

**BULLETIN**

**OF THE**

**SOCIETY FOR ITALIAN STUDIES**

**Compiled by**  
**Federico Faloppa**

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## CHRONICLE 2009-2010

It was with great sadness and regret that colleagues in Italian at the University of Kent reported the death of Tom Behan in August 2010. An obituary by Matthew Reisz was published in *The Times Higher* on 16 September 2010.

### Staffing matters

Professor Michael Caesar retired from Italian Studies in Birmingham in July 2010, although he still retains significant links with the Department in his continuing role as Senior Honorary Research Fellow on the AHRC-funded *Zibaldone* project, which he coordinates alongside Franco D'Intino. The Serena Professorship will be replaced by a Professorship in European Cultures.

Professor Diego Zancani retired from Italian Studies at Oxford, where he has been nominated Emeritus Fellow.

At Cambridge, Dr Abigail Brundin has been promoted to Senior Lecturer.

At Cardiff, Dr Fabio Vighi has been promoted to Reader.

At Durham, Dr Annalisa Cipollone has been appointed fixed-term Lecturer in replacement of Dr Stefano Cracolici, who is currently the recipient of a British Academy BARDA Fellowship; Professor Carlo Caruso has been appointed Director of the Centre for Seventeenth-Century Studies and Deputy Head of the School of Modern Languages and Cultures; Dr Federico Federici and Dr Dario Tessicini have been promoted to Senior Lecturer.

At Essex, Dr Ignazia Posadinu has been promoted to Senior Lecturer.

At Greenwich, Dr Alessandro Benati has been appointed Professor and Director of Research and Enterprise.

At Kent, Dr Lorenzo Chiesa has been promoted to Senior Lecturer.

At Leeds, Dr Matthew Treherne has been appointed Director of the Leeds Humanities Research Institute and of the Faculty of Arts Graduate School.

At Liverpool, Dr Marco Paoli has been appointed Lecturer.

At UCL, Dr John Dickie has been appointed Professor of Italian Studies.

At Manchester Metropolitan, Dr Selena Daly has been appointed Lecturer.

At Nottingham Trent, Dr Gabriele Paleari has been appointed Lecturer.

At Reading, Dr Paola Nasti has been promoted to Senior Lecturer.

At Warwick, Dr Simon Gilson has been appointed Professor, Dr David Lines has been promoted Associate Professor, and Dr Fabio Camilletti has been appointed Lecturer.

## Awards and Honours

The British-Italian Society (BIS), in conjunction with the Society for Italian Studies (SIS), has announced the winners of the **2009 Rooke Memorial Prizes**, a competition aimed at raising the profile of Italian Studies at British Universities and made possible by the generous bequest of a long-standing BIS member, the late Rosemary Rooke. Prizes to the total value of £1,100 were offered as follows: Undergraduate prizes (each winner received a prize of £200): Philp Lis (Oxford), *The "depressione ciclonica" of causality: Carlo Emilio Gadda's detective fiction*; Joseph Sartorius (Leeds), *Influence, mimicry and cultural identity: a new framework for Sienese-Florentine artistic interactions in the late middle ages*; Rachel Wellfair (Bristol), *The representation of trauma in autobiographical writing: Volevo solo vivere and Scalamara*. Postgraduate prizes (each winner received a prize of £250): Fabio Camilletti (Birmingham), *Memoria, mitologema e Pathosformel ne "Le ricordanze"*; Katrin Wehling Giorgi (Oxford); *"Back to the caul": Matricide and the element of the maternal in the works of Gadda and Becket*. The awards were presented at an event of the British Italian Society which took place on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2010.

At Birmingham, Ita Mac Carthy will take up a research lectureship funded by the Balzan Interdisciplinary Seminar (*Literature as an Object of Knowledge*) from January 2012. The Interdisciplinary Seminar, directed by Prof Terence Cave of St John's College, Oxford, winner of the prestigious Balzan Prize for Literature in 2009, will bring together academics from various UK and European Universities exploring the cognitive nature and value of literature and its role as an instrument / object of knowledge from the early modern period to today. Dr Mac Carthy, whose individual project investigates *The Cognitive Value of Literature: An Early Modern Pre-History*, is one of five research lecturers and two research fellows writing essays, leading discussion groups and organising workshops relating to the overarching theme.

Charlotte Ross was awarded funding from University of Birmingham for an interdisciplinary *Persistence Resilience* project in which 8 people from across the

University are involved. This project was awarded £30,000 to explore strategies of persistence and resilience in marginal communities. A research event is scheduled in February 2010 at the University at which this project and other projects supported by the Birmingham's £100,000 'Sandpit' funding will be showcased.

At Durham, Dr Stefano Cracolici has been awarded a British Academy BARDA Fellowship; Dr Stefano Cracolici has successfully applied for a Leverhulme Visiting Professorship at Durham University on behalf of Professor Isabella Lazzarini (University of Molise), a world-leading scholar in the history of early modern diplomacy. Professor Lazzarini will be based in Durham as Leverhulme Visiting Professor during the period January-June 2011.

At Leeds, Claire Honess was a Leverhulme Visiting Fellow at Notre Dame University, Indiana, Aug-Dec 2010. She gave a paper there on the social function of poetry in Dante's *Vita nova* and was asked to join the editorial board of the Devers Dante Series, based in Notre Dame. Alan O'Leary was Visiting Fellow at the University of Sydney in August 2010, and has been awarded an AHRC Fellowship during semester 1 of 2010-11 to study the Italian Christmas films subgenre (the 'cinepanettone'). The project title is *Holiday Pictures: Ritual, Genre, and Italian national Cinema*. Matthew Treherne has been awarded a two-year Newton Fellowship for Anna Pegoretti, University of Pisa.

A research group led by Professor Jane Everson (Royal Holloway, University of London) with co-investigators Dr Lisa Sampson (University of Reading) and Denis Reidy (British Library) has been awarded £780,690 by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) for a four-year continuation of the major research project *The Italian Academies 1525-1700: the first intellectual networks of early modern Europe*. The project team includes, besides the Principal and the two Co-Investigators, two post-doctoral Research Assistants at Royal Holloway, Dr Simone Testa and Dr Lorenza Gianfrancesco, and a doctoral student working under the supervision of Dr Sampson at the University of Reading.

## Conference and seminar series reports, 2009-2010

Organised by Fabrizio De Donno (Royal Holloway, University of London) and Professor Simon Gilson (University of Warwick), the Society for Italian Studies Interim Conference *Religion, Mysticism and Heresy in Italian Culture*, held in Venice, Palazzo Pesaro Papafava, 16-17 April 2010, was severely disrupted by the volcanic eruption. It was nevertheless a success with a high standard of papers and the contribution of the plenary speakers Mary Laven (University of Cambridge), Emilio Gentile (Università La Sapienza, Rome) and Stefano Allievi (Università di Padova).

The one-day workshop *Clothing the Naked: Pirandello and Pirandellismo*, organized by the Society for Pirandello Studies, was held at the IGRS in London on the 17 October 2009.

The two-day conference on *Leonardo Sciascia's Defiance: Literature, History, Politics*, organized by Lucia Rinaldi and Florian Mussnang (UCL) took place on 6-7 November 2009 at University College London. The keynote speakers were Professor Joseph Farrell (University of Strathclyde) and Professor Salvatore Lupo (Università di Palermo).

The one-day conference on *Italian Immigrant Communities in the UK: The Case of Bedford* was held on 20 November 2009 at the Institute of Germanic and Romance Studies. Organized by Adam Ledgeway (University of Cambridge), Anna Laura Lepschy (UCL) and Rosanna Sornicola (Università di Napoli), it has represented the first of a series of conferences to investigate the social history, culture and language of Italian immigrants in the UK. In this first conference, the principal emphasis has been placed on the Italian immigrant community living in and around Bedford and has attempted to address various issues relating to the community's development since early investigations in the 1970s. In particular, academic papers from acknowledged experts in the field (such as Professors Nicola De Blasi, Russell King,

Rosanna Sornicola, Lucio Sponza, Arturo Tosi), including both those who worked with/on the community in the 1970s as well as those currently undertaking research in the area, together with interviews of key representatives of each of the three principal generations of the Italian immigrant community, has served to throw light on how questions of Italian identity and regional Italian identities within the immigrant community have changed over the course of the last thirty years. These identities, in the main, will be explored in relation to their manifestation in such areas as 1) bilingualism (which although widespread across the first and second generations is now apparently declining in the third generation); 2) the changing relationship between, and status of, Italian, dialects and English as community languages; 3) demographic trends, including marriage inside and outside of the community; 4) maintenance of contacts (familial, legal and professional) with Italy; 5) robustness and continued relevance of original regional provenance (e.g. Agrigento, Molise, Avellino, Caserta, Cosenza) in determining internal splits among the community; and 6) the phenomenon of *immigrati di ritorno* and their continued contact with, and influence on, the UK community.

The ASMI Annual Conference 2009 *Italy and Emotions. Perspectives from the 18th Century to the Present* took place on 27-28 November 2009 at IGRS, London. Organized by Penny Morris (University of Glasgow); Francesco Ricatti (University of the Sunshine Coast); and Mark Seymour (University of Otago), the conference has seen the participation as Key-note speaker of Professor Alberto Mario Banti (Università di Pisa).

The conference in memory of the Italian writer Fabrizia Ramondino, *Non sto quindi a Napoli sicura di casa*, organised by the Centre for the Study of Contemporary Women's Writing (IGRS, London) and the University of Bath, was held on 15-16 January 2010, at IGRS, London.

The one-day conference *Anglo-Saxon Historiography, the Republic and the Perception of Italian Democracy from Abroad: Difficulties and Ambiguities* was held on 18 January at the Centre for the Study of the History of Political Thoughts, Queen Mary, University of London. It has been organized by the doctoral students at the University of Reading, the University of Warwick and Queen Mary, University of London. The first round table - part of the AHRC-funded Seminar Series *Democracy in Italy: from the End of Fascism to Berlusconi* – has seen the presence of Professor Donald Sassoon (Queen Mary College, London), Professor Stuart Woolf (Università di Venezia), and Mr Guy Dinmore (“Financial Times” correspondent from Rome).

The three-day conference *Da Sodoma a Gomorra: Framing Crisis and Rebirth in Italian Cinema*, organized by Mariarita Martino Grisà e Dom Holdaway (University of Warwick), took place on 22-24 January 2010 at the University of Warwick. Among its speakers and contributors: Peter Bondanella (Indiana University), Vito Zagarrìo (Università di Roma Tre), Guido Bonsaver (University of Oxford), Robert Gordon (University of Cambridge), Alan O’Leary (University of Leeds), and Catherine O’Rawe (University of Bristol).

The half-day symposium on *(Re-)translating the Italian classics for the 21st century: Boccaccio, Machiavelli, Leopardi* was held on 26 February 2010 at the University of Birmingham; among the speakers were Peter Hainsworth (Oxford), Tim Parks (UILM, Milan), Gerry Slowey (University of Birmingham), Susan Bassnett (University of Warwick).

The annual Graduate Conference in Italian Studies, organized by Dr. Silvia Ross, was held on 27 February at the University College Cork. Consisting of ten panels, it included participants from Ireland, Italy, Great Britain, Australia and the United States.



The first “Mosaici” conference *Poetry in Conflict*, organised by Dr Rossella Riccobono (University of St Andrews), Dr Eanna Ó Ceallacháin (University of Glasgow), and Professor George Talbot (University of Hull), took part on 15-17 March 2010 at the University of St Andrews. Among its keynote speakers: Valerio Magrelli (Rome), Laura Barile (Università di Siena), and Alberto Bertoni (Università di Bologna), and Marco Fazzini (Università Ca' Foscari, Venezia).

The exhibition *Visualizing and Exhibiting Fascism* was held on 19 March 2010 at the University of Manchester. Gregory Maertz (St. John's College, New York) presented his discovery of an unknown collection of Nazi war art, while Hans Ottomeyer (Director, Deutsches Historisches Museum, Berlin) and Rachel Knight (Head of Exhibitions, Imperial War Museum North, Manchester) presented short papers addressing some of the issues relating to the exhibition of politically sensitive works. Three leading cultural historians of Fascism, Charles Burdett (University of Bristol), Roger Griffin (Oxford Brookes University), and Jeffrey Schnapp (University of Stanford) addressed a set of six questions concerning the way we can interpret the cultural language of fascism, how our assessment of it has changed in the light of recent academic trends, and what implications this research has for the broader public encounter with fascism and its images.

The Leopardi Centre at the University of Birmingham hosted the study day *Mind and psyche, writing and the self in Giacomo Leopardi* on 22 March 2010. Young doctoral and post-doctoral researchers from UK and Italian universities presented aspects of new and ongoing research on Leopardi's poetic and prose production. Dr. Pamela Williams, who discussed the wavering between singular and plural voices in Leopardi's poetry, and keynote speaker Prof. Claudio Colaiacomo (La Sapienza) who gave a talk on *Leopardi e la discontinuità dell'io* offered further opportunities to reflect upon the multifacetedness of Leopardi's modernity. The study day, attended by a small but very interested and engaged audience, who enlivened the subsequent debate, confirmed the dedication and commitment which characterises current Leopardi studies. A special issue of the *Rivista Internazionale di Studi Leopardiani*

gathering the contributions of the participants in the event is currently in preparation for publication in 2011.

Cosetta Veronese and Paola Cori

The one-day conference on *Desire in Dante and the Middle Ages* was held on 24 April 2010 at the Taylor Institution, Oxford. Organized by Manuele Gragnolati (Oxford) and Elena Lombardi (Bristol), it was funded by the Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages, University of Oxford, and sponsored by the Society for the Study of Medieval Languages and Literature. The Keynote speakers were Christian Moevs (Notre Dame) and Bill Burgwinkle (Cambridge).

The one-day international conference *New Insights into Gramsci's Life and Work* took place on 28 May 2010 at IGRS, London. Organised by Alessandro Carluccio (Royal Holloway, University of London), in association with the Institute of Germanic & Romance Studies (School of Advanced Studies, University of London), the event was sponsored by the Barry Amiel and Norman Melburn Trust, and by the School of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures at Royal Holloway, University of London. Extremely well-attended, the conference shared and disseminated the results of recent, specialised research on Gramsci. Significant novelties were actually presented by leading experts with the aim of overcoming disciplinary boundaries and helping to reduce the gaps between: a) widespread, conventional understanding of Gramsci and up-to-date specialised research; and b) the work on Gramsci's writings and biography and the use of Gramsci's theories for understanding current social, political and cultural issues. The conference has seen the presence of several established Gramsci scholars, such as Derek Boothman (SSLMIT, University of Bologna), Craig Brandist (University of Sheffield), Fabio Frosini (University of Urbino), Carl Levy (Goldsmiths College, University of London), James Martin (Goldsmiths College, University of London), and Peter Thomas (member of the editorial board of "Historical Materialism").

Organised by Caterina Sinibaldi, Clea Rivalta, Mariarita Martino Grisà and Dom Holdaway, the 2010 SIS Postgraduate Colloquium took place on 5 June 2010 at the University of Warwick. Conference panels included Renaissance Studies, Political and social identity, Translation, Intellectual and doctrinal constructions, Gender and representation, Textual traditions, Comparative literature.

The one day conference *Italian Linguistics in the UK: traditions, challenges, perspectives* took place on 11 June 2010 at the University of Reading. Organised by Federico Faloppa and Chiara Ciarlo (Reading) for celebrating the reintroduction of Italian linguistics at Italian Studies in Reading, and made possible by the support of “The Italianist”, the Linguistics Association of Great Britain, and the Department of Modern Languages at Reading, the event was meant to be an opportunity for established academics and young researchers from all over the UK to present their latest research in the various areas of Italian linguistics, and for professionals to share their experience regarding the importance of teaching Italian linguistics at academic level. After an inspiring introductory talk by Professor Mair Parry (University of Bristol), giving an overall picture of the scholarly tradition in Italian linguistics in the UK, the symposium offered papers on historical grammar, morphology, language acquisition, language policy, dialectology, historical semantics, pragmatics, thematic panels, numbered both internationally established scholars – such as Martin Maiden, Brian Richardson, Adam Ledgeway, and Jacqueline Visconti – and UK based researchers and lecturers. The event – which saw the participation of colleagues and students from the UK, Italy and Spain – was concluded by a round table, chaired by Federico Faloppa, on the pedagogical challenges which Italian linguistics would face in the current academic climate.

The one-day colloquium *Translating Theatre. Migrating Text(s)* took place on 12 June 2010 at the University of Warwick. The programme included a practitioner roundtable *From Page to Stage* with Silvija Jestrovic, in conversation with Ermanna Montanari (Teatro delle Albe), Rani Moorthy (Rasa Productions), Paul Sirett

(Playwright) and Matthew Zajac (Playwright), and a Practical Theatre Workshop led by “LegalAliens” London-based Italian Theatre Company and Professor Margaret Rose (Milan State University). The guest speakers were: Professor David Johnston (Queens Belfast) and Professor Catherine Boyle (King’s College).

Organised by Luca Malici, Alex Standen, Susanne Thuermer and Clare Watters, the 2010 ASMI Postgraduate Conference 2010 was held on the 16 June at the Department of Italian Studies, University of Birmingham.

The Second International EJGS Conference *City effects, city defects* was held on 18-19 June 2010 at the University of Edinburgh. Speakers included: Remo Ceserani, Franco Farinelli, Giorgio Ficara, Paola Italia, Niva Lorenzini, Emilio Manzotti, Jeffrey Schnapp and Giuseppe Stellardi.

The Blackwell Gadda Workshop took place on 19 June 2010 at the University of Edinburgh. Organised by Prof Federica G. Pedriali (University of Edinburgh), it hosted the Edinburgh Gadda Prize (in four categories, one of them for Best Published Work on twentieth-century Italian narrative), an event conducted by Annie Griffin, with the participation of prominent Scottish actors.

The International conference *Language, Space and Otherness in Italy Since 1861* was held on 24-25 June 2010 at the British School in Rome. Conference panels included Geopolitics, Migrants, Roma and Sinti, Fascism and colonies, Interracial encounters, Judaism/Jews, Women as others, Sexualities, Disabilities, Psychiatry/Madness. Speakers included Alessandro Portelli, Lucia Re, John Agnew, Nicola Labanca, Mia Fuller, Carl Levy, Derek Duncan, John Foot, Robert Gordon. On the 25, the conference programme included the opening of the exhibition *Italy's Margins: social exclusion in photography and film 1860-2010*. Organized by Professor David Forgacs (UCL), the exhibition offered a highly distinctive and

innovative look at the 150 years since the unification of Italy. Using rare photographs and archive footage, it illuminated some of the hidden byways of the country's united history.

A one-day colloquium on *Desire in Dante and the Middle Ages* was held on the 28-29 June 2010 at the Taylor Institution, University of Oxford. Organised by Dr Manuele Gragnolati (Oxford) and Dr Elena Lombardi (Bristol), the event was funded by the Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages (University of Oxford), and sponsored by the Society for the Study of Medieval Languages and Literature. The Keynote speaker was Prof Bill Burgwinkle (University of Cambridge).

The one-day colloquium *Dante: the Author and his Image* was held on 7 July 2010, at Leech Hall, St John's College, University of Durham. The event was sponsored by the Centre for the Study of the Classical Tradition and the Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies of Durham University. It consisted of a conference, a slide-show of Monika Beisner's illustrations for the Valdonega edition of Dante's *Commedia* with readings of Dante in English and Italian, and music from John Cage's *Freeman Etudes* by Mieko Kanno, Director of Musicon Durham. Speakers included: Professor Ingo Glldenhard (Durham), Dr Annalisa Cipollone (Pescara), Dr Stefano Cracolici (Durham), Professor Simon Gilson (Warwick), Professor Patrick Boyde (Cambridge), Professor Michael O'Neill (Durham).

## RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

### **Research activities at Birmingham**

Under the big-tent title of *Crossings* the department invited distinguished speakers from Britain, Italy, the US and Australia to address the topic from a variety of perspectives. Scholars in translation studies, cultural studies, literature, film and music explored variations on the theme of inter-lingual relations, adaptation, migration, miscegenation between genres, and liminality. Language pedagogy, fundamental to all our activity, was the subject of the opening paper in the series, when Tom Means (Marlboro College, Vermont) spoke on the use of multiple intelligences theory and interlanguage-stretching activities in the teaching of Italian as a foreign language. Translation was a recurrent theme, in papers by Monica Borg (Birmingham) on tri-lingual notarial transcription practices in a famous case heard in Malta in 1598, by Virginia Cox (NYU) on the challenges facing the anthologization and facing-page translation of early modern Italian women's lyric poetry, and in the form of an AHRC-sponsored symposium on translating the Italian classics for a 21<sup>st</sup>-century readership, with contributions by Peter Hainsworth (Oxford) on Boccaccio, Tim Parks (IULM, Milan) on Machiavelli and Gerry Slowey (Birmingham) on Leopardi, all under the expert eye of Susan Bassnett (Warwick). The specific obstacles faced by migrant writers in contemporary Italy, both cultural and linguistic, were the focus of an intense discussion at the launch of *Italiani e stranieri a confronto nella letteratura italiana contemporanea* (Rome 2009), introduced by Maria Cristina Mauceri (Sydney, co-author with M.G. Negro) and with the participation of Loredana Polezzi (Warwick) and Emma Bond (Oxford). Two contributions concentrated on the uses and abuses of adaptation: Nick Havely (York) explored the role played by the 1911 Milano Films *Inferno* and the discourse of Italian nationalism in the run-up to the First World War, while Ben Earle (Birmingham) investigated the impact of Giacomo Manzoni's opera *Doktor Faustus*, after Thomas Mann, first staged at La Scala, Milan, in 1989, with costumes by Gianni Versace, in the context of ebbing support for the PCI. Virginia Cox's paper had also addressed the idea of a boundary that has to be crossed in order to afford early modern Italian women poets some of the same attention which their English-language contemporaries, for

example, have received (by coincidence, Dacia Maraini was on campus shortly afterwards to present the English-language performance of her *Hurried Steps (Passi affrettati)*); the notion of a symbolic borderline, in a very different context, returned in the final paper of the series, delivered by Matthew Treherne (Leeds) on the place of liturgy in some of the thresholds crossed by Dante's pilgrim on his journey in the *Comedy*.

Michael Caesar

### **Research activities at Durham**

The Italian Seminar is a series of seminars taking place each Epiphany Term (January-March). In the Epiphany Term of 2010 the following seminars were given: Stefano Cracolici, *On the author of the "Hypnerotomachia Poliphil"*, 10 February 2010; Federico Federici, *A working definition of oblique censorship in creative translation*, 24 February 2010; Kevin Sheehan, *Attributing Authorship: Initial attempts at dating and placing two incorrectly-authored anonymous portolans in the British Library*, 10 March 2010.

### **Durham Translators Limited**

Durham Translators Limited is the spin-out company of the School of Modern Languages and Cultures. Established in January 2010, it has been particularly active in translating academic texts from Italian into English (for Peter Lang and for Cambridge University Press) and for translations in and out of Chinese. The company intends to foster a new concept of translation services.

### **CILS at Durham**

The exams CILS of the Università per Stranieri di Siena were sat in Durham for the first time in December 2009. The June session of 2011 is set to be the largest held so far.

### **NICE Italian Film Week**

The second NICE Italian Film Week took place in April 2010. The directors' talk and events with the actors were partially disrupted this year by the closure of many

European airports due volcanic ashes. However, the films saw a regular audience enjoying the film screenings. PhD researcher Gianpiera Conti introduced several films with successful talks and entered into an enjoyable dialogue with the audiences (<http://www.dur.ac.uk/mlac/italian/nicefilm/>).

### **Research activities at Manchester**

An AHRC-funded three-year research project entitled *Existential constructions: an investigation into the Italo-Romance dialects* is now underway. Collaborating with top dialectologists in British, Swiss and Italian universities, the three researchers on the project (Delia Bentley, Principal Investigator, Francesco Maria Ciconte and Silvio Cruschina, Research Associates) will conduct extensive fieldwork in Italy over the coming two years and present their atlas of existential constructions in Italo-Romance at the Manchester Symposium on Existentials in June 2012.

As part of a tour of the UK organised by Gigliola Sulis (University of Leeds), the Italian writer Laura Pariani (Premio Campiello 2010) visited Italian Studies at Manchester University and Manchester Metropolitan University on 14 October 2010 for an event which was co-hosted by Francesca Billiani and Nicoletta Di Ciolla and supported by the Italian Consulate.

On 14 October 2010, Guyda Armstrong hosted the lecture entitled *Can the Lower Classes Be Wise? (For the Answer, See Your Translation of the Decameron)* which was delivered by Marilyn Migiel (Professor of Italian in the Department of Romance Studies at Cornell and currently President of the American Boccaccio Association).

Adam Ledgeway (Senior Lecturer in Romance Philology, Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages, University of Cambridge) delivered a masterclass of the Institute for Linguistics and Language Studies entitled '(Non-)Configurationality in Latin and Romance' on 20 October 2010.

Guyda Armstrong launched the BA-funded Manchester Digital Dante Project on 19 November 2010 in the John Rylands Library on Deansgate. Speakers at this event included Rachel Beckett (Head of Special Collections, John Rylands University



Library), Carol Burrows (Head of Imaging, John Rylands University Library), Professor Brian Richardson (University of Leeds), Professor Simon Gilson (University of Warwick), and Professor Steve Milner (Italian, Manchester).

On 30 November 2010, Francesco Maria Ciconte (Research Associate on the Existentials project) delivered a seminar entitled 'Existential constructions: from early Italo-Romance to Modern Italian' in the seminar series of the Institute for Linguistics and Language Studies.

### **Research activities at Leeds**

Research seminars held in Leeds:

December 2009: *Reviewing Dante's Theology: work in progress*;

Tamara Pollack (DePauw University; BA Visiting Fellow in Leeds), *Vision, Theophany, and Beatific Vision in Dante's Paradiso*; Matthew Treherne (Leeds), *Dante's Commedia and the Liturgical Imagination*.

January 2010: David Ward (Wellesley College, USA), *Piero Gobetti and Vittorio*

*Alfieri: A Twentieth-Century Antifascist Reads an Eighteenth-Century Patriot*, March

2010: Carlotta Farese (Università di Bologna), *Novelistic Illusion, Bovaryism and the Female Reader in the Nineteenth-Century Novel*; Anna Baldini (Siena; BA Visiting Fellow in Leeds), *Expatriation and Marginality in Italian Literature: The Case of Luigi Meneghello*; October 2010: Robert Durling on his new translation/edition of Dante's Paradiso.

The *Italian Writers in Leeds* scheme organized by Gigliola Sulis has been expanded to become *Italian Writers in the UK* with events held also in Edinburgh, Manchester, Reading and London, sponsored by the Italian consulates of Manchester and Edinburgh and the Italian Cultural Institutes of Edinburgh and London. Under its aegis, Laura Pariani, winner of the Premio Campiello 2010, spoke about her work in October 2010.

Centre for Dante Studies

A *Dante in France* workshop was organized in September 2010 jointly by the Leeds Centre for Dante Studies and the Department of French. The Centre for Dante Studies is now active on Twitter and Facebook.

Matthew Treherne was awarded a University Teaching Fellowship. His project explores the connections between research-led teaching in the humanities and employability.

Maria Chiara La Sala's project *Developing a model for sociolinguistic survey*, funded by the White Rose Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning of Enterprise, was integrated into the teaching of her final-year module on minority languages and dialects.

Conference papers

Rhiannon Daniels (British Academy PDF) and Cristina Ríos (PhD student) gave papers at the American Boccaccio Association meeting, 2010.

Alan O'Leary: conference and workshop *Da "Sodoma" a "Gomorra": Framing Crisis and Rebirth in Italian cinema*, Warwick University, January 2010; workshop on *A New Italian Political Cinema?*, Queen Mary, London, November 2010.

Olivia Santovetti gave a paper on Fogazzaro and the Italian novel at the SIS conference in Venice, 2010.

Gigliola Sulis gave papers at the AIPI conference (Cagliari, August 2010); "Contemporary Italian fiction" (Toronto, May 2010); "Feminism and Italian Fiction since 1970" (Grenoble, November 2010).

Vittorio Montemaggi and Matthew Treherne ran a session on their book *Dante's 'Commedia': Theology as Poetry* at the International Medieval Congress, Kalamazoo, in May 2010.

Talks and lectures

Alan O'Leary presented versions of his public lecture *Italian National Cinema Home and Away* at Jawaharlal Nehru University (New Delhi, September 2010), to the Dante Alighieri Society in association with Flinders University and the University of

Adelaide (August 2010), at Monash University (Melbourne, August 2010), at the University of Sydney (August 2010), and as part of the Leeds University School of Modern Languages and Cultures series *European Identities, Past & Present* (March 2010). He gave lectures on Pontecorvo's *La battaglia d'Algeri* at the Alliance Française, Delhi, and at the University of Mumbai (September 2010). He gave research papers at the University of Sydney, August 2010 (*Studying the "cinepanettone"*), and at the University of Melbourne, August 2010 (*Italian Terrorisms/Italian Cinema*).

Brian Richardson gave the annual lecture of the Italian Studies Library Group.

Leeds Faculty of Arts Cross-Disciplinary Podcast Project: podcasts were recorded by Alan O'Leary (the "cinepanettone", and an interview on the Australian radio (ABC) programme "Movietime"), Olivia Santovetti (*Cesare Beccaria and the Italian Enlightenment*), Rhiannon Daniels (the reception of Boccaccio); the series was edited by Ruth Chester (PhD student), and is led by Matthew Treherne.

Research degrees awarded

MA by Research: Anne Murphy (*The Second World War in Italian Cinema*); Naomi Wells (*Regional languages in Spain and Italy*); Kevin Marples (*Justice in Dante*).

PhD: Rachel Haworth (*French chanson and Italian canzone d'autore*).

### **Research seminars at Reading**

Research Seminar Series in Italian Studies 2009-2010:

Paola Nasti (Reading), *Dante in the Classroom. Favole d'amore e "saver profondo". La tradizione salomonica in Dante*, 4th December 2009.

David Lines (Warwick), *Rethinking Education in Sixteenth-century Italy: The University of Bologna Aristotle's 'Ethics' in the Italian Renaissance* (ca. 1300–1650), 29th January 2010.

Stefano Jossa (Royal Holloway), *Shaping the Community: Dante, Petrarch and Boccaccio, and the Foundation of Italian Literature*, 24th February 2010.

Anna Baldini (Leeds), *Verso un nuovo 'canone' della Resistenza*, 5th March 2010.

Simon Gilson (Warwick), *Vision in the Commedia*, 26th May 2010.