

SIS THEMED CONFERENCE 2018 AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX

REPORT

On Thursday 5th and Friday 6th of April 2018, numerous scholars and postgraduate students from Great Britain, Ireland, Italy, France, Holland, USA, Canada and New Zealand took part in the 'UK and Ireland Society for Italian Studies Themed Conference' held at the University of Sussex.¹ The Conference, organised by Dr Ambra Moroncini (Sussex University), Prof. Darrow Schecter (Sussex University) and Prof. Fabio Vighi (Cardiff University) under the auspices of the UK and Ireland SIS, benefitted from the support of the Italian Cultural Institute in London, Routledge Academic Publishers and Peter Lang International Academic Publishers.

The theme of the Conference was *Resistance in Italian Culture: Literature, Politics and Film*, focusing on the literature, politics and aesthetics of innovation and subversion from Dante to the present day. Significant research perspectives were brought to light in all the following panels: 'Resisting Dante/Dante Resisting'; 'La *questione della lingua* nel Cinque-Seicento e la resistenza alla soluzione letteraria di Pietro Bembo'; 'Resisting, Re-reading, Negotiating Modernity: The Leopardi Case'; 'Cultura politico-militare e scrittura in Ippolito Nievo tra impegno e ironia'; 'Scrittori, scritture, ri-scritture e riviste durante e dopo il Fascismo'; 'Italian partisans and leftist intellectuals and their networks'; 'The legacy of the Italian Resistance in literature and popular culture'; 'On Gramsci, Pasolini, and *arte povera*'; 'Strategies of resistance in Italo Calvino and in the Italian culture of the 1950s and 1960s'; 'Cinematic and challenging voices of resistance from Pasolini to contemporary Italian cinema'; 'Materiale resistente. Imprevedibilità e sovversione nelle scritture di genere'; 'Philosophy as Resistance, Resistance as Philosophy'; 'On the dialectics of political transformation in Italian society yesterday and today'; 'Women's Translation as a Form of Resistance'; 'Challenging dominant narratives on migration: theatre, literature, and music'; 'Poetiche di resistenza in Fernanda Pivano, Dacia Maraini e Elena Ferrante'; 'Scrittura e impegno in Carlo Levi e Franco Fortini'; 'Contesting space in Italian society: class, gender, ethnicity and resistance'.

In addition to these many scholarly panels, three guest speakers were invited to address different perspectives on the theme of the Conference: Dr Stefano Jossa (Royal Holloway University of Sussex) gave a speech on 'Resistenze: per un'antropologia italiana'; Dr Danielle Hipkins (University of

¹ There were around 70 attendees in total.

Exeter) delivered a speech on 'Recovering Resistance: A girl's eye view of film history'; Prof. Guido Bonsaver (University of Oxford) ended the Conference with a speech on 'Narratives of Resistance (and Revolution) in Modern Italy'.

A SIS session on 'Creating an Online Identity and Networking in the Digital Age' was also hosted. It was organised by Dr Silvia Ross (University College Cork) and the speakers for this session were Dr Federico Faloppa (University of Reading) and Dr Rachel Haworth (University of Hull).

The Conference was a great success both in terms of scholarly excellence and with regard to the high level of interest and appreciation showed by the speakers, chairs and the several auditors who attended the Conference.

The Conference organisers were delighted with such a creditable outcome and wish to express their upmost gratitude to all participants and to the UK and Ireland SIS Executive Committee for allowing Sussex University to host such a prestigious Conference in Italian Studies. Additional and warmest thanks are due to the SIS Executive Committee for the financial and moral support the organisers received while planning the Conference and for funding the PG support to the doctoral students who gave a paper at the conference.

Ambra, Darrow and Fabio

