California State University, Chico
Dept. of Foreign Languages and Literatures

New Voices in Italian Studies  
2\textsuperscript{nd} Annual Conference

The Other and the Elsewhere  
in Italian Culture

November 15\textsuperscript{th} and 16\textsuperscript{th} 2010  
California State University, Chico - CA
“The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes.”

Marcel Proust
Monday - November 15th

7:20 PM – 7:30 PM
AYRES 106

Opening Remarks
By

- Joel Zimbelman,
  Dean, College of Humanities and Fine Arts
- Phyllis Fernlund,
  Dean, College of Communication and Education
- Patricia Black,
  Chair, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures
- Michael Smith
  President, Sons of Italy Chico – V. Bellini Lodge
- Fulvio Orsitto
  Director, Italian and Italian American Program

7:30 PM – 8:15 PM
AYRES 106

Keynote Speech
By

Vito Zagarrrio
Filmmaker & Professor of Film Studies
University of Rome 3, Italy

“Italian Diversities”

ABSTRACT: This lecture investigates the representation of Italian “diversities” in terms of sex, gender and transgender, race, ethnicity, but also in terms of difference
with reference to the “normality” of the body, in Italian contemporary cinema and television. Contemporary Italian film and TV seem to be obsessed with the gay issue, the figure of the transvestite and the transsexual, the character of the prostitute, the pathology of the family, but also with the diversity represented by race and ethnicity, that is, the “Other” in terms of immigration or psychoanalytic otherness. The notion of “normality” is challenged by such an “Otherness”. Some references will be made to the role of the “different” body, the Grotesque, the “Monster”, in contemporary Italian Film, which often propose a re-negotiation of the notion of the Body in Italian Culture. The most interesting examples of these representations are often associated with the digital revolution: in fact low budget productions help in creating and shooting non-controlled products, freer to face today’s mutations in the society.

**BIO:** Vito Zagarrio holds a *Laurea* in Italian Literature from the University of Florence, a *Diploma* in Film Directing from the *Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia* of Rome (the Italian National Film School), a Master and a PhD in Cinema Studies at NYU. He is full professor of Cinema and Television at University of Rome 3. He wrote and edited several books on both American and Italian Film: monographs on Francis Ford Coppola, Frank Capra and John Waters, collected essays on Ettore Scola, the Taviani brothers, Dario Argento, and the New Italian Cinema. He wrote on the relationship between film and television, on the film mode of production, and he is a specialist on the studies on fascism and Film. As a filmmaker, he directed many documentaries, TV programs and three feature films. He is the artistic director of two prestigious Italian film festivals taking place in Rome and in Sicily, and he is on the scientific board of the Pesaro Film festival.
Tuesday - November 16th

8:30 AM – 9:00 AM
BMU 303
Breakfast
Sponsored by
C.I.A.O. – Chico Italian Academic Organization

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM
BMU 304
“Percorsi «altri»:
tra cinema italiano e l’altrove italo-americano”
(This session will be held in Italian)

Chair Brunella Windsor
California State University, Chico

Alessandro Ravera – University of Genova
“«I poveri disturbano»: genesi e ambientazione di Miracolo a Milano di De Sica”

Andrea Carosso – University of Genova
“Realtà oggettiva e soggettiva in Piccoli fuochi di Peter del Monte”

Paola Pettinotti – Independent Scholar
“Lo specchio della vita nella morte: il cimitero di Staglieno a Genova”

Brunella Windsor – California State University, Chico
“Elementi di confronto culturale nell’esperienza Italo-Americana in California”
10:15 AM – 11:45 AM
BMU 304

“Literary Otherness and Beyond”

Chair Eugenio Frongia
California State University, Chico

Giovanni Spani – College of the Holy Cross
“«Ohimmè, sarei io mai Calandrino?» Notes on Otherness in the Italian Literature of the Middle Ages and Renaissance”

Alani Hicks-Bartlett – University of California, Berkeley
“A Question of Ambiguity: Mitigation, Mediation and Pagan «Alterity» in the Gerusalemme Liberata”

Eugenio Frongia – California State University, Chico
“Coursing the Ocean in Ships of Doom: Nemesis, Hubris, Catharsis”

Robert Buranello – Chapman University
“An Other Reading: Tra i reticolati, the Quarterly Publication of the Italian POWS of Zonderwater Block”

Sonia Massari – Gustolab Center for Food and Culture & Siena University
“The materia prima: Authenticity and Nostalgia in Italian Food and Culture.”
11:45 AM – 1:15 PM
BMU 304

“The Cinematic Other and Elsewhere”

Chair Chiara Ferrari
California State University, Chico

Maria Elena D'Amelio – SUNY at Stony Brook
“Hercules the Other: American Body Builders Playing Hercules and Maciste in the Italian Mythological Films of the Sixties”

Chiara Ferrari – California State University, Chico
“Not So «Other» After All: Familiar and Familial Terrorists in Italian Cinema”

Gloria Pastorino – Fairleigh Dickinson University
“The Construction of the Other in Recent Italian Films”

Giovanni Migliara - UNED University of Madrid
“The notion of different in Cristina Comencini’s *Bianco e nero*”

Vetri Nathan – University of Denver
“«L'altrove è sempre qui»: The Legacy of the Commedia all’italiana in Amara Lakhous’ *Scontro di civiltà per un ascensore a Piazza Vittorio*”
ABSTRACT: In attempting to break down the lines between truth and fiction, whether in cinematic, literary or political practices of Italy, we often find that there is no clear line between black and white. Frantz Fanon, in his Introduction to *Black Skins, White Masks* (1952), states that “There is a point at which methods devour themselves,” meaning that the very attempt at sharp clarification becomes a way of falsifying reality. In examining the goals of Fascist narration strategies, how they were achieved, and—more importantly—how the methods used to achieve them often undermined themselves, this lecture intends to show that in a world far from being black and white, it is important to direct our gaze upon those who escape and confuse the very notion
of binary ethnic distinctions. This talk also examines how Italian literature and cinema of the 1930s are traversed by the hybrid figures of mulattoes and Levantines and how the works taken into account reveal them as interchangeable characters who, in the historical scenario under which Benito Mussolini's Fascist regime operated, present unique and specific threats to notions of Italian racial and cultural purity.

**BIO:** Born in Somalia and raised in Italy, Rosetta Giuliani Caponetto holds a *Laurea* from the University of Bologna, a Master and a Ph.D. from the University of Connecticut. She is Assistant Professor of Italian at Auburn University. Her areas of research include Italian literature and cinema of the Fascist period, Italian colonialism, contemporary African Diaspora literature and film in Italy; as well as postcolonial theory, race and ethnic studies. She is working on a manuscript titled *Out of Stock. Representing Mulattoes and Diaspora Cultures in Fascist Italy* examining the hybrid figures of African-Italian mulattoes and Italian-Levantines as presented in Italy’s Fascist propagandist literature and cinema of the 1930s.

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM
TRINITY 100

**Keynote Speech**

By

**Gloria Pastorino**
Assistant Professor of Italian
**Fairleigh Dickinson University, NJ**

“Bodies in Pain in the Avant-Garde Theatre of Valdoca and Societas Raffaello Sanzio”
**ABSTRACT:** The talk will focus on the innovative and diametrically opposite approaches of two of the most interesting avant-garde companies in Italy. Both very poetic and intellectual, they get to the audience viscerally, in a very direct and physical way, leaving spectators with haunting images that follow them for a long time after they have left the theatre.

**BIO:** Gloria Pastorino is Assistant Professor of Italian and French at Fairleigh Dickinson University where she also teaches English literature and drama. She holds a PhD in Comparative Literature from Harvard University with a dissertation on Dario Fo’s stage language, now turned into two volumes for Mellen Press. Her publications include several articles on Italian cinema and translations for American productions of plays by Dario Fo, Luigi Pirandello, Mariangela Gualtieri, Romeo Castellucci, Lella Costa e Juan Mayorga. She has also translated and edited a book depicting the lives of 33 lung cancer survivors, as told by the doctor who cured them and 23 photographers (*33 stories of people leading and winning their fight against cancer*. Milano: Skira, 2010).

5:00 PM – 5:30 PM  
**TRINITY 126**  
Reception  
Sponsored by  
**C.I.S.C. – Italian Social Club of Chico**
5:30 PM – 8:00 PM
Break

8:00 PM – 9:30 PM
Dinner at Caffè Malvina

Sponsors

Patricia Black
Chair, Dept. of Foreign Languages and Literatures
California State University, Chico

Phyllis Fernlund
Dean, College of Communication and Education
California State University, Chico

Michael Smith
President, Sons of Italy Chico
Vincenzo Bellini Lodge #2519
Chico (CA)

Joel Zimbelman
Dean, College of Humanities and Fine Arts
California State University, Chico
Co-Sponsors

C.I.A.O.
Chico Italian Academic Organization
California State University, Chico

C.I.S.C.
Chico Italian Social Club

Contributors & Collaborators

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California State University, Chico

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Cartoonist and Illustrator, Bologna (ITALY)
Prof. Claudia Peralta Nash  
California State University, Chico  

Prof. Brunella Windsor  
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