus will be on the research carried on by young scholars on the subject of

Italian migrations worldwide. It will illustrate the outcome of the conference “Con gli occhi della globalizzazione. I nuovi studiosi e la ricerca sulle migrazioni Italia-na” held in Turin on July 5-6, 2007. The last decades saw the emergence of a new kind of migrant and a phenomenon that has been labelled “brain drain, brain gain, brain circulation, new mobiles.” Students among these new “mobiles” are closer and more interested in the historical migratory phenomenon.

Panelists

- ❖ **David Aliano**, The College of Mount Saint Vincent
“New Trends in the Study of Italian Identity in Latin America”

- ❖ **Marcella Bencivenni**, Hostos Community College/ CUNY
“Italian-American Radicalism through the Lens of Culture”

- ❖ **Nancy Carnevale**, Montclair State University
“Ethnic Encounters and the Creation of Italian Americans”

- ❖ **Jennifer Guglielmo**, Smith College
“Writing the Politics of Power in Italian-American Women's History”

- ❖ **Peter Vellon**, Queens College/ CUNY
“*Africa tenebrosa, pelle rosse* and *la razza gialla*: The Italian Immigrant Press and the Language of Race, Color, and Civilization”

- ❖ **Liz Zanoni**, University of Minnesota
“‘Per Voi, Signore’: Fashion, Food, and Gendered Representations of Consumption in the 1930s Italian-American Press”

This symposium is made possible by generous grants from the National Italian American Foundation (www.niaf.org) and the American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit.