

Foreword From the Chair of the Society for Italian Studies

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As Chair of the Society for Italian Studies, a subject association with a mission to further the academic study of Italy and the Italian language across all fields of study in the United Kingdom and Ireland, I am delighted to have the opportunity to introduce this latest volume of the online postgraduate journal sponsored by the Society: *Notes in Italian Studies*. The Society is strongly committed to supporting postgraduate students working in all fields of Italian Studies: it sponsors an annual postgraduate colloquium; it offers bursaries for attendance at its biennial conference; it runs postgraduate prizes (in partnership with the British Italian Society); and—crucially—postgraduates are full members of its executive committee, feeding into all the discussions and initiatives of the Society. This journal represents one outcome of such discussions, the inaugural issue being published in 2021.

Notes in Italian Studies, with its focus on postgraduate work in progress, complements the work of the Society's main journal, *Italian Studies*, founded in 1937. *Italian Studies* publishes four issues per year, including at least one special themed issue, on diverse aspects of Italian culture from the Middle Ages to the contemporary. These include Italy's literary culture and linguistics, history, politics, film and art history, and gender and cultural studies. *Notes in Italian Studies* represents a model of intensive collaboration amongst the Society's postgraduate students, as well as of their ability to find a conceptual and thematic nexus across chronological and disciplinary boundaries. This year's issue brings together papers delivered at the Society's 2024 Postgraduate Colloquium, which was held at the University College Cork and focused on the theme of 'Memory and Italian Culture'. The volume explores questions of national and transnational Italian memory as they manifest in diverse objects of enquiry (historical, cultural, urban, political), assorted cultural media (literature, visual culture, music) and across historical contexts ranging from the nineteenth century to the present. Written in an agile short-format form, peer reviewed and edited by the postgraduate community itself, the essays published here also embrace a wealth of theoretical perspectives from scholars at the outset of their academic careers. Their contributions illustrate the strength of Italian Studies as a discipline and as it intersects with cultural memory studies. It is a great pleasure to read the individual contributions and to celebrate the collective achievement of the volume. I am immensely grateful not only to our contributing authors but also to the volume

editors, the anonymous reviewers, and the Society's Postgraduate Representatives who oversee the publication process. On behalf of the Society, I applaud the creativity, collegiality and hard work that have brought this latest volume of the journal to publication.