

**BULLETIN**  
**OF THE**  
**SOCIETY FOR ITALIAN STUDIES**

**Compiled by**  
*Catherine O'Rawe*

## CONTENTS

<a href="#"><u>Chronicle 2006-07</u></a>	3
<a href="#"><u>Conference Reports 2006-07</u></a>	4
<a href="#"><u><i>The Society for Italian Studies Biennial Conference</i></u></a>	4
<a href="#"><u><i>Society for Italian Studies Postgraduate Colloquium</i></u></a>	5
<a href="#"><u><i>Events at Leeds</i></u></a>	6
<a href="#"><u><i>Italian Fascism and Gender</i></u></a>	7
<a href="#"><u><i>Letteratura come fantasticazione – a colloquio con Gianni Celati</i></u></a>	7
<a href="#"><u><i>Italian Language: Text &amp; Context</i></u></a>	8
<a href="#"><u><i>International Goldoni Conference at UCD</i></u></a>	9
<a href="#"><u><i>Gender and Contemporary Italian Cinema: a Symposium</i></u></a>	9
<a href="#"><u><i>Vincenzo Consolo: Between Sicily and Europe</i></u></a>	10
<a href="#"><u><i>Lecture series: Dante from the Middle Ages to the Third Millennium</i></u></a>	11
<a href="#"><u>Submissions to the SIS website and Staff List (2008)</u></a>	11

## CHRONICLE

### Staffing Matters

It would be fair to say that 2006-07 saw a substantial amount of staff movement and new appointments in Italian studies.

Italian at Exeter saw Mark Davie take a well-deserved break from his three years as Head of the School of Modern Languages, and take a step towards retirement with a reduction in his workload, whilst Head of the Italian unit, Luciano Parisi, was promoted to Senior Lecturer. The unit also welcomed two new members of staff, linguist Francesco Goglia from Manchester in September 2006, and Angelo Mangini from the University of Bologna, in January 2007.

At Leeds Catherine O'Rawe left the Department to take up a post in Bristol in January 2007. Her replacement was Olivia Santovetti from Cambridge. The temporary lectureship of Matthew Treherne was made permanent, taking the number of lecturers in the Department from five to six.

Ita MacCarthy moved from Durham University to take up a lectureship at Birmingham.

Nicola Gardini joined the Italian department at Oxford from Italy in January 2007.

There was an addition to the department at Warwick in the form of Dr Maude Vanhaelen, an RCUK fellow shared jointly between Italian and Classics.

Guyda Armstrong moved from Cardiff to take up a post at Manchester University, and was replaced by Elizabeth Wren-Owens. Giuseppe Vatalaro was also appointed as a tutorial fellow.

Edinburgh has appointed Davide Messina to a lectureship in Italian from September 2007. He is replacing Perry Willson, who is taking up a chair in history at the University of Dundee.

Donatella Fischer moved from the University of Strathclyde to take up a post at Glasgow University.

Daragh O'Connell was appointed to a one-year lectureship at University College Cork.

Stefano Jossa and Fabrizio De Donno were appointed as lecturers in Italian at Royal Holloway, while Stephen Gundle departed to Warwick as Professor of Film.

Bill Brierley has retired as Subject Leader in Italian at the University of Portsmouth.

At Swansea Simona Storchi was appointed to a lectureship.

### Awards

Both Professor Brian Richardson (Leeds) and Professor Michael Caesar (Birmingham) were awarded the prestigious title of *Commendatore dell'Ordine della Stella della Solidarietà Italiana*.

At Birmingham Daniele Albertazzi, Charlotte Ross and Clodagh Brook were awarded a British Academy Large Grant for the project 'Resisting the Tide: Cultures of Opposition during the Berlusconi Years'. Also at Birmingham, Franco D'Intino was awarded a Fellowship at the Italian Academy for Advanced Studies in America, Columbia.

At Royal Holloway Jane Everson was awarded an AHRC Resource Enhancement grant and has completed a successful first year working alongside Denis Reidy in the British Library and two departmental post-doctoral researchers. Giuliana Pieri and Stephen Gundle's AHRC project (joint with Reading) 'The Cult of the Duce: Mussolini and the Italians, 1918-2005', will continue as a Royal Holloway, Reading and Warwick project following Stephen Gundle's departure.

## CONFERENCE REPORTS

### **The Society for Italian Studies Biennial Conference University of Wales, Bangor, 4-6 July 2007**

The organizers of SIS 2007 (Dr Laura Rorato of UWB and Dr Lucia Rinaldi of the University of Exeter) were delighted to welcome over 100 delegates to the University of Wales, Bangor. Despite the appalling weather and some minor technical problems (such as arctic temperatures in some lecture rooms), the event was a great success thanks to the impressive standards of research and fruitful interaction between the speakers and the audience. One of the aims of this year's conference was to encourage a reflection on the use of Italian in Switzerland. Apart from the very interesting panel on contemporary Swiss Fiction, organized by Gian Paolo Giudicetti and sponsored by Helvetia, the opening plenary session was delivered by the Swiss writer Silvia Ricci Lempen who spoke on 'l'universale in letteratura'. At the end of the first day Silvia Ricci and the poet Pietro De Marchi (winner of the 2007 Schiller Prize) also read extracts from some of their works. The response from the audience was excellent and, despite the late hour, the evening ended with a stimulating debate in a very friendly and informal atmosphere.

The other plenary sessions were delivered by Mair Parry, who gave a memorable talk on 'lexical metamorphoses in the dialects of Italy', and Bob Lumley, who presented an incisive analysis of the 1986 film *Dal Polo all'Equatore* by Yervant Gianikian and Angela Ricci Lucchi. The screening of the film was also very well attended.

The organizers were extremely pleased with the range of topics discussed in the various panels which covered all areas from Medieval Studies, Renaissance, 20<sup>th</sup> /21<sup>st</sup>-century fiction and aspects of language teaching.

Eighty-five people attended the conference dinner which was held at Plas Gwyn Bistro. The evening was marked by a very convivial atmosphere. The second afternoon was kept free and many delegates used the time to explore the

surroundings, enjoying some authentic Welsh rain (glawogydd), or went on a bus trip to Beaumaris Castle.

Despite some challenging moments, the organizing of this event was very fulfilling. Both Lucia and I were very grateful to colleagues and friends for their positive feedback and we wish our successors the best of luck.

Laura Rorato  
University of Wales, Bangor

**Society for Italian Studies Postgraduate Colloquium**  
**Italian Department at the University of Glasgow on Saturday, 28 April**

A total of 25 papers were delivered in eight parallel sessions. The wide range of topics that were debated throughout the day is reflected in the sessions' titles: *Representing the Resistance; Language and Culture; Readers and Writers; 20th century Poetry and Music; Inter-cultural and Historical Perspectives; Constructing the Self; Psychoanalytical Approaches; and Theatre.*

This year's colloquium brought together more than 40 people, some coming from Germany, Italy and Canada. Three members of staff also attended (two from the Italian Department and one from the Department of History).

A pre-conference dinner was organized in a local restaurant the evening before. Those who attended had the opportunity to get to know each other, and the first-time speakers could vent their concerns and benefit from their peers' encouragement.

The closing wine reception on the Saturday was prolonged in a local pizzeria. During the dinner, attended by 25 people, delegates had a further opportunity to reflect on the day.

We have since received some very positive feedback. Throughout the day, we strove to emphasize the importance of communication amongst post-graduate students. A contact list of all the attendants together with details of their research interests was included in the conference pack. This completes the nation-wide list that Kate Mitchell had previously compiled, and that we forwarded to all.

We wish to thank the Italian Department at the University of Glasgow for their support and assistance, both moral and financial, and among them our web administrator Adeline Callander for her immense patience. Also our thanks go to Kate Mitchell, whose presence, encouragement and advice were indispensable. Finally, we are grateful to the SIS for giving us the opportunity to organize this valuable event for the postgraduate community.

Sandrine Tonini and Sarah Cockram  
2007 Post-Graduate Colloquium Organisers

## Events at Leeds

**A series of research events were launched in the Italian department at Leeds in 2006-07:**

**'Thinking Italian Film':** Alan O'Leary and Catherine O'Rawe organized a seminar series which ran throughout the year, involving major international scholars. Speakers included: Robert Gordon (Cambridge), John David Rhodes (Sussex), John Foot (UCL), Millicent Marcus (Yale), Steve Neale (Exeter), Angela Dalle Vacche (Georgia), Lesley Caldwell (UCL), Mary Wood (Birkbeck), Áine O'Healy (Loyola Marymount University) and Danielle Hipkins (Exeter).

**'The Leeds Programme in Dante Studies':** Claire Honess and Matthew Treherne organised several events under this rubric. These included a symposium on 'Dante Translated' (November 2006), at which Robin Kirkpatrick (Cambridge) read from and discussed his recent verse translation of the *Commedia*. Professor Kirkpatrick also met students from the Department and discussed their own translations of short passages from the *Commedia* with them. Professor Christian Moevs (University of Notre Dame) spent the week of the 12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> March 2007 as a Visiting Professor in the Department. While in Leeds, Professor Moevs presented a research seminar on his recent work on *Paradiso* II; gave a public lecture on 'Dante and God' and gave classes to both 2<sup>nd</sup>- and final-year students. Finally, members of the Department organised two sessions on Dante at the International Medieval Congress, held in Leeds in July 2007. Claire Honess organised a session linked to the theme of the congress, 'Medieval Cities', and entitled 'Dante on Florence and Florence on Dante', with papers by Claire Honess, Catherine Keen (UCL) and Simon Gilson (Warwick). Matthew Treherne organised a session on Dante's Heaven of the Fixed Stars, with papers by Matthew Treherne, Vittorio Montemaggi (Cambridge) and Marco Giani (Milan).

**'Forms of Faith: The Influence of Religious Change on Artistic, Literary, and Musical Culture in Sixteenth-Century Italy':** This symposium, held at the University of Leeds on 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007, brought together specialists in the fields of Renaissance literature, music, history and history of art to address the question of the relationship between religious change and artistic form in sixteenth-century Italy. Specific issues addressed include the ways in which religious developments are reflected in changing modes of literary expression (for example, the adoption of different modes of discourse – philosophical, Petrarchan, liturgical – in Christian poetry), techniques in the visual arts, and techniques in musical composition; and the role of changes in artistic form in shaping sixteenth-century religious sensibilities. Speakers included: Dr Stephen Bowd (Edinburgh), Dr Abigail Brundin (Cambridge), Prof. Antonio Corsaro (Urbino), Dr Chrysa Damianaki (Lecce), Prof. Iain Fenlon (Cambridge), Prof. Harald Hendrix (Utrecht), Prof. Alexander Nagel (Toronto), Dr Tom Nichols (Aberdeen), Dr Noel O'Regan

(Edinburgh), Dr Letizia Panizza (RHUL), Dr Matthew Treherne (Leeds), Prof. Raymond B. Waddington (Davis).

**'Italian Writers in Leeds'**: This initiative, managed by Dr Gigliola Sulis, will bring a contemporary Italian author to Leeds on an annual basis. The initiative was launched in May 2007 with the visit of Marcello Fois, who gave a public interview on aspects of his work. It will be followed by the visit of Giancarlo De Cataldo in January 2008.

Claire Honess  
Leeds University

### **Italian Fascism and Gender**

Together with the Department of Political Science of the University of Cagliari, the Bristol Italian Department organized a study day on Italian Fascism and Gender on 23 March 2007. The day began with a paper by Cecilia Dau Novelli (Cagliari) that explored Italian women's compliance and resistance to the subject positions that the regime sought to impose during the 20 years of its rule. Federica Falchi (Cagliari) presented the initial findings of the post-doctoral study that she has been pursuing in Bristol on the connections between Italian women who were convinced supporters of Fascism and members of the suffragette movement in Britain. Claudia Baldoli (Newcastle) then gave a paper on her recent work on the effect that the Allied bombing of Italy had on Italian women and their sense of allegiance to the regime. In the final section of the day, Derek Duncan (Bristol) explored the complex of ideas concerning race that underlay the colonialist mindset of the 1930s and the conflicting identities that were projected onto the male and female body under Fascism. Charles Burdett (Bristol) gave a paper on the modes of self presentation that are evident in Italian travel writing in the inter-war period and the ways in which they show the impact of ideology on individual psychologies. The day concluded with a discussion on the insights that are provided by different disciplinary approaches to Fascism and gender.

Charles Burdett  
University of Bristol

### **'Letteratura come fantasticazione – a colloquio con Gianni Celati'** **2-4 May 2007, University of Leicester**

This colloquium was a unique occasion both to celebrate the career of Gianni Celati (for the first time in the UK) and to discuss the question of literature as *reverie* that

links the work of Celati to that of his closest collaborators, the writers Daniele Benati, Ermanno Cavazzoni, Enrico De Vivo and Jean Talon, also guests at our conference. The colloquium has also succeeded in gathering together over twenty Celati scholars from all over the world: US, Canada, New Zealand, Italy, Germany, Austria, Denmark and UK.

Marina Spunta  
University of Leicester

### **Italian Language: Text & Context**

**Didattica della lingua italiana: testo e contesto. Seminario di aggiornamento**

**Downing College, Cambridge, 24-25 November 2006**

L'italianistica, insegnata nella scuola o nell'università, abbraccia tipicamente una ricca varietà di aree quali la letteratura, la linguistica, la storia, il cinema, la storia dell'arte e gli studi culturali. Chiunque si accinga allo studio di tali aree non può non avere una certa padronanza della lingua italiana. In particolare, è compito dell'insegnante fornire allo studente le capacità e gli strumenti linguistici necessari per far fronte alle diverse esigenze linguistiche di ogni area a seconda dei differenti testi e contesti in cui viene impiegata la lingua. D'altro canto, è anche importante riconoscere come lo studio di ognuna di tali aree possa al contempo venir sfruttato al fine di rafforzare e di complementare i metodi di insegnamento della lingua più tradizionali mediante l'esplorazione dell'italiano in una varietà di testi e contesti diversi. Lo scopo del convegno è perciò quello di riunire italianisti scientificamente attivi all'interno delle singole aree in modo da permetter loro di presentare e di confrontare i diversi approcci pedagogici e metodologici all'insegnamento dell'italiano. Il convegno si rivolge pertanto a studiosi, insegnanti e dottorandi di italiano attivi a tutti i livelli in sedi scolastiche e universitarie.

SPEAKERS: Serena Ambroso (Univ. di Roma 3), Paolo Balboni (Univ. di Venezia), Camilla Bardel (Univ. of Stockholm), Gino Bedani (Univ. of Swansea), Paola Benincà (Univ. di Padova), Delia Bentley (Univ. of Manchester), Dilwyn Knox (Univ. College London), Adam Ledgeway (Univ. of Cambridge), Anna Laura Lepschy (Univ. College London), Giulio Lepschy (Univ. Reading & Univ. College London), John Lindon (Univ. College London), Nicoletta Maraschio (Accad. della Crusca), Jane Nystedt (Univ. of Stockholm), Donata Puntil (King's College, London), Matteo Santipolo (Univ. di Padova), Anna Rita Tamponi (Univ. di Napoli Fed. II), Arturo Tosi (Royal Holloway, London), Nigel Vincent (Univ. of Manchester), Miriam Voghera (Univ. di Salerno)

## **International Goldoni Conference at University College Dublin**

From July 3rd-5<sup>th</sup>, University College Dublin was the seat of the International Carlo Goldoni Conference to celebrate the tercentenary of the birth of the great Italian dramatist. Professor Deirdre O'Grady, Head of Italian Studies and a specialist in Italian Drama and Comparative Studies brought together speakers from Italy, France, Holland, Switzerland, Britain and Ireland. These represented leading European Institutes of Learning, such as the Universities of Venice, Rome, Milan, Pescara, Paris IV (Sorbonne), Groningen, Lausanne, Leeds, Strathclyde and University College Dublin.

The Conference was inaugurated by His Excellency the Italian Ambassador Dr. Lucio Alberto Savoia. Also in attendance were Dr. Bruno Buseti, Director of the Italian Cultural Institute, Dr. Rosangela Barone, a former Director, Professor Cormac Ó Cuilleain, Trinity College, and Professor Christopher Murray of UCD Drama Studies. Papers were offered in Italian and English on the following topics: Goldoni and the 'Commedia dell'Arte', Goldoni and France, Goldoni and England, Goldoni and Music and Goldoni and the European Tradition/Goldoni in America. The International delegates included Professors Richard Andrews, Philiep Bossier, Joseph Farrell, Paolo Bosisio, Irène Mamzcarz, Siofra Pierse, Rosalba Gasparro, Maria Lucignano Marchegiani, Carla De Petris, Maria Anita Stefanelli, Ricciarda Ricorda and the Conference organizer Professor Deirdre O'Grady. In addition, postgraduate studies were represented by Selena Daly, holder of a Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship. The concluding presentation was offered by Dr. Patrizia Monaco, award-winning playwright.

The Conference was closed by Professor Jean Michel Picard, the Head of the School of Languages, Literatures and Film. Delegates were then the guests of the Italian Ambassador at his historic residence Lucan House.

Deirdre O'Grady  
University College Dublin

## **Gender and Contemporary Italian Cinema: a Symposium University of Bristol, Friday June 8<sup>th</sup>**

This successful symposium was organized by Catherine O'Rawe of the Department of Italian (assisted by Derek Duncan), and funded by the Bristol Institute for Research in the Humanities and Arts. It also took place under the auspices of the 'Thinking Italian Film' project: this project, developed with Alan O'Leary of Leeds University, aims to develop new theoretical approaches to Italian film studies, and has already seen a successful seminar series at Leeds. A selection of essays will also appear as a dedicated issue of the journal *Italian Studies* in 2008.

As part of the organizers' aim to encourage interdisciplinary work in the field, the opening speaker, Dr Helen Hanson, was from the Department of English at the University of Exeter. Her paper laid out some key issues related to the overarching question of how to approach the popular contemporary. Papers then followed by Professor Áine O'Healy, on 'Italian Cinema in a Global Landscape', by Catherine O'Rawe and Danielle Hipkins on the homosocial as a structuring discourse in contemporary Italian cinema, and by Derek Duncan on 'Migrant Masculinity as the National Body'.

There was lively and robust discussion after all the papers, and the sessions certainly indicated several rich and important research topics that should be explored in the future. They also pointed to the rewards that a sophisticated use of gender and queer theories can bring to the study of Italian cinema. The BIRTHA grant had funded several postgraduate bursaries, which had allowed three students working on PhDs in Italian film to attend. The organizers hope that a future event could involve postgraduates more directly, giving them a forum to present their work, and an opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with other researchers in the field of Italian film studies.

Catherine O'Rawe  
University of Bristol

**Vincenzo Consolo: Between Sicily and Europe**  
**(University of Oxford in association with the Maison Française d'Oxford, 15**  
**October 2007)**

This one-day conference was dedicated to the multifaceted poetics of one of Italy's leading contemporary writers, Vincenzo Consolo. Recent years have seen a marked increase in scholarly and critical approaches to Consolo's oeuvre, especially in Italy, Spain and the United States. *Vincenzo Consolo: Between Sicily and Europe* sought to reflect the growing critical engagement with Consolo's texts in Britain and Ireland.

In the morning session chaired by Martin McLaughlin (Oxford), Ruth Glynn (Bristol) gave a fascinating paper on the role of the intellectual in the 1970s and situated Consolo's *Il sorriso dell'ignoto marinaio* within the wider debates of *engagé* writing with analogous references to Dario Fo. This was then followed by Diego Zancani's (Oxford) examination of the critical responses to Consolo's narratives in the Anglophone world. Lively and comprehensive, Zancani's paper did not shy from evaluative reflections on the current state of Consolo studies. The final paper 'Un testo in controtela: *Il sorriso dell'ignoto marinaio*. Cronistoria di un'edizione' by Nicolò Messina (Girona) charted the textual history of Consolo's 1976 masterpiece with a broadly genetic approach. Messina's paper, moreover, demonstrated the validity and importance of ecdotics in the realm of contemporary authors.

The afternoon session was then chaired by Diego Zancani. Catherine O'Rawe (Bristol) placed Consolo within a specifically Sicilian textual tradition in an excellent paper which had as its focus the essayistic practices of Verga, Bufalino and Consolo. This was followed by Daragh O'Connell (Cork) who addressed the dichotomy between 'scrivere' and 'narrare' in Consolo through an examination of his palimpsestic lyrical digressions. Joseph Farrell (Strathclyde) gave an invigorating paper on the role of myth in Consolo's recent narrative and argued cogently that Consolo's narrative practice is unique within contemporary Italian literature. The conference was rounded-off by Consolo himself with a keynote lecture entitled 'I muri d'Europa' which addressed the historical and cultural dimensions of Europe's increasingly intolerant view of emigration. The questions and answers session which followed, chaired by Martin McLaughlin, was both passionate and informative. The organizers would like to thank the Maison Française d'Oxford for generously hosting this highly successful conference.

**Lecture series: Dante from the Middle Ages to the Third Millennium (March 2007)  
Italian Department, University of Birmingham**

A lecture series celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Birmingham Dante Alighieri Society was held at Birmingham. Speakers included Piero Boitani, Simon Gilson, Zygmunt Barański, Mary O'Neill, and Lino Pertile.

**SUBMISSIONS TO THE SIS WEBSITE AND STAFF LIST (2008)**

In an effort to facilitate the gathering of information for the SIS website, the schedule for the submission of material which has traditionally appeared in the *Bulletin* has been retained. All material may be in either Italian or English and should normally be sent in the body of an e-mail message. Attachments (formatted Word 2000 or above) may be used for longer documents. Submissions may be edited slightly for publication on the website.

Dr Lisa Sampson, Department of Italian Studies,  
University of Reading, Whiteknights, Reading RG6 6AA  
email: [l.m.sampson@reading.ac.uk](mailto:l.m.sampson@reading.ac.uk)

**Submissions are requested on the following topics, and may be sent throughout the year to Dr Sampson:**

- **Conference Reports: reports (500-800 words) are welcomed from conference organisers or participants on Italian Studies conferences, and on interdisciplinary and other conferences of interest to Italianists.**

- **Staffing Matters:** news on departmental appointments, promotions and retirements.
- **Honours and Awards:** news on distinctions achieved by members of departments, and on grants and awards.
- **Research Activities and Seminars:** news of department-based seminars, workshops, lecture series and other local research-related activities.
- **Reports or notices of collaborative ventures and Italian-related events from departments and other sources are also welcome.**

## **STAFF LIST**

Submissions are requested for the updating of the SIS Staff List for 2008-2009, which will appear as usual in printed as well as electronic form. Details for the academic year 2008-2009 should be sent to Dr Kate Mitchell at the address below by **Friday, 25 August 2008**.

Dr Kate Mitchell  
Department of Italian  
University of Warwick  
Coventry CV4 7AL  
Email: [k.h.mitchell@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:k.h.mitchell@warwick.ac.uk)