



THE CENTER FOR ITALIAN STUDIES

Dear Friends of the Center and Students of Italian,

September 2022

Freshly painted walls, clean carpets, and new elements of furniture in the lecture room and in the library grace our spaces, in time for the beginning of the semester. The renovation of the Center for Italian Studies is completed! Or, almost... we still have to put the books and other resources back in good order onto the new shelves; but rest assured – by the time you come to visit for our first event, everything will be in place.

And we truly hope you visit. Thanks to our donors, and to the cooperation with the D'Amato Chair and other institutions on campus, we are, once again, capable of offering an intense line-up of events which, as per the tradition, are addressed both to the community of students at Stony Brook and to the Center's constituency at large.

We start with the XVI edition of the *Concorso d'Eleganza*. This edition, sadly, marks the passing of Robert D. Cess, the professor of Marine Sciences who sixteen years ago approached the Director of the Center, Mario Mignone, with the idea for such a show. In the following years the *Concorso d'Eleganza* has seen the participation of over a thousand of vehicles; and in 2021, after a COVID-related hiatus, we had our most attended edition ever. This year, the stakes are even higher. Come showcase your Italian-made work of art on wheels, or just peruse the *parterre* enjoying refreshments and live jazz.

This fall, the Center will host two exceptional guests with distinct intellectual profiles: the Italian-Egyptian rapper and author Amir Issaa will visit in the first week of October, while the writer Dacia Maraini, one of Italy's most influential public intellectuals, will deliver a lecture at the beginning of November.

On November 10, 11, and 12 the Center will host the Memorial Conference in honor of its founder and Director of forty years, Mario B. Mignone: many of his friends and colleagues will convene from all over the world to applaud his achievements. Please mark the date; it will be a wonderful opportunity for the whole community to celebrate Mario's work, and to consider the future of his legacy.

There's more: you will find a detailed calendar inside; but be aware that the program may be subject to change, or we may add events later in the season. I recommend you keep an eye on the Center's website (www.stonybrook.edu/italianstudies) and on our monthly webzine.

We are all very happy to welcome two additions to the Center, the incoming Executive Director, Matteo Brera, and Alicia Ryan-Meuschke, the new Center Administrator. Matteo Brera holds degrees from the Universities of Pavia, Edinburgh and Utrecht and has worked - both within academia, and in the private/not-for-profit sectors - in the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Canada, before being selected as the new Director among many highly qualified candidates. The recipient of a Marie Curie Global Fellowship with a project on the hierarchisation of racism, memory and the construction of the racial discourse in the US South, Matteo has also published extensively on Italian and European literatures, Fascism, and the political impact of ecclesiastical book censorship.

In June of this year, we welcomed Alicia Ryan-Meuschke as the administrator for the Center of Italian Studies. Alicia is not *brand new* to the University, as she comes to us as a Stony Brook alumna with a BA in Linguistics and MA in Forensic Linguistics. Her professional background consists of experience in event management, community outreach, community service, non-for-profit management, higher education, and student leadership. She has already been working hard on planning a robust schedule of events for the fall semester for all to enjoy! Because she is of Italian descent herself (and had started her undergraduate career as an Italian Language major here at SBU), she is excited to be working for the Center and looks forward to interacting with our students and community.

One last thing: if you are wondering why the costs for the Italian Classes for the Community that we organize are so low, keep in mind that they are sponsored by an anonymous donor. Maybe, this is the semester when you, too, can take advantage of this program to acquire or refresh your Italian language skills.

Ci vediamo al Center, Giuseppe Gazzola

The Center for Italian Studies

Fall 2022 Preliminary Calendar

September 18 Sunday, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Robert D. Cess Concorso d'Eleganza XVI

Annual Celebration of Italian Vehicle Excellence and Beauty:

A display of “art forms on wheels” as a means of illustrating one form of Italian culture.

Display vehicles will rally at Stony Brook University campus on the lawn adjacent to the Graduate Physics Building and directly across from the Sports Complex off John S. Toll Drive.

Participation and viewing are free and open to the public.

Owners of Italian vehicles interested in participating in this display, please contact josephine.fusco@stonybrook.edu or call 631-632-7444.

September 20, Tuesday-1:15-3:30 p.m.

Conversation with Artists B. Amore and Luci Callipari Marcuzzo and Professor/Author, Mary Jo Bona (Stony Brook University) on the topic:

Tracing the Threads of Migration: Female Narratives of the Italian Diaspora

Hosted by Professor Loredana Polezzi, D'Amato Chair in Italian and Italian American Studies.

Location: Center for Italian Studies in Stony Brook University's Frank Melville Memorial Library, Room E4340 .

October 4-5, Tuesday and Wednesday

A Series of Events at Stony Brook University
with Italian-Egyptian Rapper and Social Activist

AMIR ISSAA

This is What I Live For: Afro-Italian Hip-Hop Conversation

Tuesday, October 4, 1:15—2:30 p.m. Wang Center, Theatre

Showcase: An Evening with Amir Issaa

Tuesday, October 4, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Student Activity Center, Ballroom B

A Conversation with Amir Issaa

Wednesday, October 5, 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. Center for Italian Studies, Melville Library E4340

About Amir: Born and raised in Rome from an Italian mother and an Egyptian father, Amir Issaa is an internationally renowned hip-hop artist and social activist. He is the author of the books: *Vivo per questo* (2017) and *Educazione Rap* (2021). As part of his activist work, Amir regularly holds rap writing workshops in schools, prisons, and colleges across the world.

This program has been organized by the D'Amato Chair in Italian and Italian American Studies, the Humanities Institute, the Department of English, the Department of Music, and the Center for Globalization Studies. in collaboration with the Inserra Chair in Italian and Italian American Studies at Montclair State University.

October 20, Thursday, 4:30 p.m.

Gradiva Publication Ceremony to announce and recognize the winner of this year's *Gradiva International Poetry Contest*. Conducted by Professor Luigi Fontanella, Editor of *Gradiva Publications*, the celebration will include bilingual poetry readings, a musical interlude, and a reception. All are invited. Location: The Center for Italian Studies in Stony Brook University's Frank Melville Memorial Library, Room E4340.

November 2-4, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

Dacia Maraini, one of Italy's most influential public intellectuals, writer, and playwright, will be launching her latest book, *Caro Pier Paolo*, devoted to a friendship with Pier Paolo Pasolini. She will be reflecting on her literary career and encounters across cultures. Program details to be announced.

November 11,12,13 Thursday, Friday, Saturday

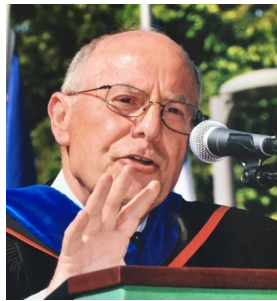
Daily Schedule to be Announced

Conference:

Memorial Conference
Remembering Mario B. Mignone

The Center for Italian Studies is pleased to announce a memorial conference in honor of its founder

MARIO B. MIGNONE



The program is currently being organized to include presentations by his family, friends, colleagues, scholars, University associates, and government officials, who are looking forward to remembering him and recalling his life's achievements.

**Program details will be formally announced and made available
as soon as all arrangements are finalized.**

Italian Classes for the Community Fall/Spring 2022-2023 Session

The Center for Italian Studies is pleased to sponsor our Italian Classes for the Community.

These courses are designed to expose students to Italian language and culture according to prior knowledge and individual needs.

Format: Virtual Online (Zoom) with some specially arranged in-person opportunities

Structure: 44 hours of instruction (22 two-hour sessions)

Annual Fee: \$300

**For course descriptions, course schedules, and registration information, visit our website:
www.stonybrook.edu/italianstudies, call 631-632-7444, or
email alicia.ryan@stonybrook.edu**

Thank you

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www.stonybrook.edu/italianstudies

For the most current information regarding The Center for Italian Studies' events and activities,
please consult our web site: **www.stonybrook.edu/italianstudies**
Also to be kept informed about The Center for Italian Studies in a timely way, we would appreciate having
your email address. If you have not already done so, please provide this by
emailing josephine.fusco@stonybrook.edu or alicia.ryan@stonybrook.edu.

The Center for Italian Studies is a community supported entity.
We are happy to say that we have earned the trust and affection of our followers,
who individually and collectively, have made it possible to carry out our mission.

Thank You For your Ongoing Support!

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Phone (631) 632-7444 Website: www.stonybrook.edu/italianstudies

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*Please print how name should appear in Fund Raising Publication.

Thank you.