



L-Università ta' Malta

Institute of Anglo-Italian Studies

Institute of Anglo-Italian Studies **13th International Conference** ***Britain & Italy: Literary and Cultural Relations***

Valletta Campus, 25–26 May 2023

In collaboration with Istituto Italiano di Cultura – La Valletta
https://iicvalletta.esteri.it/iic_lavalletta/it/

Deadline for registration: Friday, 19 May 2023

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE OF ANGLO-ITALIAN STUDIES & THE CONFERENCE

The chief objectives of the University of Malta's Institute of Anglo-Italian Studies, established in 1988, are to conduct research in the field of Anglo-Italian cultural relations, with special reference to literature and language and to hold international conferences, seminars and similar meetings on topics in this area of interest. Postgraduate degree courses (by research) in Anglo-Italian Studies are organised within the Faculty of Arts under the auspices of the Institute.

Since 1991, the Institute has been publishing its own *Journal of Anglo-Italian Studies*, devoted to current research in the history of cultural relations between England and Italy from 1300 to the present. Articles focus on cross-cultural literary and historical studies as well as on related disciplines such as History of Art and Architecture. The *Journal of Anglo-Italian Studies* has established itself as one of the leading journals in this interdisciplinary field of studies and is listed in the Modern Languages Association Directory of Learned Journals.

'Britain & Italy: Literary and Cultural Relations' (25–26 May 2023), the Institute's thirteenth event in its conference series, will be hosting 16 distinguished speakers whose papers will be covering the most diverse topics, ranging from Harriet Cheney's paintings to honour killings in British and Italian media.

Organising Committee: Peter Vassallo (co-convenor), Gloria Lauri-Lucente (co-convenor), Ivan Callus, Fabrizio Foni, Glen Bonnici.

PROGRAMME

Wednesday, 24 May 2023

Plaza Regency Hotel

19.00

Welcome reception for speakers and participants.

Thursday, 25 May 2023

Valletta Campus

Note: Papers will be 20 minutes long, followed by 10 minutes of discussion.

9.15 – 9.30: Welcome addresses (Chair: Dominic Fenech; Director: Gloria Lauri-Lucente; Senior Fellow: Peter Vassallo)

9.30 – 10.30: Session 1

Chair: Nicholas Roe (University of St Andrews)

- Alison Yarrington (Loughborough University and University of Glasgow), *Harriet Cheney “much attached to painting”: County Durham to Badger Hall via the Palazzo Sciarra*
- Peter Vassallo (University of Malta), *“In an English dress”: The Appropriation of Pulci’s Morgante by John Hookham Frere and Lord Byron*

10.30 – 11.00: Coffee break

11.00 – 12.00: Session 2

Chair: Peter Vassallo (University of Malta)

- Serena Baiesi (Università di Bologna), *“I love Italy with all my heart”: Italy and Italian politics in Mary Shelley’s short stories*
- Stephen Gill (Lincoln College, University of Oxford), *Wordsworth, Elizabeth Barrett and Italian Poetry*

12.00 – 14.00: Lunch (by one’s own arrangement)

14.00 – 15.00: Session 3

Chair: Gloria Lauri-Lucente (University of Malta)

- Anna Enrichetta Soccio (Università degli Studi “G. d’Annunzio” Chieti-Pescara), *A Tale of Two Cities: London and Rome in Dickens’ Imagination*
- Stefano Serafini (Università degli Studi di Padova), *Cesare Lombroso in British Culture, 1868-1909*

15.00 – 15.30: Coffee break

15.30 – 17.00: Session 4

Chair: James Corby (University of Malta)

- Enrico Reggiani (Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore), *“Cleave always to the Florentine”*: W. B. Yeats’s *Strategic and Political Melopoetics*
- Stefania Michelucci (Università di Genova), *Wrestling with Exact Science: James Joyce’s Obsessions with Numbers*
- Enrico Terrinoni (Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, Università per Stranieri di Perugia, Università IULM), *“Are you an Englishman? Au contraire!”*: *The Case of Joyce in Italy*

17.00 – 17.30 Presentation

Chair: Ivan Callus (University of Malta)

Stefano Serafini (co-editor) and Fabrizio Foni (contributor) present the book *Italian Gothic: An Edinburgh Companion* (Edinburgh University Press, 2023)

Friday 26th May 2023
Valletta Campus

9.30 – 10.30: Session 5

Chair: Peter Vassallo (University of Malta)

- Nicholas Roe (University of St Andrews), *Joseph Severn’s Gravestone at Rome*
- Marco Canani (Università degli Studi “G. d’Annunzio” Chieti-Pescara), *Vernon Lee and the Protection of Cultural Heritage: Italian Politics and British Public Opinion*

10.30 – 11.00: Coffee break

11.00 – 12.00: Session 6

Chair: Glen Bonnici (University of Malta)

- Francesca Orestano (Università degli Studi di Milano), *Indefatigable Ferrier: Mario Praz between England and Italy*
- Nigel Wood (Loughborough University), *Gramsci’s Prison Notebooks and an Italian Context for his Theories*

12.00 – 14.00: Lunch (by one’s own arrangement)

14.00 – 15.00: Session 7

Chair: Nigel Wood (Loughborough University)

- Teresa Franco (Università degli Studi di Milano and University of Oxford), *Publishing Ivy Compton-Burnett in Italy*
- Marina Morbiducci (Sapienza – Università di Roma), *Charles Tomlinson, Poet of Encounter: From Relations and Contraries (1951) to Multi-Authored Renga (1971)*

15.00 – 15.30: Coffee break

15.30 – 16.30: Session 8

Chair: Fabrizio Foni (University of Malta)

- Flavia Laviosa (Wellesley College), *Honour Killings in British and Italian Media*

- Raffaella Antinucci (Università degli Studi di Napoli Parthenope), *A Special Relation: The Italian-Scottish Heritage in the Hybrid Narratives of Mary Contini*

16.30 – 16.55: Presentation

Chair: Gloria Lauri-Lucente (University of Malta)

Flavia Laviosa (principal editor) and Glen Bonnici (editorial assistant) present the *Journal of Italian Cinema and Media Studies* (Intellect)

16.55: Concluding remarks

20.00: Conference dinner

SPEAKERS & CHAIRS

Raffaella Antinucci is Full Professor of English Literature and Director of CRILLS (Interdepartmental Research Centre for Languages and Cultures) at Parthenope University of Naples, and former Lecturer in Italian at Manchester Metropolitan University (UK). Her main areas of research include Victorian culture and fiction, adaptation studies, and comparative literatures, with a special focus on Anglo-Italian relations in the years of the Risorgimento. She is a member of CUSVE (Centro Universitario di Studi Vittoriani e Edoardiani, Università degli Studi “G. d’Annunzio” Chieti-Pescara) and is on the board of the academic journals *Traduttologia*, *Fictions* and *CounterText*.

Serena Baiesi is Associate Professor of English Literature at the University of Bologna where she teaches British Romanticism. Her research interests and publications are related to Romantic poetry, Leigh Hunt and political writings, Mary Shelley, Gothic literature, Romantic theatre and drama, Jane Austen, slavery literature. She has edited several volumes: *Gothic Metamorphosis across the Centuries* (2020, with Maurizio Ascari and David Levente Palatinus); *Romantic Dialectics: Culture, Gender, Theatre* (2018, with Stuart Curran); a special issue of *Textus* on “Subversive Austen: From the Critic to the Reader” (2017, with Carlotta Farese and Katie Halsey); and two issues of the interdisciplinary journal *La Questione Romantica* on “Colonialism and Imperialism” (2008) and on “The Language(s) of Romanticism” (2011). She is the general editor with L. M. Crisafulli of the Peter Lang series “Romantic Studies: Theories and Practice”.

Glen Bonnici is an Assistant Lecturer at the Department of Italian within the Faculty of Arts of the University of Malta, where he teaches Italian language and literature, comparative literature and film studies. His research interests include the analysis of self-reflexive techniques in narrative works, film and television adaptations of literary works, and spatial representation in fiction. His ongoing PhD studies at the University of Malta examine metareference in contemporary Italian cinema. He is an Editorial Assistant in the *Journal of Italian Cinema and Media Studies*.

Ivan Callus is Professor of English at the University of Malta, where he teaches courses in contemporary literature and literary criticism. He has published widely in the areas of contemporary fiction and poetics, comparative literature, literary theory and posthumanism. He is the co-editor, with James Corby, of *CounterText: A Journal for the Study of the Post-Literary*, launched with Edinburgh University Press in 2015.

Among his most recent publications is the *Palgrave Handbook of Critical Posthumanism*, a co-edited volume published in 2022. His current research includes work on literature and posthumanism and on poststructuralist approaches to ideas on grace.

Marco Canani is Associate Professor of English at the “G. d’Annunzio” University of Chieti-Pescara, Italy. His research investigates the literature and culture of the long nineteenth century, with specific focus on Romantic poetry, fin-de-siècle aesthetics, and Anglo-Italian studies. In addition to articles on John Keats, Percy Bysshe Shelley, Vernon Lee, and A. J. Cronin, he has published the book *Ellenismi britannici: L’ellenismo nella poesia, nelle arti e nella cultura britannica dagli augustei al Romanticismo* (2014), and co-edited monographic issues of the journals *L’Analisi linguistica e letteraria* (2019, “The Shelleys in Milan, 1818–2018”), *La Questione Romantica* (2020, “Romanticism and Cultural Memory”), and *The Keats-Shelley Review* (2021, “Peterloo at 200: Histories, Narratives, Representations”).

James Corby is Associate Professor and Head of the Department of English at the University of Malta, where he lectures on poetry, contemporary fiction, literary theory and drama. He is the founding co-editor of the journal *CounterText: A Journal for the Study of the Post-Literary*, which is published three times a year by Edinburgh University Press. He is also a founding member of the Futures of Literature Network, a research network based in Malta. He has published widely on literature, and philosophy, including articles on romanticism, modernism, phenomenology, performance, politics, literary theory, and contemporary literature.

Fabrizio Foni is Senior Lecturer in the Department of Italian and member of the Institute of Anglo-Italian Studies at the University of Malta, with a specialisation in popular culture. His research interests and publications are mostly in the areas of horror, the Gothic, the supernatural and the monstrous in general. He co-authored the most comprehensive annotated bibliography of criticism on the Fantastic in Italian literature (*Il fantastico italiano*, 2016). He also co-edited a two-volume set investigating the Italian equivalents, given the different context, of British folk horror and urban wyrd (*Almanacco dell’orrore popolare*, 2021 and *Almanacco dell’Italia occulta*, 2022).

Teresa Franco is Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow at the University of Milan and Lecturer in Italian at the University of Oxford. Her current research project focuses on the role of women translators in Italian contemporary publishing. She is the author of a number of essays on Natalia Ginzburg highlighting her activity as translator and mediator of foreign literature at Einaudi. Her monograph *La lingua del padrone: Giovanni Giudici traduttore dall’inglese* (2020) explores the importance of literary translation in Giudici’s poetics. She obtained a D.Phil. in Medieval and Modern Languages at the University of Oxford. She is a contributor to the cultural supplement of *Il Sole 24 Ore*.

Stephen Gill is an Emeritus Professor of English Literature and a Fellow of Lincoln College, Oxford. He has published on nineteenth and twentieth-century fiction, but most substantially on the life and work of William Wordsworth. His edition of the *Salisbury Plain Poems* inaugurated the Cornell Wordsworth series in 1975 and two editions of the major works in poetry and prose in 1984 and 2010 have become standard. His 1989 biography *William Wordsworth: A Life* was fully revised in 2020. He has also published *Wordsworth and the Victorians* (1998) and *Wordsworth’s Revisitings* (2011).

Gloria Lauri-Lucente is Professor of Italian and Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Malta where she teaches Italian, comparative literature and film studies. She is Head of the Department of Italian and Director of the Institute of Anglo-Italian Studies. She designed and is the co-ordinator of the MA programme in Film Studies. She is the volume editor of the *Journal of Anglo-Italian Studies* and the author of numerous articles and book chapters, mainly on the lyric tradition, Anglo-Italian studies, and film studies.

She is an honorary member of CUSVE (Centro Universitario di Studi Vittoriani e Edoardiani, Università degli Studi "G. d'Annunzio" Chieti-Pescara).

Flavia Laviosa is Senior Lecturer in the Department of Italian Studies at Wellesley College. Her research interests are in the representations of violence against women in world cinema and media. She is the founding editor of the *Journal of Italian Cinema & Media Studies* and of the book series *Trajectories*, both published by Intellect. She has authored chapters in the edited volumes *Era mio padre* (Sciltian Gastaldi and David Ward eds, 2018), *The Italian Cinema Book* (Peter Bondanella ed., 2014), *Un nuovo cinema politico italiano? Vol. 1* (William Hope, Luciana d'Arcangeli and Silvana Serra eds, 2013), *Popular Italian Cinema: Culture and Politics in a Postwar Society* (Flavia Brizio-Skov ed., 2011); and articles in the *Journal of Mediterranean Studies*, *Studies in European Cinema*, *JOMEC*, *Italica*, among others. She also guest-edited the special issue "Cinematic Journeys of Italian Women Directors" (2011) of *Studies in European Cinema*, and edited the volume *Visions of Struggle in Women's Filmmaking in the Mediterranean* (2010).

Stefania Michelucci is Professor of English Studies at the University of Genoa. She has written extensively on Modernism and on nineteenth and twentieth century British and American writers with particular attention to the relationship between literature and the visual arts. She has been a Visiting Scholar and has lectured in many universities across the world, including Keio University and Kyoto Tachibana University, Japan; New Hall, Cambridge, UK; the University of Zululand, South Africa; the University of California, Berkeley, USA, among others. Her publications include the volumes *Space and Place in the Works of D.H. Lawrence* (2002), *The Poetry of Thom Gunn: A Critical Study* (2009) and – with Ian Duncan and Luisa Villa – *The British Aristocracy in Popular Culture: 2000 Years of Representations* (2020). She is currently working on a multi-genre format book, *Thom Gunn: A Prismatic Portrait*, for Oxford University Press.

Marina Morbiducci is Associate Professor in English Language and Translation at Department of Oriental Studies, Sapienza University, Rome, where she teaches Translation Studies at B.A., M.A. and Master second level courses. Her research in Translation Studies focuses on contemporary American poetry, especially experimental poets. At the beginning of her career she was recipient of a Fulbright scholarship at State University of New York at Binghamton, where she collaborated with the journal of post-modern literature *boundary 2*. Her first academic publication in American experimental writing dates back to 1987, with an anthology on Black Mountain College, a topic which she revisited more recently with articles published on *RSA Journal* (2016). She has served as "Lettore d'italiano" at University of Malta for five years (2000-2005). She got her Ph.D. at Chieti-Pescara University in 2003 with a dissertation on Gertrude Stein's notion of time. She devoted great part of her research to the analysis of Gertrude Stein's compositional procedures and published the first Italian translation of *Tender Buttons* (1989), *Last Operas and Plays* (2010) and *Lifting Belly* (2011). Her monograph titled *Gertrude Stein in T/tempo: Declinazioni temporali nell'opera steiniana* was published in 2019. She wrote on Charles Tomlinson's notion of "border" in an article published in 2021 by *Semicerchio*, and on "Charles Tomlinson and his American Friends", in *Merope* (2023).

Francesca Orestano taught English Literature at the University of Milan. She is the author of books on John Neal, on William Gilpin and the picturesque, on visual culture and nineteenth-century literature. She has edited *Dickens and Italy* (2009); *History and Narration* (2011); *New Bearings in Dickens Criticism* (2012); *Not Just Porridge* (2017), and three books on children's literature. Her recent work focuses on garden studies, John Ruskin, fin-de-siècle taste, chemistry, meteorology; Thomson and Dante; Virginia Woolf; Hogarth and Dickens; Dada in England; Joyce and D'Annunzio; Tomasi di Lampedusa; Etruscans in Modern Art; *Some Keywords in Dickens* (2021), and *The Giardiniera: semi, radici, propaggini, dall'Inghilterra al mondo* (2021). She is an Honorary Member of CUSVE, of Dickens Society and Dickens Fellowship, and a Companion of the Guild of Saint George.

Enrico Reggiani is Full Professor of English Literature at the Faculty of Linguistic Sciences and Foreign Literatures of the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Milan, Italy. His research work has analysed subjects like Irish literature, Catholic Literacy, the Economic Muse, and coeval literary theories with a strongly integrated and interdisciplinary orientation. His publications examine the work of relevant writers such as William Shakespeare, John Henry Newman, Mary Shelley, Harriet Martineau, Gerard Manley Hopkins, George Eliot. He is considered “uno dei massimi esperti italiani” on Yeats, and an international scholar “with a high profile in the [...] field” of musico-literary and cultural-musicological studies. At present, the latter is his major research area with ongoing transdisciplinary work on research topics such as Yeats’s literary soundscapes; Hopkins’s “second Muse”; the compositional reception of Shakespeare; Britten and English literature.

Nicholas Roe is Wardlaw Professor of English Literature at the University of St Andrews in Scotland. He has written widely on Romantic literature and culture, for example in his biography *John Keats: A New Life*, published by Yale University Press in 2012. His paper presentation at this conference is drawn from his forthcoming book *John Keats and the Making of Fame*.

Stefano Serafini is Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature at the University of Padua, Italy. He received a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature and Cultures from Royal Holloway, University of London and held postdoctoral positions at the universities of Toronto and Warwick. He is the co-editor, with Marco Malvestio, of *Italian Gothic: An Edinburgh Companion* (2023). He published extensively on the history of deviance and transgression in modern Britain and Italy at the intersection of literature, medicine, and criminal law.

Anna Enrichetta Soccio is Full Professor in English Literature at the Gabriele d’Annunzio University of Chieti and Pescara, where she teaches courses on nineteenth- and twentieth-century literature. She is the author of book-length studies on George Meredith, Philip Larkin, and Charles Dickens. She has also published extensively on Jane Austen, Mary Shelley, Walter Scott, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Emily Dickinson, Thomas Hardy, Elizabeth Gaskell, Edward Lear, J. H. Riddell, Oscar Wilde, E. M. Forster and Toni Morrison. She is Director of CUSVE (University Centre for Victorian and Edwardian Studies) at the Gabriele d’Annunzio University and is sub-editor of *RSV – Rivista di Studi Vittoriani*.

Enrico Terrinoni holds a Ph.D. in Anglo-Irish Literature and Drama from University College Dublin and a Degree in Modern Languages from the University of Roma Tre. He is “Professore distaccato” at the Italian National Academy “Lincei”, Chair of English Literature at the Università per Stranieri di Perugia, and Professor of Translation at IULM University of Milan. He translated many authors such as Brendan Behan, James Stephens, Oscar Wilde, Michael D. Higgins, James Joyce, Francis Bacon, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Edgar Lee Masters, Muriel Spark, Alasdair Gray, George Orwell and George Bernard Shaw. His translation won him several national and international prizes. He lectured in more than 25 countries. His last book on Joyce’s short but crucial sojourn in Rome (*Su tutti i vivi e i morti: Joyce a Roma*, 2021) won the Francesco De Sanctis Prize and the Viareggio-Rèpaci Prize.

Peter Vassallo is Professor Emeritus of English and Comparative Literature at the University of Malta. He was a Commonwealth Fellow at Oxford University where he obtained the degrees of MA and DPhil. He specialised in Romantic Literature and has published widely in this field and on Anglo-Italian literary relations. He was formerly head of the English Department and Chair of the Institute of Anglo-Italian Studies. He is general editor of the *Journal of Anglo-Italian Studies* which he founded. He is author of *Byron: The Italian Literary Influence* (1984) and editor of *Byron and the Mediterranean* (1986). He also authored the monograph *British Writers and the Experience of Italy (1800-1940)* (2012). He is a Fellow of the English Association and was a former President of the International Association of University Professors of English.

Nigel Wood is Professor of Literature at Loughborough University. He is engaged on preparing an edition of Evelyn Waugh's *Put Out More Flags* as one of the volumes in the Oxford University Press's *Complete Works of Evelyn Waugh*. His most recent publications include a study of Shakespeare and Response Theory for Arden Bloomsbury and articles on the decline of tragedy for the journal *Countertext* (forthcoming) and on *Love's Labour's Lost*, published in 2021 in *Shakespeare Survey*. He is also engaged on a new biography of Alexander Pope for Princeton University Press.

Alison Yarrington Ph.D., FRSE, FSA, FRSA, is Professor Emerita of Art History (Loughborough University) and Honorary Professorial Research Fellow (University of Glasgow). Her research and publications focus upon sculpture's display and collecting histories, the Anglo-Italian marble trade and women sculptors, c.1750-1914.