



ABSTRACTS AND NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

LAURA BLANDINO

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All Paths Lead to Rome. Establishing an Italian American Archive of the Visual Arts of the late 1950s and early 1960s

This paper examines the role Rome played in the 1950s as an important outpost for the development of a distinct art scene, where the American and the Italian experience had the opportunity to blend with the artists gathering and sharing innovative ideas. It is a part of an ongoing research and it presents and sums up the early stage of the project which focuses mostly on archival sources and interviews with the central figures of this period. This paper, in particular, follows some of the members of this trans-Atlantic community, focusing in particular on the art galleries that fostered an international dialogue. Above all, this paper addresses the fundamental questions concerning whether this period could be considered as an “archive” of Italian and American art. It aims at demonstrating that, though not altogether free from contradictions and misconceptions, the period under study was very fertile in terms of the results of cross-cultural experience.

Keywords: 1950s, Rome, post-war art, Trans-Atlantic art scene, archive Trans-Atlantic experience, Milton Gendel, American Art, Italian Art.

Laura Blandino earned her PhD in Art history at the University of Torino. She studied art history at the nd she also has a master degree in American Studies. Her research focuses on American art and on the trans-Atlantic artistic and cultural exchange. She is the author of *Edward Hopper Racconto Americano* (Cartman Edizioni, Torino, 2014). She collaborates with the University of Torino, where she teaches a seminar in American art

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at the Master in American studies programme. Her current research focuses on the Italian American art scene of the 1950s.

VALERIA GENNERO

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“This Town Is Against Gender”: Bending Gender in Italian Culture

This essay describes the misrepresentation of gender theory in Italian culture and politics, arguing that the violence of the attacks unleashed against gender in Italy constitutes a paradoxical example of the importance of a category of analysis that in today’s United States has come to be represented as tame (and even tedious).

Keywords: gender studies, war against gender, gender-bending, American gender studies, Italian gender studies, approaches to gender, gender stereotypes

Valeria Gennero is Associate Professor of American Literature at the University of Bergamo. She has published widely on 20th century women’s writing and on feminist literary theory. Her books include *La conquista dell’Est* (2008), a study of Pearl S. Buck’s fiction and *La manomissione del genere* (2015), which analyzes recent developments in queer theory and literature. In 2013 she edited the collection of essays *Soggetti cerebrali. Le scienze umane nell’età neurocentrica*.

CRISTINA GIORCELLI

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US Literature and Italian Culture: A Long Romance (1763–1980)

This paper attempts to point out the powerful insights and the spirit of adventure of the US literature in the Italian culture, that were sometimes manifested by Italian critics and publishers alike, from (roughly) the end of the eighteenth century to the end of the twentieth century. Today, the great US literary masterpieces are, by and large, part of the Italian heritage, as indicated by the many translations, scholarly books and intelligent, innovative essays that keep being produced and published.

Keywords: US literature, Italian culture

Cristina Giorcelli is Professor Emeritus of American Literature at the University of Rome Three. Her fields of research are: mid- and late-nineteenth-century fiction and Modernist poetry and fiction. She is co-founder (1980) and co-director of the quarterly journal *Letterature d’America*. She has edited twelve volumes on clothing and identity (*Abito e Identità*), out of which the University of Minnesota Press has published four volumes under the title *Habits of Being*, coedited with Paula Rabinowitz. She was President of the Italian Association of American

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Studies (1989–1992) and Vice-President of the European Association for American Studies (1994–2002).

STEFANO LUCONI

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**The Troubled Presence of the United States in Italy's Political Culture:
An Overview**

This brief article examines the impact of US values on Italy's political system since the end of World War II. It argues that, during the Cold War, the allegiance of the sizeable Communist Party to the Soviet Union, on the one hand, and the Catholics' distrust of Americanism, on the other, prevented US principles from shaping the nation's republican institutions and playing a significant influence on Italian political culture, notwithstanding Washington's efforts to spread its own philosophy in the country. It also suggests that, after the end of the West-versus-East ideological conflict, the two major party coalitions paid only lip service to US values and referred to them mainly out of expediency while jockeying for position in their struggle for political power.

Keywords: Italy, political culture, US values, American model

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Stefano Luconi teaches History of North America at the University of Naples L'Orientale and specializes in Italian immigration to the United States. His publications include *From Paesani to White Ethnics: The Italian Experience in Philadelphia* (Albany: State University of New York Press, 2001) and *The Italian-American Vote in Providence, Rhode Island, 1916–1948* (Madison, NJ: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 2004). He also edited, with Dennis Barone, *Small Towns, Big Cities: The Urban Experience of Italian Americans* (New York: American Italian Historical Association, 2010) and, with Mario Varricchio, *Lontane da casa: Donne italiane e diaspora globale* (Turin: Accademia University Press, 2015). His most recent volume is *La "nazione indispensabile": Storia degli Stati Uniti dalle origini a oggi* (Florence: Le Monnier, 2016). He serves on the editorial boards of *Forum Italicum* and *The Italian American Review* and is the book review co-editor for *Altretalia: Rivista Internazionale di Studi sulle Migrazioni Italiane nel Mondo*.

GIORGIO MARIANI

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**Hugo Pratt's and Milo Manara's Indian Summer:
An Italian "Source" for *The Scarlet Letter***

This paper examines the allusions of Milo Manara's and Hugo Pratt's graphic novel, *Tutto ricominciò con un'estate indiana (Indian Summer)*, to Hawthorne's novel *The Scarlet Letter* in a variety of ways. In particular, this paper argues that not only some of Pratt and Manara's characters are very liberal, creative reinventions of Hawthorne's figures—they might

be seen as “spin-offs” of Hawthorne’s narrative—but in many ways *Indian Summer* is also thematically close to *The Scarlet Letter*.

Keywords: *The Scarlet Letter*, *Indian Summer*, Hugo Pratt, Milo Manara, Nathaniel Hawthorne, comparative Italian American studies, literary history

Giorgio Mariani is Professor of American Literature at the Sapienza University of Rome, where he chairs the Doctoral program in Scienze del Testo. He served as President of the International American Studies Association from 2011 to 2015. He is the author, editor, and co-editor of numerous volumes on American literature and culture. His essays and reviews have appeared in journals such as *American Literary History*, *Studies in American Fiction*, *Leviathan*, *Stephen Crane Studies*, *Letterature d’America*, *Nuova Corrente*, *RIAS—The Review of International American Studies*, and others. His latest book, *Waging War on War. Peacefighting in American Literature* was published in 2015 by the University of Illinois Press.

JOHN MATTESON

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“Believe and tremble”: A Note on Margaret Fuller’s Roman Revolution

1848, Europe’s year of revolutions, was also a revolutionary moment in the United States, for it witnessed the holding of the Seneca Falls Convention, the first formal gathering for the purpose of discussing the social and civil rights of women in America. A significant step on the road to Seneca Falls had taken place three years earlier when Margaret Fuller, the former editor of Emerson’s literary magazine *The Dial*, published *Woman in the Nineteenth Century*, an erudite and impassioned plea for female equality that had no precedent in American letters. Yet when the pioneering band of feminists gathered to ratify its Declaration of Sentiments at Seneca Falls, Fuller was thousands of miles away. The revolutionary movement to which she devoted her heart and toil that year was not the cause of American feminism, but the democratic revolution in Rome.

Keywords: Margaret Fuller, Roman Revolution, democracy

John Matteson is a Distinguished Professor of English in the City University of New York. He received the 2008 Pulitzer Prize for *Eden’s Outcasts: The Story of Louisa May Alcott and Her Father*. He is also the author of *The Lives of Margaret Fuller*.

DANIELE POMILIO

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Luciano Curreri e Michel Delville, *Il grande ‘Incubo che mi son scelto.’ Prove di avvicinamento a Profondo Rosso (1975–2015)* Piombino, Edizioni Il Foglio, 2015

The text offers a review of *Il grande ‘Incubo che mi son scelto,’* a collection of essays written in three different languages by a group of interna-

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tional scholars to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of *Profondo Rosso*, the cult movie by Dario Argento. The book contributes to the canonization of an Italian classic long neglected by those critics who still consider horror movies a low-rated subgenre, comparable to B-movies.

Keywords: Italian popular film, representation of America, film studies, comparative Italian American studies, cultural history

Daniele Pomilio is currently completing his Laurea magistrale in Cinema, Television and Multimedia Production at the University of Rome 3. He also graduated as a cameraman at the "Istituto Rossellini" in Rome and has been active as a film editor, video-maker and film editor of a number of videoclips, short movies, commercials and video art installations mostly conceived for documentary purposes in support of the art works of Rome-based poets, musicians and visual artists.

CLAUDIO SALMERI

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Sicily, Not Italy

Since the American continent became a part of the European imagination, it has always been seen to represent freedom. Especially after 1776, when the American democratic "experiment" giving rise to the United States proved durable, America became a source of social and political inspiration to generations of Europeans and non-Europeans alike. Unsurprisingly, also in the Italian context, the catalog of ways in which American values have been "translated into Italian" and adapted to Italy's cultural space seems to be ever-growing. Yet, even though the cultural transfer dates back to Christopher Columbus, it is especially since the outbreak of World War II that Italy has been markedly influenced by intellectual and material values generated in the US. At some point, the fascination with the US soared to such a level that, incredibly as it may sound, one of the most iconic provinces of Italy would begin to imagine itself as the forty-ninth state of the US long before Alaska and Hawaii gained their present-day status: in Sicily, the American fascination seems never to abate.

Keywords: Italian culture, American culture, American literature, American culture, translation, Americanization of Italian culture, the role of translation

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SOSTENE M. ZANGARI

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**“Things Change but the Amerecano Is Here to Stay”:
America in Italian Popular Movies of the 1980s**

The article focuses on a number of film comedies of the early 1980s. In different ways, the movies rearticulate the relationship between Italy and the United States. In showing how Italians can beat Americans at sports, how they can indulge in conspicuous consumption and finally how even the United States are not alien to provincialism and backwardness, these movies express a new mood of confidence that was widely felt in Italian society at the time. However, these movies came at a moment when the Italian film industry was on the verge of its decline. Starting from the 1980s, in fact, American movies and distributors would colonize the Italian movie market and depress the Italian movie industry.

Keywords: Italian popular film, 1980s, representation of America, film studies, Italian comedies, Italian cinema, comparative Italian American studies, cultural history

Sostene Massimo Zangari holds a PhD in American Studies. His fields of specialization is ethnic literature and culture. He has published essays on Herman Melville, Richard Wright, Micheal Gold and James Ellory. He co-authored *Americana. Storie e culture degli Stati Uniti dalla A alla Z* (Il Saggiatore) and *Letteratura degli Stati Uniti dal 1945 a oggi* (Odoja). He currently teaches English language and literature at Liceo Classico “Omero” in Milano.