

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

**Compiled by**

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**Number 40**

**2008**

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## CHRONICLE 2007-2008

### Staffing matters

The past year has been marked by a number of retirements of prominent figures in the field of Italian studies as well as new appointments.

Gerry Slowey has retired from Birmingham, but retains his connection with the Department after having been awarded the title of Honorary Senior Lecturer.

Reading has seen various changes over the past year. In October 2007 Giuseppe Cinardo took up the post of Italian Foreign Ministry Lettore and Sofia Serenelli began her two-year study of Mussolini's home town of Predappio as a post-doctoral research assistant on Christopher Duggan's AHRC Cult of the Duce project. Shirley Vinall and David Robey both retired at the end of September 2008 after long and distinguished Italianist careers, though David Robey will continue to direct the AHRC's ICT in Arts and Humanities Research Programme until the end of December 2008 and Shirley Vinall is still contributing to the department's teaching. Federico Faloppa was appointed to a lectureship starting October 2008.

At Royal Holloway, University of London, Stefano Jossa and Fabrizio De Donno joined the Italian department as Lecturers in 2007. Arturo Tosi has taken a reduced teaching load in order to focus on his research activities. Two new language assistants, Matteo Favaretto and Davide Martirani, have been appointed from 2008.

Brian Richardson returned to Leeds after study leave in September 2008, while Gigliola Sulis has taken up a post as Visiting Scholar at the University of Cagliari from September to December 2008. Kate Litherland and Alex Marlow-Mann have been appointed as Visiting Research Fellows, and Francesco Capello as Visiting Lecturer.

Mair Parry retired from Bristol in the summer of 2008, but is now both Emeritus Professor and Senior Research Fellow in the Italian Department.

Ann Callaghan retired in October 2008 from her part-time post at University College Cork after forty years of service and Daragh O'Connell was appointed to a permanent post. Silvia Ross was promoted to Senior Lecturer.

At Bath Jacqui Andall is on temporary leave and has been replaced by two Teaching Fellows, Eva Garau and Natasha Kingston.

George Talbot was promoted to the position of Professor at Hull in the Summer of 2007.

Katia Pizzi was promoted to a Senior Lectureship in October 2008 at the Institute of Germanic and Romance Studies, School of Advanced Study, University of London.

Junior Research Fellowships were awarded in Cambridge to Nicola Jones at Emmanuel College and Kate Mitchell at Lucy Cavendish College.

Monica Facchinello was appointed full-time Language Tutor at Manchester as from September 2008.

At University College Dublin Diana Opisso and Valeria Bandecchi have been appointed as Italian Language Assistants replacing Beatrice Ippolito, Irene Dei and Claudio Battaglia.

The department at UCL has appointed Cristina Massaccesi to be its Language Co-ordinator.

## **Awards**

Professor Michael Caesar (Birmingham) was granted an AHRC award for the Zibaldone Project: the first complete English edition of Leopardi's notebooks. The award will support the project's research and editorial costs and launch two projects which will underpin the commentary to the edition and highlight the place of Leopardi's distinctively 'philosophical' language in a complex 19th and 20th century European cultural web.

At Exeter Danielle Hipkins won an AHRC research leave grant in the latest 2008 round, and Francesco Goglia a British Academy small research grant.

Daniela La Penna has been awarded a grant from the Research Endowment Trust Fund, University of Reading (£2000) to lighten her teaching load during the pilot stage of her long-term project on translators and the transmission and assimilation of foreign work in post-war Italian culture (October 2008-June 2009). Lisa Sampson was awarded a Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation award for archival work in the Veneto on 'Theatrical culture in the academies of the Veneto c.1550-1650'.

Katherine Wallington, a third-year Italian PhD student at Cambridge, was awarded the St. Catharine's College Prize for Distinction in Research for her work on Carlo Goldoni and Lorenzo Da Ponte.

## **CONFERENCE REPORTS**

### **The Society for Italian Studies Interim Conference 'Transmissions and Transformations of Italian Culture' Institute of Germanic and Romance Studies, London, 25-26 April 2008**

Despite falling in term time, this year's Interim Conference, held at the Institute of Germanic and Romance Studies, was a great success. Over 70 delegates attended over two days, with speakers coming from as far afield as Mexico, the USA, Spain, Catalunya, and Switzerland, as well as from the more usual constituencies of the UK, Ireland, and Italy. There was such an enthusiastic response to the Call for Papers that the thirty-eight papers had to be scheduled in parallel sessions; regrettably, this simultaneous scheduling (once again) separated the modernists from the medieval and early modernists, and thus prevented serendipitous transmissions between the two historic factions. Nonetheless, the broad theme meant that there was a remarkable degree of coherence between the various papers and sessions, which was reinforced by the two keynote lectures. Professor Massimo Riva's paper, on 'The Uncertain Future of Tradition: Virtual Heritage and a Sustainable Past' explored the radical challenges that new media pose, and the new opportunities they offer, for our understanding of culture in general and of Italian culture in particular. The show was stolen by the 'Garibaldi Panorama', a nineteenth-century moving painted panorama of the 'Heroic Life and Career of Garibaldi', now digitized by the department of Italian Studies at Brown University, and which elicited enormous interest from the massed delegates: <http://dl.lib.brown.edu/garibaldi/panorama.php>. Professor Peter Burke spoke on the second day of the conference on the subject of 'Translating Texts, Translating Cultures in Early Modern Italy'. This was a typically effortless, wide-ranging, and erudite paper which suggested that cultural exchange should be understood as consumption as well as production, and illustrated his theme with particular reference to translation, architecture, and drama.

The individual sessions were notable for the range of subjects under discussion and creativity with which speakers addressed the conference theme. Alongside papers exploring the cultural networks surrounding literary texts, theatre and song — from Dante to

contemporary authors — the conference highlighted the vibrancy of research currently ongoing in film studies. Similarly, papers dealing with contemporary media and politics sat comfortably alongside textual criticism. The organizers were particularly pleased that the theme successfully brought together colleagues in Italian Studies with those from other disciplines, notably English, Art History, and History, as well as from the European Commission.

It was unfortunate that we were confined to the Stewart House dungeons on one of the only sunny weekends seen this year, but this did not succeed in repressing the lively atmosphere, productive discussions and new collaborations which emerged from the various sessions. A quorate AGM and excellent conference dinner added to the overall sense of well-being. The organizers would like to thank the staff of the IGRS, especially Flo Austin, for their help with the planning and organization, and Charles Burdett for his very assiduous assistance in all areas. We are now in the early planning stages of a collected volume of some of the modern contributions.

Guyda Armstrong, University of Manchester  
Rhiannon Daniels, University of Leeds

**The Society for Italian Studies Postgraduate Colloquium  
University of Reading, 6 June 2008**

Welcoming over 50 delegates from Australia, Italy, Ireland, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, this year's colloquium was a great success and a demonstration of the variety and the high standard of research carried out by postgraduates in the field of Italian Studies. 24 papers were delivered, which were divided into 8 parallel sessions (Poetics; Identity on the borders; Cultural histories/politics/memories; Questioning ideology and sexuality; Love, sex and wonder in Dante and Boccaccio; Constructions of a nation; Writing women; Counter-cultures of the 1970s). Research areas covered contemporary cinema, popular music, operatic culture, memory studies, Renaissance studies, cultural history, socio-linguistics, gender and sexuality studies, poetry and twentieth-century fiction.

The colloquium started with a brief talk given by Professor Christopher Duggan, Head of the department of Italian Studies at Reading, who welcomed the delegates. He pointed out what a fortunate coincidence it was for our department to host this prestigious event in 2008, which, he reminded, was its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. He then gave a few words to honour the memory of the famous writer Luigi Meneghello, founder of the department, who died last year.

A number of members of staff attended the colloquium and chaired some sessions. But the organizers were also keen to involve other PhD and post-doctorate students from the University of Reading who were pleased to help and gain experience in organizing an academic conference. Their contribution was invaluable and helped to foster a sense of community among the population of research graduates in our institution.

The papers were followed by fascinating Q&A sessions where postgraduates engaged in stimulating debates and benefitted from some insightful comments made by members of staff and other students.

A wine reception was organized at the end of the day to provide further opportunity for networking and fruitful intellectual exchange. The attendance was once again excellent. Delegates pointed out the benefits and the rewards that such an event brings to the Italian Studies postgraduate community.

Finally, we wish to thank the SIS for granting us the honour to organize this year's colloquium and the members of staff of the Department of Italian Studies at Reading for their full support.

Sergio Rigoletto and Paolo Russo  
2008 Post-graduate Colloquium Organisers

**The Politics of History and Memory in Contemporary Europe and beyond**  
**Saturday, 8 March 2008, University of Bath**  
**Sponsored by ASMI**

The symposium was very well attended with approximately 35 delegates in total (some variation between the morning and afternoon sessions). They included researchers and postgraduates from a wide range of Universities in the South West and Wales including Swansea, Cardiff, Bristol, Oxford and Reading.

During the morning session, the invited speakers Prof Robert Gildea (Oxford), Dr Anna Green (Exeter) and Prof Alessandro Portelli (Rome) gave stimulating papers on methodological and theoretical approaches which problematized the writing of history and explored issues relating to oral history and collective memory.

Many of these themes were pursued in the afternoon when three short papers by Anna Cento Bull on Italy, Gian Luca Gardini on Latin America and Dennis Tate on Germany offered case studies which demonstrated how some of the methodological issues defined in the morning played out in given contexts.

The final session was a lively and engaged round table when a number of delegates talked about their areas of expertise and how these debates chimed in with their research. The conference closed at 4.45 in a general atmosphere of ongoing debate and discussion.

Anna Bull

**Graduate Conference in Italian Studies**  
**Department of Italian, University College Cork, 1 March 2008**

The Department of Italian, UCC, hosted a one-day postgraduate conference in March 2008, which drew research postgraduates and colleagues from other Irish universities, as well as participants from Birmingham and Loughborough. The programme is available at <http://www.ucc.ie/en/italian/Text,50067,en.html>. The day concluded with a reception in the Staff Common Room and the presentation by Daragh O'Connell of Roberto Bertoni's edited and co-authored volume: *Twenty Years After: An Irish Calvino?* with contributions by Kevin Barry, Ciaran Carson, Ciaran Cosgrove, Michael Cronin, Ursula Fanning, Seamus Heaney, Brian Lynch, Martin McLaughlin, Ian Campbell Ross, Marco Sonzogni, Elisa Sperati, Elisa Vannini (Turin: Trauben 2007).

***Giornata di Studi in Onore di Eduardo Saccone***  
**Department of Italian, University College Cork, 19 May 2008**

Following a welcome by Prof. David Cox, Head of the College of Arts, Celtic Studies and Social Sciences, papers were given by the following former students and colleagues of

Eduardo Saccone: Sante Matteo (Miami University, Ohio), Ita MacCarthy (Birmingham), Douglas Biow (University of Texas at Austin), Patrizia Bettella (University of Alberta), Alfonso Procaccini (Smith College), Matteo Palumbo (Università di Napoli 'Federico II'), Silvia Ross (UCC), and Mark Chu (UCC). Eduardo, himself, concluded the day with a paper entitled, 'Quel che resta del viaggio. I ritorni di Lampedusa'. The proceedings of the *Giornata*, together with contributions by colleagues unable to attend, will be published in *MLN*. The programme and photographs are available at <http://www.jonathanjoly.com/ucc.htm>.

Mark Chu

**Teaching Film in Modern Languages  
Friday, 6 June 2008  
Department of Italian, University of Bristol  
in association with Screen Research @ Bristol**

This one-day symposium was designed to address a desire amongst colleagues teaching film in modern languages departments for greater pooling of knowledge and resources, and for more collaboration and discussion with colleagues working in film studies departments. To that end, speakers came from both modern languages departments and from film studies, and engaged with many different questions arising from the teaching of film within modern languages, in panels on 'Formal boundaries', 'Textual analysis' and 'Issues in Modern Languages and Film'. Discussions included the problems of teaching 'national cinemas' in a critical landscape now dominated by the transnational, teaching students with varying levels of film and media competence, ways of assessing textual analysis, issues of language and dubbing, and star studies.

The day was very well attended and the Subject Centre for Languages will fund a second study day to expand on this work at Bristol in 2009.

Catherine O'Rawe  
Derek Duncan

**Meneghello: Fiction, Scholarship, *Passione civile*  
University of Reading and the Italian Cultural Institute, London  
13-14 June 2008**

Luigi Meneghello (1922-2007) was a novelist, essayist, scholar, and in 1961 founded the Department of Italian Studies at the University of Reading. Meneghello exerted a remarkable influence on Italian culture, and has been singled out as a model for many intellectuals and writers who use dialect as a means of linguistic expression, thus contributing to the creation of a counter-tradition in Italian contemporary fiction.

This conference, the first in the UK to be dedicated to this author, celebrated and assessed Luigi Meneghello's double legacy: his place in the development of post-war Italian fiction and his instrumental role in developing a new, multi-disciplinary model of Italian Studies in the UK University system. The conference proceedings spanned two days (13 and 14 June 2008). The first day was held at Reading's Museum of English Rural Life, and the second was hosted by the Italian Cultural Institute in London.

Distinguished scholars of literature, linguistics, and history contributed to the discussion. Thirteen papers were given, divided into four panels. In the first panel, sponsored by ASMI, Stuart Woolf (Ca' Foscari), Paul Corner (Siena), Percy Allum (Naples, Orientale) and John Scott (Western Australia) assessed, from a variety of points of view, the historical and cultural context that brought Meneghello to leave Italy and move to the UK in 1947. In the second panel, Robert Gordon (Cambridge), Francesca Caputo (Milan) and Pietro De Marchi (Neuchatel and Zurich) contributed to the understanding of 'Meneghello pre-letterario' by concentrating on his contributions to the Olivetti journal *Comunità* (Gordon and De Marchi) and to his unpublished writings on education (Caputo).

The second day's proceedings were also characterised by lively and stimulating discussions. Two sessions followed the welcome speech by ICI director Prof Pier Luigi Barrotta, and a plenary address by Dr Alberto Ferrigato (Assessore alla cultura di Malo). The first session, sponsored by the SIS, addressed the problem of intertextuality in Meneghello's work with papers by Franco Marengo (Turin), Gigliola Sulis (Leeds) and Giuliana Adamo (Trinity College Dublin). The panel concluded with the showing of Meneghello's *lectio magistralis* at the University of Palermo in June 2007. The second session was devoted to other aspects of Meneghello's work: Lepschy (Reading and UCL) illustrated the relationship between language and dialects; Pellegrini addressed the representation of female figures in his writings (Florence). Arturo Tosi (London, Royal Holloway) concluded with a moving overview of the Italian and international press's response to Meneghello's death. The conference closed with the showing of Giancarlo Mazzacurati's 2006 documentary *Ritratti: Luigi Meneghello*.

The conference attendance was very high: sixty people attended the two days' proceedings. A contingent from Malo, Meneghello's birthplace, and a number of PhD students from Pavia, Padova and Paris Sorbonne contributed to a lively exchange of views on Meneghello's work. A selection of papers will be published in the Festschriften series of *The Italianist*, by the end of 2009.

As the conference organizer, I wish to acknowledge the financial support of the University of Reading, *The Italianist*, SIS, ASMI, and the Italian Cultural Institute.

Daniela La Penna

### **New Authors / Auteurs: Into the New Millennium The University of Salford, 27-28 June 2008**

*New Authors/Auteurs: Into the New Millennium* featured a diverse range of sessions which aimed to identify new developments and working practices in Italian narrative and film from the 1990s to the present. It also aimed to ascertain the extent to which the turn of the millennium and its concomitant socio-economic and cultural climate has conditioned the work of writers and directors.

Pauline Small (Queen Mary College, University of London) got the conference off to an excellent start with a paper on the 'new world' of director Emanuele Crialese, and William Hope (University of Salford) analysed the political and aesthetic radicalism of the films of Gabriele Salvatores. The following session was devoted to literary themes. Monica Jansen and Inge Lanslots (Universities of Antwerp/Utrecht/ Louvain) discussed the texts and paratexts of new authors as 'self-design in the new millennium', while Gillian Ania (University of Salford) provided a comprehensive introduction to the work of writer Tullio Avoledo in a paper which looked in particular at the 'millennial inspirations and constraints' in his very politically-engaged writing. After lunch, Marco Grosoli (University of Bologna)

analysed the recent films of Marco Bellocchio in a paper entitled 'Il territorio italiano come limite dell'Autore'; the session also featured an analysis of the provocative cinema of Cipri and Maresco, 'Kynicism as a Form of Resistance', which was presented by Abele Longo (University of Middlesex).

Tullio Avoledo, our first guest speaker, then gave a fascinating lecture about his career in finance, his political and anti-global viewpoint, and the many and varied factors that finally prompted him to write his first novel – and to continue to write, the title of his lecture paying clear homage to the American poet Mark Strand: 'Il futuro non è più quello di una volta'. Lanfranco Aceti (University of London) then offered an interesting appraisal of the difficulties of developing collective cinematic projects in his paper 'il precariato del film italiano' and Emanuele D'Onofrio (University of Manchester) examined film music, ideology and 1970s' themes in films by the 'nuovi autori italiani', in particular by Marco Tullio Giordana. The evening was rounded off with a Wine Reception, a series of intriguing readings by Avoledo from his latest book *La ragazza di Vajont* (2008), and the Conference Dinner.

On the Saturday, Krešimir Purgar (Centre for Visual Studies, Zagreb) delivered a fine paper on 'reading Nove through Baudrillard', looking at 'irony and dread of television images in *Superwoobinda*'; this was followed by a paper given by Angela Guiso (University of Cagliari / Liceo Fermi, Nuoro), on the theme of 'il compromesso della modernità', in the context of the writing of Daniele Del Giudice.

Geoffrey Nowell-Smith, our second distinguished speaker, then discussed the validity of notions such as Italian 'national' cinema and 'auteurism' in the 21<sup>st</sup> century in an entertaining keynote address entitled 'The Afterlife of Art Cinema'. After lunch Erminia Passannanti (Liceo Scientifico Carlo Levi, Portici) discussed 'family shame and self-negation' in Cristina Comencini's *La bestia nel cuore*, a talk accompanied by range of stylized and sometimes disturbing images from the film; this was followed by a paper claiming that 'il cinema italiano non è imbalsamato' – a discussion of the work of Matteo Garrone deftly presented by Luciana D'Arcangeli (University of Strathclyde). Marina Spunta (University of Leicester) then spoke of writer Claudio Piersanti, his 'fuga dal mondo', and more traditional style and inspiration, while Franca Pellegrini (University of Oxford) discussed a wide range of recent detective novels and the 'forma sociale del giallo'. In the concluding session, Alex Marlow-Mann (University of Leeds) gave a lucid paper looking at the viewer's alignment with the protagonists of the films of Paolo Sorrentino; this was followed by an investigation of the 'Moretti brand', by Eleanor Andrews (University of Wolverhampton) – a presentation of Nanni Moretti as a 21<sup>st</sup>-century *auteur*. A final plenary on similarities and distinctions in the themes, styles, and working practices of authors and *auteurs* (terms which were themselves the subject of much comment and discussion) rounded off two very interesting days of lectures, papers and discussions.

Our thanks to the Society for supporting the conference financially.

Gillian Ania  
William Hope

**Gender and Sexuality Italian Style  
Prato, 3-5 July 2008**

From 3-5 July 2008, The Prato Centre of Melbourne's Monash University played host to a most successful conference entitled *Gender and Sexuality Italian Style*. Organisers Susanna

Scarparo and Angela Donahoe from Monash University and Charlotte Ross from Birmingham University brought together speakers from Italy, the USA, Australia, Canada, the UK and Croatia with the aim of exploring how new definitions of and critical approaches to gender and sexuality have impacted on current debates in Italian studies as an international field.

No longer understood and treated as unproblematically synonymous with women's studies, the category of 'gender studies' has broadened significantly in recent years, informed particularly by developments in queer and sexuality studies. The field remains, however, under-represented in Italian studies and the conference was one of the first, and most far-reaching, of its kind. Furthermore, research developments within the field of cultural studies have generated enriching dialogues and enquiry towards such lesser explored fields as cinema studies, diaspora studies and gay and lesbian studies.

Its interdisciplinary nature afforded delegates the possibility of attending a wide range of papers from 'Gender and Cross-dressing among Italian POWs in British Labour Camps' (Elena Bellina, New York University) and 'De-Figuring Fascist Femininity in the Paintings of Carolina Rama' (Jennifer Griffiths, Bryn Mawr College, Pennsylvania) to 'Homosocial, Homoerotic or Queer? Male Pairbonds in Four Italian Westerns' (Mirna Cicioni, Monash University) and 'Beatrice era davvero una donna? Riflessioni sul "corpo del testo" e sulle nozze mistiche in margine a *Purgatorio* 28- 33' (Antonio Rossini, University of Windsor).

Of particular note was the high calibre of keynote speakers that the conference attracted: Luisa Muraro offered the first plenary session, with a paper entitled 'Vite di santi, lavoro di artisti, politica delle donne', she later kindly sent all delegates an extract of her forthcoming book, on which the paper was based. Other plenary sessions were given by Marina Zancan on gender, literature and historiography, Daniela Danna on 'Soggette impreviste', which explored lesbian mothers, sex workers and violence against women, and finally Aine O'Healy on sexuality, ethnicity, and race in contemporary Italian cinema. All sessions inspired lively and thought-provoking discussion, demonstrating the wide array of important research that is still to be done.

Delegates were also treated to a cocktail party on the first evening and a dinner on the second, which took place in the fantastic location of Carmignano, overlooking the Tuscan hills.

The conference closed with a round table discussion during which delegates expressed their opinions on singular interventions and debated the overall significance of this three-day gathering in relation to giving an "Italian Style" to such international approaches and subject matters. Sciltian Gastaldi aptly argued that it is particularly remarkable that the conference was hosted in Italy by an Australian University, which opened up a discussion on the lack of sustained institutional and academic support within the peninsula towards these kinds of research. Nevertheless, everyone agreed to the proposition of making this event the first of many, and the organisers are now planning to publish an edited collection of proceedings from the conference, while everyone hopes that this event will lead to future ones.

Sarah La Pietra  
Luca Malici  
Alex Standen  
University of Birmingham

**Cultural Institutions in Early Modern Italy**  
**University of Reading, 4 July 2008**

Sponsored by the School of Languages and European Studies, University of Reading (as part of the Research Theme on European Histories and Cultures) this workshop evaluated the significance of lay cultural institutions, and particularly academies, in the production, mediation and reception of the arts in Italy from c.1400 to 1650. The event proved stimulating in bringing together international scholars, researchers and postgraduates from the U.K., Ireland, France, Italy and the U.S. working on this still relatively underexplored field from a multidisciplinary perspective.

The day began after a welcome from the Head of School, Christopher Duggan, followed by a wide-ranging and erudite keynote lecture by Robert Black (Leeds) which analyzed how far and why structures and practices in educational institutions in Italy changed over the thirteenth- to fifteenth-centuries. In the session that followed, Franco Tomasi (Padova) gave a fascinating comparative exploration of theoretical and practical approaches to lyric production in various academies across the Veneto. Focusing on literary production in the Florentine academy, Abigail Brundin (Cambridge) presented a fresh perspective on culture under the first Medici dukes that questioned traditional views of Florence's cultural 'decline' in this period. Lorenza Gianfrancesco (Royal Holloway) explored various aspects of academic production and practices in Naples, hitherto little explored. In the afternoon, Melanie Marshall (Cork) discussed musical performances within a Vicentine academy (with sound recordings) and how these played with or reinforced gender and class decorum. Katie Rees (Cambridge) examined the scope for female involvement in academic culture by exploring the works and social networks of Paduan dramatist Valeria Miani. Simone Testa (Royal Holloway) considered how research into the broader European *République des lettres* could intersect with ongoing research into Italian academies in the creation of an AHRC funded Italian Academies Database (led by Jane Everson, Royal Holloway, with Dennis Reidy, British Library). This paper featured a useful demonstration of work in progress. In the concluding round-table session, Virginia Cox (New York University) productively brought together themes and methodological issues that had emerged during the papers and opened up broader discussion on areas which should prove fruitful for future interdisciplinary and collaborative research.

As the organizer of the workshop I would like to thank all the speakers and chairs including Paola Nasti and Francesca Medioli (Reading), the staff who helped with the organization, and the School for supporting it financially.

Lisa Sampson

**Renaissance Keywords**  
**Birmingham University, 19 September 2008**

Hosted at the Barber Institute of Fine Arts in Birmingham, this conference brought together scholars from Italian, French, English, History of Art and Music. Organised around seven keywords, its point of departure was the suggestion that certain words play a distinctive role in the literature, art, politics and thought of the European Renaissance. In the first session, Ben Thomas (Kent) reviewed the evolution of the word 'disegno' from a term denoting simple lines to one meaning universal design and a special form of intelligence, and used the controversy surrounding its meaning to shed light on the paragone between painters and sculptors of fifteenth and sixteenth-century Italy. Next, Ann Moss (Durham) explored the

devaluation of ‘allegory’ as a key word and privileged cognitive tool in the European Renaissance, arguing that its transformation symbolised the seismic shift in how individuals thought about themselves, each other and the world around them. Subsequently, Guido Giglioli (Warburg) charted a positive re-evaluation of his keyword, ‘sense’, which he noted emerges in the Renaissance as a privileged source of knowledge and information about the world, as well as a norm of practical wisdom and soundness of judgement.

The afternoon session kicked off with Dilwyn Knox’s discussion of ‘ingenium’ – the natural power of the mind evinced in practical or speculative pursuits - as a consequence of the Renaissance revival of antiquity, a major player in the flourishing of the liberal arts that characterised the period and a fixed point of reference for a shift from a religious to a more secular view of the mind’s powers. Subsequently, Barbara Ravelhofer (Durham) charted some of the various meanings of ‘grace’ in French and Italian dance manuals - ranging from effortless superiority, negligent elegance, studied artlessness, natural beauty, to a virtuous disposition of the dancer’s mind – and outlined the case made by the authors for the importance of dance to Renaissance noblemen seeking agility, graceful ways and favours from the court.

Later that afternoon, Emily Butterworth (Kings College London) explored secular and theological uses of the term ‘scandal’, focusing on its meaning as a stumbling block to living well, and classifying it as a site of controversy that reveals something of early modern debates about religious reform and correct behaviour. Last, Tim Chester’s paper focused on the devotional dimension of ‘discretion’ - the *discretio spiritum* (or the testing of spirits before believing they come from God) - and suggested that its historical development as a mode of controlling female devotional practices may have contributed to a gradual feminisation of the term.

For each speaker, one respondent played the crucial role of highlighting salient points, offering reflections from a different disciplinary perspective and moving the discussion into the public arena. As organiser of the day, I would like to thank David Hemsoll (Birmingham), Maude Vanhaelen (Warwick), Dario Tessicini (Durham), Helen Swift (Oxford), Mary O’Neill (Birmingham), Rowan Tomlinson (Oxford) and Stefano Cracolici (Durham) for accepting that task and ensuring the conference fulfilled everyone’s expectations. Many thanks also to the chairs, Richard Scholar (Oxford) and Ingrid de Smet (Warwick), and to Martin McLaughlin who chaired the roundtable discussion that closed the conference.

Ita Mac Carthy

## **Research Activities and Forthcoming Events**

### **Research activities at Cambridge**

#### **Italian Research Seminars 2008-9**

Fortnightly seminars will be held throughout the academic year starting on 14 October with Kate Mitchell: ‘Gendering the Ottocento’ and Marja Harmanmaa: ‘D’Annunzio and the metaphorical representation of the city’; and on 28 October featuring Sergio Zatti (Pisa): ‘L’avventura del cavaliere rinascimentale’.

#### **Conference: Into Italy and Out of Italy: The Language and Culture of Migrants, 14-15 November 2008**

Organized by Adam Ledgeway (University of Cambridge) and Anna Laura Lepschy (Universities of UCL & Cambridge), Pierluigi Barrotta (Italian Cultural Institute, London),

Guido Bonsaver (University of Oxford & ISO), Lorenzo Losi (Ente Nazionale Acli Istruzione Professionale).

Website: <http://www.mml.cam.ac.uk/italian/news/Migration/announcement.html>

The aim of the conference is to bring together two different but related strands of research surrounding the language and culture of migration within the Italian context. The first concerns the mass emigration of circa 26 million Italians out of Italy during the late 19th century and the first half of the 20th century, and the second involves the more recent phenomenon of immigration into Italy from, for example, former eastern European communist states and North Africa. In both cases, there arise significant questions about the cultural and linguistic integration of such immigrant communities in their host country. Key in this respect is the issue of national identity, which, especially in subsequent generations, is increasingly defined by linguistic competence in the migrant language and in the language of the host country. The conference will therefore examine these issues from two distinct but complementary perspectives, bringing together leading (socio)linguists in the field and a number of scholars working on migrant Italian literatures. The former will provide both general overviews and in-depth case studies of the structural and social development of Italian varieties spoken in representative immigrant Italian communities around the world, whereas the latter will introduce and explore issues and themes that specifically characterise Italian migrant literature and film (e.g. national and linguistic identity, cultural conflict, integration), as well as presenting detailed studies of some of the most influential literary figures in the field. Particularly important in this respect are the parallels that can be drawn from a historical perspective between the use of Italian as a literary language in previous centuries by authors whose mother tongue was one of the many dialects of Italy (relevant also for the so-called *Questione della lingua*) and the use of Italian by modern migrant writers, both in and out of Italy, for whom (standard) Italian might not be their mother language.

#### **4th Cambridge Italian Dialect Syntax Meeting, 29-30 June 2009**

Law Faculty, University of Cambridge

Invited speakers: Martin Maiden (Oxford), Nigel Vincent (Manchester), Guido Mensching (Berlin), Ian Roberts (Cambridge) and Nunzio La Fauci (Zurich).

For further information see the website: [www.mml.cam.ac.uk/italian/news](http://www.mml.cam.ac.uk/italian/news)

### **Research Activities at Leeds**

#### **The Leeds Centre for Dante Studies**

This was founded in September 2007, with Claire Honess and Matthew Treherne as its co-directors.

Activities in 2007-2008 included:

- the launch of the Leeds Dante Podcast (<http://www.leeds.ac.uk/italian/cdspodcast.htm>);
- a national undergraduate study day held in December 2007 and attended by 35 students from 13 universities from across the UK and Ireland;
- the official launch of the Centre with a lecture by Zyg Barański, February 2008;
- two departmental research seminars on Dante;
- visiting fellowship by Vittorio Montemaggi;
- the organisation of a national workshop on teaching medieval and early modern culture in modern languages programmes;
- sessions on 'Nature and Grace in Dante' at the International Medieval Congress in Leeds

- a national undergraduate essay prize for 2<sup>nd</sup>- and final-year students.

**The UK Network for the Study of Medieval Italian Culture:** This network was launched in November 2007 at the University of Leeds with a lecture by Piero Boitani.

**‘Art and Literature in Siena, 1250-1600’:** This series of public lectures was organised to tie in with the National Gallery Exhibition, ‘Renaissance Siena: Art for a City’. Five lectures were held and were attended by up to 90 people.

Some of the lectures can be viewed online at <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/italian/research/sienalecturesvideo.htm>.

**‘Analysing Paintings’:** This new online resource was launched by Matthew Treherne, University of Leeds. The resource is aimed at students on Modern Languages programmes who are studying modules in or involving art history, and can be viewed at <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/italian/analysingpaintings.htm>.

**‘Italian Writers in Leeds’:** As part of this series launched in May 2007 the Italian Department was visited by Giancarlo De Cataldo, who gave a public interview in January 2008.

**Grinzane-Cavour literary prize:** students from the Department continued to be involved (with students from Manchester) in the judging of this prize.

Claire Honess

### **Forthcoming Manchester Events**

#### **5 December 2008: One day Symposium, ‘Mapping and Framing Cultural Spaces Under a Dictatorship’**

Organised by Francesca Billiani

Keynote speaker: Jeffrey Schnapp (Stanford).

As part of the Stanford-Manchester link, this interdisciplinary symposium brings together historians, cultural historians, cultural theorists, literary and visual art scholars, working on the multifaceted and polymorphous relationship between culture and dictatorships during the twentieth century. In this symposium, we would like to pursue two main lines of enquiry. The first one will focus on how culture, understood in the broadest possible sense, creates public and private spaces of resistance and acceptance within repressive political systems. The second one will investigate how culture, and its agents, produce specific meta-languages, which would enable them to enter into often productive dialogue with a wide range of ideologically hostile institutions, such as censorial boards. By looking at specific case studies, we hope not only to assess the relationship between cultural production, aesthetic creativity and political and ideological oppression, but also to develop an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary theoretical framework for the study of the coming into being of alternative, eccentric and marginal cultural manifestations and permutations.

**26 February 2009:** Peta Motture (V&A, London), ‘Art or Material Culture: Reinterpreting the Renaissance Collections of the V&A,’ at the Whitworth Art Gallery, University of Manchester, 5:00pm.

Peta Motture is the Senior Curator of the Medieval and Renaissance Galleries at the V&A and has been overseeing the multimillion pound restructuring of the galleries. They are due to be reopened to the public in 2009-10. This is one of a series of lectures sponsored by *The Society for Renaissance Studies* (UK) as part of 'The Renaissance-The State of the Subject' roadshow.

**13-14 March 2009:** Two day international conference in conjunction with the AHRC-funded project *Venice remembered: identity and the uses of history in Risorgimento and Liberal Italy, 1815-1922*. Co-organised by David Laven and Elsa Damien.

'Nineteenth-Century Nationalism and the Uses of Mediaeval History'

Speakers include Xavier Tabet (Paris), Daniela Dando (Pavia), Claudio Povolo (Venice), Ian Wood (Leeds), Antonis Liakos (Athens), Philip Carabott (London), and Jan Dumolyn (Gent).

The conference will be divided into four sessions followed by a general round table. The first session will examine Venice as a case study of the ways in which the past of an Italian city could be co-opted to serve or used against the Risorgimento project of making an Italian state, and, indeed, making Italians. The second session will examine these debates within a broader Italian perspective. The third session will focus on Greece. The fourth session aims to place the Greek and Italian examples within the context of other new European states: we will focus on the 'smaller' new nations, such as Belgium, Serbia or Bulgaria. The final roundtable will enable the comparative discussion of the different case studies we have examined within a broader European perspective.

**26 March 2009:** Herford Memorial Lecture in Italian Studies 2009

Prof. Nigel Vincent (University of Manchester), 'Dante in Dialect: On Translating the *Divine Comedy* into the Regional languages of Italy.'

### Research events at University College Dublin 2008-2009

24 September 2008 (A317 Newman Building)

Professor John Kinder (University of Western Australia), "'Diglossia" in Italian Linguistic History'

15 October 2008 (A317 Newman Building)

Dr. Eric Haywood (University College Dublin), "'Ibernia Fabulosa": Imagining Ireland in Renaissance Italy'

12 November 2008 (A317 Newman Building)

Dott. Elisa Bosio (Università degli Studi di Padova), 'La corrispondenza di Arrigo Boito'

*Settimana della Lingua Italiana*

Dott. Paola Piffaretti, 'Giuseppe Sardi Architetto Ticinese nella Venezia del Seicento'  
C108 Newman Building University College Dublin

22 November 2008: *International One Day Conference on Arrigo Boito*  
Organized by Deirdre O'Grady

A318 Newman Building  
Delegates from Italy-Milan, Padova, Finland, Scotland and Ireland.

June 2009: *International Conference on Futurism*  
On the Occasion of the Centenary of the Futurist Manifesto  
Organizer: Deirdre O'Grady

### **Research events at Reading**

#### **Research Seminars, Programme 2008-09**

Convenor: Dr Daniela La Penna (d.lapenna@reading.ac.uk)

5 December 2008: Dr Nicola Gardini (Oxford), "'Ne quis se a sua umbra ...": Shadows in Renaissance Self-Education'

30 January 2009: Prof Nigel Vincent (Manchester), 'Dante and Dialect'

6 February 2009: Dr Manuele Gagnolati (Oxford), 'From Dante's *Rime* to *Vita Nuova*: Performance, Language and Identity'

23 April 2009: Prof Brian Richardson (Leeds), 'Isabella d'Este and the Social Life of Texts in Renaissance Italy'

Dr Robert Gordon (Cambridge), TBA

#### **Workshop: Publishing Houses and Translation: A European Perspective 17 January 2009**

Organizer: Dr Daniela La Penna

#### **Italian Cultural Studies Seminars**

The academic year 2007-2008 saw the launch of the Italian Cultural Studies Research Seminars. These seminars are intended to provide a platform to bring together fresh perspectives from academics and doctoral students working in a range of disciplines within the field of Italian Studies. The first invited speaker was Dr Daniela Treveri-Gennari (Oxford Brookes) who gave a talk about the influence of the Vatican on the Italian Film Industry during the post-war period. Our second speaker was Sofia Serenelli (UCL) who presented a paper about the shifting attitudes and concerns around the family in 1968 with a particular focus on the experience of the communes. Finally, Dr Danielle Hipkins was invited to present her work on Anna Magnani and the figure of the prostitute in post-war Italian cinema.

Sergio Rigoletto

### **Institute of Germanic and Romance Studies**

#### **Events**

2 October 2008, 2 pm, Stewart House (ST 274/5) Conference. The New

Italian Perspective on Metahistorical Fiction: The 'New Italian Epic'.  
Speakers include Wu Ming 1, of the renowned Wu Ming writing collective

21 October, 5.30 pm, Stewart House (ST 274/5) Coffin Reading. Professor  
Giuseppe O. Longo (Trieste) on 'The dynamics of Beauty'

22 October, 1 pm, Strang Print Room, South Cloisters, UCL Gallery Talk.  
Dr Ben Thomas (Kent) on 'Noble or commercial? The early history of  
Mezzotint'

13 November, 5.30 pm, Stewart House (ST 274/5) Coffin Reading. Professor  
Boris Novak (Ljubljana) on 'Two moments in life when poetry is necessary'

14 November, Stewart House (ST 273) Italian Research Training Seminar

25 November, 6 pm, Stewart House (ST 273) Reading Group. Vitaliano  
Brancati, Don Giovanni in Sicilia (1941)

23 January 2009, 2 pm, Stewart House (ST 273) Seminar. Society for  
Italian Studies, Research Funding Meeting

4 February, 6 pm, Stewart House (ST 273) Work in progress Seminar.  
Professor Ann Hallamore Caesar (Warwick) on 'The emergence of the novel  
of entertainment in late 18th century Venice'

13 February, Stewart House (ST 273) Italian Research Training Seminar

23 February, 6 pm, Stewart House (ST 273) Reading Group

8 May, Stewart House (ST 273) Italian Research Training Seminar

26 May, 6 pm, Stewart House (ST 276) Reading Group

18 June, 6 pm, Stewart House (ST276) Film Screening. 'Le conseguenze dell'amore' (2004)  
directed by Paolo Sorrentino

### **Events at Exeter**

3 December 2008, Prof. Ann Hallamore Caesar (Warwick), 'Crossing countries and genres:  
Richardson's *Pamela* in Italy and France'

March 2009, Prof. Max Wickert on his translation of Tasso's *Gerusalemme liberata*  
(Organized by Mark Davie)

### **Italian Studies at Oxford (ISO)**

In December 2007 Oxford University set up a new interdisciplinary network of scholars  
working on Italy, *Italian Studies at Oxford (ISO)*.

Under the co-ordination of Dr Guido Bonsaver (Sub-Faculty of Italian) and Dr Paolo Quattrone (SAID Business School), ISO has organized a wide range of events, including seminars/lectures by:-

Massimo Capuano (Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Director of London Stock Exchange) on *The Integration of London Stock Exchange and Borsa Italiana in a Globalised Context*;

Roberto Saviano, author of *Gomorra: Italy's Other Mafia*, in a one-day event (co-organized with ExLEGI of Oxford);

Enrico Franceschini, London correspondent for *La Repubblica* on *Youth and Politics in Italy: From the 'collettivi' of the 1970s to the virtual communities of the 21st century*;

Pierluigi Ciocca (economist and author of *Ricchi per sempre? Una storia economica dell'Italia 1796-2005*) and Christopher Duggan (Reading, author of *The Force of Destiny*) discussing *The Evolution of Italian Economy and Society from 1796 to the Present*;

More recently, ISO co-organized a successful international conference in collaboration with the Italian Embassy in London on *Technologies for Cultural Heritage* (Magdalen College, October 1-2);

Aldo Agosti (author of *Togliatti: A Man between Two Worlds*) on *Italy & Communism. The Role of Palmiro Togliatti, Leader of the Italian Communist Party (1926-64)* with Stephen Gundle (Warwick).

ISO is busy planning many more events for the coming months, details of which can be found on the network's website: [www.italianstudies.ox.ac.uk](http://www.italianstudies.ox.ac.uk).

Martin McLaughlin  
University of Oxford

### **Research at Warwick**

In addition to a series of individual seminars both within the Department of Italian and in collaboration with the Centre for the Study of the Renaissance, the Department will host three major research events in 2008-09:

#### **1. Conference: Enlightening Encounters: Italian Literature and Photography Through Time, 12th-14 March 2009.**

The overall aim of this conference is to address an issue – the relationship between photography and the literary text - which has begun recently to be the object of concerted critical inquiry in a number of disciplines (such as English and American literature, French Studies), but which in Italian Studies has been explored only piecemeal, within the context of specific authors, periods or genres. The presentations and discussions incorporated in the

conference will seek to gauge the extent and the impact of the relationship between photography and literature in the context of Italian culture, and to formulate a series of key research questions and critical issues within this broad area. It is intended that this will contribute significantly to informing and generating serious research in this area of Italian Studies, and thus to consolidating and underpinning the limited existing scholarship.

Plenary speakers include Professor Millicent Marcus, Professor Diego Mormorio and photographer Giovanni Giovannetti.

**2. Interdisciplinary Seminar on Visual Cultures**; part of a series supported by the Humanities Research Centre at Warwick, Tuesday, 28 April 2009.

Speakers: Professor Remo Ceserani and Dr Florian Mussgnug.

Respondent: Dr Loredana Polezzi.

**3. Short-term Visiting Fellow**, sponsored by the Institute of Advanced Study at Warwick: Professor Donna Gabaccia.

Social historian Donna Gabaccia, author of a range of works including *Italy's Many Diasporas* (2000), will visit the department from 3rd-16 May 2009 and engage in a wide programme of activities, from workshops in Italian Studies to a public lecture. A detailed programme will be published in spring 2009.

For further details of the above events and of other research activities, see: [www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/italian/forthcoming](http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/italian/forthcoming).

Jennifer Burns

### St Andrews

**28th November 2008: Pavese's Mosaics of Words, International Conference for Pavese's Centenary**, The National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh  
Organised by Dr Rossella Riccobono (University of St Andrews)

Guest Speakers include:

Prof. D. Thompson, Prof. A. Bertoni (Bologna), Dr A. Nucifora (Catania), Dr L. Paci (London), Dr R. Riccobono (St Andrews).

### The Italian Departmental Research Seminar, University College, London

Organizer: Florian Mussgnug

Principal speakers in Autumn term include:

**30 October 2008.** Professor Sergio Zatti (Pisa), 'Il ricordo d'infanzia nella letteratura autobiografica'

**19 November 2008.** Professor Elizabeth Leake (Rutgers), 'My Primo: Speaking through Levi'

**3 December 2008.** Dr Marja Harmanmaa (Helsinki), 'Futurism and Anarchism'

### **University of Bath**

#### **Seminar series on Cultures, Politics and Territories**

This includes on 29th April 2009:

Eva Garau, University of Bath, 'Italian identity, the Catholic Church and immigration: a new model of selective solidarity'

Prof. Manlio Graziano, École Supérieure des Relations Internationales, Lyon  
'An uncertain national identity, A State without a Nation'

### **University of Portsmouth**

**8th Portsmouth Translation Conference. Theme: The changing face of translation.** Date: Saturday, 8th November. Venue: University of Portsmouth.  
All details, including online registration, are available at:  
[www.port.ac.uk/translationconference](http://www.port.ac.uk/translationconference)

**Talking with the translators.** This is a series of interviews with professional translators on aspects of the profession. One of the interviews is with Cinzia D'Amico, a professional translator (Italian>English). The interviews can be accessed from:  
[www.port.ac.uk/talkingwiththetranslators](http://www.port.ac.uk/talkingwiththetranslators)

### **Notices**

From January 2009 the journal *The Italianist* will become the journal of the Department of Italian Studies of the University of Reading and of the Departments of Italian of the Universities of Cambridge and Leeds. Claire Honess will take over from Zygmunt Barański as Senior Editor. From 2009, the journal will publish three issues per year, with one, edited by Alan O'Leary and Millicent Marcus, to be devoted to Italian Film Studies.

In February 2008, the Italian Ambassador to Ireland, Lucio Alberto Savoia launched the MPS Asset Management/UCC graduate work placement scheme, which provides two three-month work placements for University College Cork graduates of Italian in the Dublin offices of the Irish operation of Monte dei Paschi di Siena.

### **SUBMISSIONS TO THE SIS WEBSITE AND STAFF LIST (2009)**

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 Kate Mitchell

Lucy Cavendish College, Lady Margaret Road, Cambridge CB3 0BU

Email: [khm28@cam.ac.uk](mailto:khm28@cam.ac.uk)

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

- **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 local research-related activities (100-200 words on individual events).**
- **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 2009-2010, which will from appear as usual in printed as well as electronic form. Details for the academic year 2009-2010 should be sent to Dr Federico Faloppa at the address below by **Friday, 28 August 2009**.

Dr Federico Faloppa

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