

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2017



***Sicily Jass:  
The World's  
First Man in  
Jazz (2015),  
73 min.  
Michele  
Cinque, dir.***

*Sicily Jass*, an intermingling of fiction and documentary, uses the Sicilian puppets and narrating voice of Mimmo Cuticchio to tell the story of musician Nick La Rocca and his problematic role in jazz history. La Rocca, born to Sicilian immigrants in New Orleans at the end of the nineteenth century, made the first jazz record, "Livery Stable Blues," in 1917 with his Original Dixieland Jazz Band. A self-taught trumpet player, La Rocca went from the dizzying heights of success to an embittered decline. Interviews with critics, historians, and La Rocca's son Jimmy, as well as remastered archival recordings, illuminate the Sicilian American's controversial place in the historiography of jazz.

**Post-screening discussion with the director led by independent scholar George DeStefano.**

All presentations begin at 6 pm.

All events are free and open to the public.

All events are held at the

**John D. Calandra Italian American Institute**  
25 W. 43rd Street, 17th floor  
(between 5th & 6th Avenues)  
Manhattan

RSVP by calling 212-642-2094. Please note that seating is limited, and we cannot reserve seats.

For further information, see our website at [www.qc.edu/calandra](http://www.qc.edu/calandra).

The Calandra Institute is a university-wide institute under the aegis of Queens College, The City University of New York.



**QUEENS**  
COLLEGE  
John D. Calandra Italian American Institute  
25 West 43rd Street, 17th floor  
New York, NY 10036



Iceman Michele Chiarappa, Manhattan, circa 1925. Courtesy Michael Chiarappa.

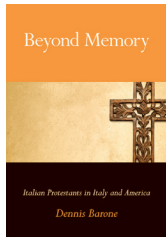
# John D. Calandra Italian American Institute

THE MONTHLY SERIES

Spring 2017

**THE PHILIP V. CANNISTRARO  
SEMINAR SERIES IN  
ITALIAN AMERICAN STUDIES**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2017**



***Beyond Memory: Italian Protestants in Italy and America***

**Dennis Barone  
University of Saint Joseph**

In *Beyond Memory* (SUNY Press, 2016), Dennis Barone uncovers the richness and diversity of the Italian Protestant

experience and places it in the context of migration and political and social life in Italy and the United States. Using church records, manuscripts, and literary sources, Barone introduces such forgotten voices as those of Baptist Antonio Mangano, Methodist Antonio Arrighi, and his own great-grandfather Alfredo Barone, a Baptist minister to congregations in Italy and Massachusetts. Examining the complex histories of these and other Italian Protestants, Barone argues that Protestantism served as a means to negotiate between old and new, even as it resulted in the double alienation of rejection by Roman Catholic immigrants and condescension by Anglo Protestants.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2017**



***Flavor and Soul: Italian America at Its African American Edge***

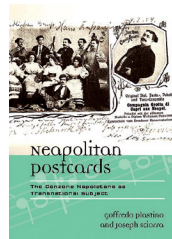
**John Gennari  
University of Vermont**

In the United States, African American and Italian American cultures have been intertwined for more than a hundred years.

In *Flavor and Soul* (University of Chicago Press, 2017), John Gennari spotlights this affinity, calling it “the edge.” Through studies of music and sound, film and media, sports and foodways, he shows how an Afro-Italian sensibility has nourished and vitalized American culture writ large, even as Italian Americans and African Americans have fought each other for urban space, recognition of overlapping histories of suffering and exclusion, and political

and personal *rispetto*. It is only at such cultural edges, Gennari argues, that the nation can come to truly understand its racial and ethnic dynamics.

**TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2017**



***Neapolitan Postcards: The Canzone Napoletana as Transnational Subject***

**Giorgio Bertellini,  
Rosangela Briscese, Ana Cara, and Joseph Sciorra**

*Neapolitan Postcards* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2016), co-edited by Goffredo Plastino

and Joseph Sciorra, investigates unexplored transnational aspects of the intimate yet globally popular *canzone napoletana*. This book is the first scholarly work to consider the specific complexities of international Neapolitan song through case studies from Argentina, England, Greece, and the United States. Four contributors from the book will present their work: Giorgio Bertellini on music in early Italian American film, Rosangela Briscese on sheet music from the Calandra Institute’s collections, Ana Cara on the *canzone napoletana*’s influence on sung tango, and Joseph Sciorra on the global trajectory of “Core ’ngrato.” In addition, Italian Argentine singer Cristina Pésico will perform.

**WRITERS READ SERIES**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2017**



***The Young and the Reckless: Emerging Italian American Writers***

**Chloe DeFilippis,  
Marc Pollifrone, and  
Angelica Roman**

Three young Italian American writers turn to memoir to explore their complicated—and on occasion even forgotten or secret—Italian roots.

Unsentimental, provocative, and sometimes dark narratives dive into and redefine how a

young generation of writers finds ethnicity relevant in terms of understanding and representing their

experiences. Chloe DeFilippis’s work tells of her childhood and early adolescence on the streets of Bayonne, New Jersey—the blue-collar peninsula of her family’s upbringing. Marc Pollifrone writes about his father as a means of deconstructing machismo in a setting of stark suburban squalor. Writing about her own father’s phantom-like role in her life leads Angelica Roman to uncover the life of her maternal Italian grandfather, who is nothing but a cipher in the family’s memory. The readings will be followed by a roundtable discussion featuring these authors and Edvige Giunta, New Jersey City University.

**Cosponsored by New Jersey City University.**

**“DOCUMENTED ITALIANS”  
FILM & VIDEO SERIES**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2017**



***The Barese Icemen of New York* (2015), 80 min.  
Carlo Magaletti, dir.**

*The Barese Icemen of New York* follows the story of the Italian immigrants from the region of Apulia who from the 1920s to the 1960s dominated the making and delivery of ice in New York City. Interviews with former icemen and their families as well as individuals who currently work in the ice business shed interesting light on this niche occupation. What was it like lugging 100 pounds of ice up four flights of tenement stairs? Why did this trade remain lucrative throughout the Great Depression? How did many of these icemen transition into coal and oil delivery after household refrigerators became the norm? Director Carlo Magaletti, himself Barese, looks at these topics in this exploration of how Apulians came to dominate the ice business.

**Post-screening discussion led by Mark Naison, Fordham University.**