California State University, Chico

Department of
Foreign Languages and Literatures

New Voices in Italian Studies

2\textsuperscript{nd} Italian Lecture Series

November 17\textsuperscript{th} 2010
California State University, Chico - CA
It is extremely dangerous to talk about limits or borders. It is vital, instead, that we remain completely open, that we are always involved, and that we aim to contribute personally in social events.

Dario Fo
Wednesday - November 17th

2:00pm-2:05pm 
OCNL 124

Opening Remarks By
Fulvio Orsitto
Director, Italian and Italian American Program

2:05pm-2:50pm 
OCNL 124

“Dario Fo’s Accidental Death of an Anarchist and the Power of Theatre”

Lecture by

Gloria Pastorino
Assistant Professor of Italian
Fairleigh Dickinson University, NJ

ABSTRACT: This talk will focus on the power of art to make Power tremble. Centered on events still unsolved in Italian politics, the Nobel Prize winner's play provides much-needed counter-information in a particularly difficult time of Italian history.
**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).

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Dario Fo. Photograph © 1984 Elise Passikoff.
3:00pm-3:45pm  
OCNL 124

“Medieval Inferences in Contemporary Italian Cinema”

Lecture by

Giovanni Spani
Assistant Professor of Italian
College of the Holy Cross, MA

ABSTRACT: This lecture, which is intended as an experimental mélange of textual and cinematic exploration, begins by analyzing a major dichotomy in Italian literature posited by Giovanni Papini in his essay titled “Le due tradizioni letterarie italiane”, in which he separates the entire literary tradition of his country into Dantean and Petrarchan dynasties in terms of their respective tendencies to put forth a poetics that favored the notions of movement versus inaction. Inspecting a long list of authors and their poetic influences, spanning from the middle ages to modern times, the ramifications of this literary division are brought to bear on modern Italian cinema. Honing in on Gabriele Salvatores’ Oscar winning film Mediterraneo [1991], the broad literary division that characterizes Italy’s artistic patrimony will be identified and analyzed within the director’s narrative choices, as evidence of an undeniable link between the two mediums and its inevitable repercussions.

BIO: Giovanni Spani is Assistant Professor of Italian at the College of the Holy Cross. He holds a Laurea in
Political Sciences from the University of Padua, a Master and a PhD in Italian literature from Indiana University. His areas of interest include Italian literature of the Middle Ages, Medieval and contemporary Italian history and historiography, Italian culture, modern Italian literature, and contemporary Italian cinema. He co-authored the volume *Streetwise Italian Dictionary/Thesaurus: the User-Friendly Guide to Italian to Italian Slang and Idioms* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 2005).
4:00pm-4:45pm

OCL 124

“Simple Italy. Italian Cities, Food, Culture and Lifestyle”

Lecture by

Sonia Massari
Director of Gustolab Institute
(Center for Food and Culture)
Rome Director of University of Illinois - Urbana Champaign

ABSTRACT: How can we define what is “new”? Are the Italian cities or the Italian urban communication “new”? This lecture will show an editing of famous Italian movies in order to analyze and interpret the main processes of change and continuity in the Italian cities. The clip is focused on the numerous layers of shapes, spaces, cultures, functions and symbols present in Italian contemporary cities, understood as active sediments of the past interacting with the present. Like cinema, food is perceived in Italy as part of Italian culture, creativity, memory, passion and sense; as a collective emotion that shapes and informs the life of the country. The collage of movies will describe how food can be at the same time a content full of meaning, a common practice in the real life and a tool, which aims to communicate with “others”. Food in Italy is the key to a more complete understanding of the country’s culture and history, but most of all food is a way of life. Around the world, the interconnections between food and city, food and markets, food and culture, and food and politics are starting to be seen and
very strongly felt. The most important key concepts of culture related-food are: immersion in history and values of a country, “contamination” of cultural practices and behaviors and emersion of traditions and modernity.

**BIO:** Sonia Massari is Director of Gustolab Center for Food and Culture in Rome, Italy. She holds a BA in Communication Studies, a Master in Marketing and Communication, and a Master in Web and TV reporting. She was Visiting Scholar and Specialist Professor (Visual Arts and Design) at CUNY and Montclair State University, where she was also Director for the Study Abroad Italian Program. She worked for many Communication Agencies, for the European Commission, the Italian Ministry of Welfare and several Schools of Communication and Management as professor, researcher and supervisor. She is currently a PHD candidate at Florence University and she is collaborating with Siena University and the Interaction Design Unit on Food Design projects.

Alberto Sordi – *Un americano a Roma* (Steno, 1954)
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*Vincenzo Bellini Lodge #2519*
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