From the Chair of Italian Studies,  
Professor David Forgacs

Welcome to all our new students, undergraduate and graduate, and welcome back to our returning students.

This is my sixth year at NYU and my first as chair of this department. For me it is an exciting challenge. We are the largest department of Italian studies in North America and the most diverse in the range of specialisms we cover. We teach the literature and culture of Italy from the middle ages through the early modern period to today. We also teach the history and politics of modern Italy, social and cultural theory, Italian art, music, film and television.

Our academic faculty carry out world-class research and disseminate it through their books and articles, but they also reach out to wider audiences, speaking at public events, writing in the press and in blogs, giving interviews, curating exhibitions and producing video.

Above all we have our students, who with their thirst for knowledge about Italian culture and their enthusiasm to learn keep us all involved as teachers and communicators. Our graduate students, who carry out their own research and gain experience as teachers in our department, are the future of our profession.

In order to maintain our leading position we need a good flow of motivated undergraduates taking our courses in Italian language, culture and history and we must continue to attract the very best graduate students. For this purpose, our current students are our best advocates, both within the NYU community and in their interface with a wider world. You can share with others how exciting and stimulating it is to study the Italian language and Italian culture, to use the resources of NYU in New York and to spend time at NYU Florence, with its stunning location at Villa La Pietra, just a short ride from the city’s unparalleled art collections, historic buildings and libraries.

It was wonderful to see such a large turnout at the first meeting in September of the Italian Club at NYU https://www.facebook.com/ItalianClubNYU/. We hope to see many of you also at the lectures and conferences organized by the department (watch this webpage for updated information) and at the public events hosted by the Casa Italiana http://www.casaitaliananyu.org/content/events-0

Spread the word!

Buona permanenza a tutti.

David Forgacs  
Chair, Department of Italian Studies
From the Director of Graduate Studies,  
Professor Jane Tylus

It’s a pleasure to be taking on the role of Director of Graduate Studies this year, following in the footsteps of David Forgacs. And it’s also a pleasure to welcome our three new PhD students to the department (Emily Antenucci, who completed her MA in Florence this past May; Giulia Sbaffi, who has an MSc in International History from the London School of Economics, and Marcella Martin, who recently finished an MA in Fashion at NYU-Steinhardt) as well as our two new Master’s students (Alfo Aguado, who comes to us from Chile, and Linda DosSantos, who recently graduated from NYU). Finally, Maria Gabriella Matarazzo, a graduate student in Art History at the Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa, is with us this fall as an exchange student and teaching Elementary Italian for us in the department. Benvenuti a tutti!

At the other end of the spectrum, this past academic year saw a record number of PhD defenses, and what we believe may be a record number of new jobs for our graduate students. Congratulations to Jennifer Newman, Kim Ziegler, Melissa Swain, Valeria Castelli, Nicola Lucchi, Valerie Hoagland, and Lindsay Eufusia, who successfully defended dissertations between September, 2015 and September, 2016. We are also thrilled that so many students have been launched into new positions, and you will be hearing in this and future newsletters about their roles as lecturers and assistant professors. As of this fall Nicola Lucchi is teaching at Dickinson College, Jonathan Mullins at Ohio State University, Gaoheng Zhang at University of British Columbia, Alessandra Montalbano and Jessica Goethals both at the University of Alabama, Shannon McHugh at U.Massachusetts-Boston, Alberto Zambenedetti at the University of Toronto, and Joe Perna at University of the South. We are incredibly proud of them all: the new generation of *italianist* whose teaching and work will ensure that the legacy of Italian Studies will continue. And congratulations as well to two of our recently-minted Ph.Ds, Valeria Castelli and Kim Ziegler, who received coveted post-doctoral fellowships here at NYU this current year to teach in the CAS Core Curriculum!

As Director of Undergraduate Studies in 2015-16, I was impressed with all the hard work our graduate students put into working with the undergraduates as they wrote and revised their presentations for what turned out to be a very stimulating one-day conference in April. While over a dozen of our graduates played a major role in the conference, let me just single out Rachel Love and Jennifer Newman for their organizing prowess. The day was a great success in no small part because of all that Rachel and Jennifer did behind the scenes, and my thanks to them and to the many graduate students who took part.
We also had a number of students compete successfully for internal fellowships awarded by the Graduate School for 2015-16. They included Shannon McHugh, who received an NYU postdoctoral fellowship, Nicola Lucchi, who won a Mellon Dissertation Fellowship, and Melissa Swain who was awarded a Dean’s Dissertation Fellowship. And as I step down from my 9-year position as the Faculty Director of the NYU Center for the Humanities, I want to call attention to the large number of students from Italian Studies who have competed successfully for one of our dissertation fellowships over the last decade: Beatrice Sica, Franco Baldasso, Jessica Goethals, Nicola Lucchi, and most recently, Valeria Castelli, one of the Center's two doctoral fellows in Public Humanities for 2015-16. We encourage you to reach out to our students and learn more about their exciting and inspiring research – and, of course, to contact me directly for information and news about our MA and PhD programs.

Jane Tylus
Professor of Italian Studies and Comparative Literature

From the Director of Undergraduate Studies,
Professor Ara Merjian

I would like to extend a hearty welcome back to our undergraduates, grads, staff, faculty, alumni, and wider Italian Studies family here at NYU. I hope this finds everyone well rested for a new and exciting academic year.

Having been handed the reins from Professor Tylus – who now takes over as the Department's Director of Graduate Studies – I begin another three-year stint as DUS. For those majors and minors whom I have yet to meet, please come see me on the 4th floor and introduce yourselves. You may also always can sign up for office hours on the sheet on my door, or else email me. Professor Tylus made it a point of meeting all of you, and I hope to keep up this terrific tradition.

Organized by our own PhD students Rachel Love and Jennifer Newman, and involving a host of graduate mentors from the department, this past year’s fourth annual Undergraduate Research Conference witnessed another stimulating group of papers, on topics ranging from the architecture of Rome’s EUR district, to the role of real Italian political figures in Shakespeare’s The Tempest, to the southern question in Lina Wertmüller’s 1992 film, Ciao, Professore! Undergraduates from a wide variety of departments and schools – Creative Writing and Computer Science, Gallatin and Tisch – worked in conjunction with a graduate student mentor to fine tune their respective presentations. Dean Richard Kalb and Wendy
Suzuki, head of College Honors, were both in attendance, and Professor Suzuki was inspired to begin a similar conference in her own department of Neuroscience. At once great academic experience and a good CV-builder, the event is also a good way to meet fellow undergraduates across the university, as well as to work firsthand with graduates on specific intellectual problems. We will once again hold the URC this coming Spring, with a call for papers generally coming at the start of the Spring, deadline for submission in February, and the conference held mid-April. Please stay tuned for announcements and consider submitting a paper.

Students might also consider presenting their work at the wider Undergraduate Research Conference, scheduled for **Friday, May 5, 2017**, with an application deadline of **Friday, March 24, 2017**. For more information, visit: [http://cas.nyu.edu/page/researchconference](http://cas.nyu.edu/page/researchconference). In this vein, for those students pursuing research projects in the humanities, the Fall deadline for DURF (Dean's Undergraduate Research Fund) Grants was **November 4 (past deadline)**. There are two additional rounds of funding in the spring with deadlines of **February 10** and **March 31**. More details at: [http://www.nyu.edu/cas/DURF/](http://www.nyu.edu/cas/DURF/).

Minors and especially majors are strongly encouraged to spend at least one semester at the **Villa La Pietra campus** in Florence. Please keep this in mind and speak with your professor, advisor, or your DUS for any questions and to begin plotting your Global “pathway.”

Those majors and minors interested in adding more original language reading and writing to their coursework should consider embarking on a “**learning contract**” with their professors – a model we have imported from classes at Villa La Pietra, and which helps students to put into greater practice their Italian skills.

**Skyler Jeffries**, last year's co-president of the **Italian Club** writes:

‘In 2014 a few students had a dream to bring Italy lovers together in a fun way. The Italian Club was born, and it's been growing ever since! The 2015-2016 school year was an exciting one. We practiced our Italian, we played Briscola, we celebrated Italian Christmas traditions, we cooked ’til we dropped, and, above all, we grew our Italian community at NYU. We're looking forward to another great year of discovering the secret joys of Italian culture here in New York. Speriamo di vederti! ’

Stay tuned for new Italian Club events. As always, a full slate of events at the **Casa Italiana** are open to undergraduates as well. See [http://www.casaitaliananyu.org/content/events-0](http://www.casaitaliananyu.org/content/events-0) for events and updates.

I look forward to seeing you all at the **Department's Holiday Party on December 14**. Please feel free to bring along friends who may be considering a major or minor in Italian Studies!

Sincerely,

Professor Merjian (and occasional 4th floor denizen, Pluto)
Undergraduate Accomplishments
2015 - 2016

Dan Lieberson is a senior Italian major, minoring in Film and Producing at the Tisch School of the Arts. He hopes to combine his passions for the entertainment industry with his love for the Italian language. To do so, he is currently working as a production assistant on editorial photography shoots for magazines such as Vogue Italia and for the partially Italian-set television show Mozart in the Jungle. This summer Dan assisted the head producer in all aspects of production, by scouting locations, creating and distributing call sheets, communicating with agents, creating financial documents, setting up the studio, managing talent needs, and assisting photographers. In addition to working on editorial shoots for various Conde Nast and Hearst publications, he assisted on several ad campaign shoots such as those for Reebok featuring Gigi Hadid and Pantene featuring Selena Gomez. Dan has also

At the Undergraduate Italian Research Conference last year, he presented an investigation into Shakespeare’s relationship with the Italian language and culture, with particular attention to the Italian-set play The Tempest. Dan studied at NYU’s campus in Florence, where he was awarded the David J. Travis Research Fund Scholarship to sponsor an expository project into how translated works of American literature
worked as an intern on the feature film *The Comedian*, starring Robert De Niro, at the TV network Showtime and for a film producer. At NYU, Dan is an undergraduate humanities fellow and was placed on the Dean's List for 2014 and 2015 academic years.

Keran Li is a senior at CAS majoring in Philosophy and Linguistics with Italian. During his internship at China CITIC Press, he mainly dealt with the works of Nanami Shiono, who is a Japanese author residing in Rome, writing extensively on the history of Italy. He participated in promoting the Chinese editions of her series "Stories of the Romans" and "Stories of the Renaissance," which included writing posts for the blog, editing maps in the books, proofreading, and translating original texts. The editor-in-chief assigned me these projects after learning that I have had some education in Italian Studies at NYU and some experience living there via the NYU Florence program. More specifically, an article on the Pazzi Conspiracy, as well as a Chinese translation accompanied by commentaries on some paragraphs of Machiavelli's famous works, were well-received by colleagues and readers alike. (Of course, they are all in Chinese, and are not considered "published" in the strict sense.)
Lots of new members made an appearance at the Italian Club's Festa di Benvenuto in September. We shared our Italian interests and event ideas in between bites of Neapolitan pizza and Sicilian cannoli. Looking forward to a fun year!

Kelly, our graduate assistant, had the opportunity to intern with the US Embassy to the Holy See in the Spring 2016 semester as part of her internship requirement for the International Education MA program. Following the internship, she remained in Rome to work on a number of editing and translating projects for the Vatican's Pontifical Council for the Laity. Her encounter with Pope Francis was captured at the Council's Plenary Assembly in June.

ITALIAN STUDIES GUEST LECTURERS

**February**

Giovanni Bazoli (TBD)
April
Sean Cocco, Trinity College (April 6)

TBD
Rhiannon Welch (Rutgers University) Panel: Vital Subjects: Race and Biopolitics in Italy 1960-1920

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

*NYU Florence programs - Courses in English and Italian - Varies

Summer 2017 Application launch - December 1st

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New MA & PhD Students

WELCOME!

Alfonso González Aguado (Barcelona, 1987) graduated in Architecture at the Polytechnic University of Catalunya (UPC), where he also received his MArch in History and Theory of
Art and Architecture (2015). He studied Architecture as an exchange student at Università di Roma La Sapienza (2009-2010). He has recently taught History of Architecture in Chile (Universidad de Valparaíso, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile), and is author of the article “Urban design in post-industrial Barcelona: defending the urban vs. the urbanal”, published in De Arquitectura magazine (University of Chile, n. 30, 2016). His dissertation was entitled “Urban mutation, cultural mutation: an approach to the margins imaginary in Pasolini’s filmwork”, exploring the Roman peripheries urban development across Pasolini’s early filmwork. His research interests include cultural approaches to urban and architectural phenomena, postwar Italian film and politics, Gramscian theory and the Southern Question, among others.

Emily Antenucci holds a BA from Vassar College in Italian and Drama and an MA from NYU's department of Italian studies, where she completed a thesis entitled “Subjects of Desire: Narrative and the Construction of Female Subjectivity in Calvino’s Se una notte d’inverno un viaggiatore.” Prior to joining the graduate program at NYU, she was a recipient of the Fulbright English Teaching Fellowship in Catania, Sicily. Her research interests include 20th century literature and literary culture, questions of authorship and gender, feminist thought in Italy, and the narration of the South.

Having received her B.A. in May 2016 from NYU with a major in Psychology and minor in Italian Studies, Linda DosSantos is happy to continue her education in the Italian Department as a candidate for the master's degree. During her time as an undergraduate student, Linda completed a course of Italian study spanning language, culture, history, literature, and politics. She took her studies abroad and spent a summer session at Villa La Pietra and a J-term session in Rome studying art crime: forgery, trafficking, and cultural property law. With a strong interest in international service, Linda spent summer 2015 in Naples, Italy, working for an NGO that creates educational programs for at risk youth. During her time there, she also assisted in English language instruction. With extensive exposure to the field of government relations and work relating to international politics and policies, Linda intends to focus her thesis on Italian politics and government with focus primarily on the Lega Nord.
Marcella Martin is a PhD candidate in the Department of Italian Studies. She holds a BA in Italian Studies from the College of the Holy Cross (Worcester, MA) and a MA in Costume Studies from NYU. Prior to beginning her doctoral studies Martin was Curator of the Textile and Costume Collection at Philadelphia University, where she also taught courses on the history of costume and textiles. Her research interests include the history of costume and textiles in Italy and in Italian literature, and the role of craft in the development of an Italian national identity. Martin has contributed to publications on clothing, Italian fashion, and museums and currently serves as the President of the Mid-Atlantic Region of the Costume Society of America.

Giulia Sbaffi received her BA at the Sapienza University of Rome in Medieval, Modern and Contemporary History and her MSc in International History at the London School of Economics. Her thesis examined the significance and influence upon subsequent generations of the set of values and moral imperatives that parents involved in the protests of '68 transmitted to their children. In graduate school, she deepened her interests in understanding the facets of memory and its cultural as well as social representations by studying the historical framing and reframing of the memory of two mass killings carried out by the Nazis in Italy taking into consideration a sociohistorical approach. Since the first years of University, Giulia has always tried to maintain a dialectic approach between researching on memory and history in academia and collecting voices, telling stories, and analysing current phenomena by volunteering for oral history projects and collaborating as journalist with some Italian websites and newspapers. She is also broadening her interest in digital humanities.
Rachel Love is currently in Florence digging through archival documents and tracking down folk musicians for her second NYU Global Research Initiative Fellowship. In 2016, she published an article (“A Fragmented Transformation: Giovanni Pirelli’s War Writings, 1940-1944,” Modern Italy 21.3) and a book chapter (“Mi sento vuoto perché tutto si è disiolto’: Narrazioni dell’io negli scritti di guerra di Giovanni Pirelli” in Giovanni Pirelli. Intellettuale del Novecento, edited by Mariamargherita Scotti, Mimesis Edizioni), both based on research born out of her M.A. thesis. This September, she traveled to Oxford University to present her paper, “Giovanna Marini Sings of the USA: The Anxiety of American Influence within the Italian Folk Revival,” at the Cultures on the Move: Italy and the USA Conference.

Anna Wainwright's dissertation investigates the relationship between early modern widowhood and political engagement in literary representations of the sixteenth century. Through an examination of canonical texts by authors including Dante, Boccaccio, and Ariosto, as well as works by the women writers Vittoria Colonna, Marguerite de Navarre and Francesca Turina, she considers the interrelatedness of public mourning, societal attitudes to female sexuality, the political influence of female-authored texts, and widowhood as a crucial form of diplomacy between Italy and France. The Friends of FAI Scholarship allowed Ms. Wainwright to conduct crucial research for her dissertation on little-known sixteenth-century texts at archives in Paris, Turin, Florence, and Naples, and to present some of her findings at the Sixteenth Century Society and Conference Annual Meeting in Bruges in August 2016.

Matthew Zundel is pleased to be the Faculty Liaison this year, and as such has worked on welcoming our incoming PhD and MA students along with organizing the department's works-in-progress sessions. So far this semester we have been able to venture with our very own Katherine Travers, typically
in the medievalist camp, into the contemporary masochistic poetry of Patrizia Valduga (1953-present). We have also had the fortune of engaging in a conversation about 16th century "Memory Palaces" with Nicola Cipani and Lina Bolzoni.

This is also Matthew's first semester teaching an Elementary Italian course, an experience that has been a particularly enjoyable challenge. Given the busy nature of this semester his research interests have taken rest in the back of his mind, held together by an exciting course schedule within the nebulous realm of comparative literature consisting of Professor Tylus and Lina Bolzoni's course on Epic and Exile, a course on violence co-taught by Emily Apter and Ben Baer (Princeton), and Avital Ronell's "Disseminar" on theoretical in-roads to pedagogy.

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**Alumni News**

**Franco Baldasso** is Director of the Italian Program and Study Abroad Program in Italy at Bard College, NY, where he is Assistant Professor of Italian. He earned his PhD at New York University in 2014, following an MA at the same institution and a BA at the Università degli Studi di Bologna. He published a book on Holocaust survivor Primo Levi, *Il cerchio di gesso. Primo Levi narratore e testimone* (Bologna, 2007) and co-edited with Simona Wright an issue of *Nemla-Italian Studies* titled “Italy in WWII and the Transition to Democracy: Memory, Fiction, Histories." His articles have appeared in *Modern Language Notes, Romance Notes, Context, Nemla-Italian Studies, Poetische and Scritture Migranti*. His awards include the A.W. Mellon Dissertation Fellowship, NYU Humanities Initiative Honorary Fellowship and the Remarque Institute Doctoral Fellowship. Franco contributes to publicbooks.org and Allegoria. He is member of the scientific committee of the Archivio della Memoria della Grande Guerra of the Centro Studi sulla Grande Guerra “P. Pieri” in Vittorio Veneto (TV). He is currently working on a book manuscript tentatively titled: “Against Redemption: Transition to Post-Fascism and End of Modernism in Italy.”

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**Elena Bellina** earned her PhD from New York University in 2013. Her dissertation, "The Bounded Self: Autobiographical Writing by Italian Prisoners of War in Africa (1936-1946)," investigates the history of
the Italian servicemen who were detained in British camps in East Africa through unpublished memoirs and diaries of WWII Prisoners of War, a part of Italian history that the Italian state preferred not to deal with at the end of the second world conflict in its transition to democracy. She is Assistant Professor of Italian at the University of Rochester.

Bryan Brazeau (Ph.D. 2015) is currently a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Warwick (UK), working on the Aristotle in the Vernacular project, funded by the European Research Commission. His current research focuses on the sixteenth-century reception of Aristotle’s Poetics and early modern ideas concerning the social and moral roles of poetry. He is also preparing a monograph studying the changing role of heroes in early modern Christian Epic produced in Italy that will be the first book-length study on the genre. Bryan has recently won several competitive research grants, such as postdoctoral startup funding from the Fonds de Recherche du Québec, the Newberry Library Transatlantic Fellowship, and research funding from the Warwick Humanities Research Centre. His published articles have appeared in History of European Ideas, California Italian Studies, and MLN: Modern Language Notes and he has a forthcoming essay in the MLA Approaches to Teaching Ariosto and the Italian Romance Epic Tradition (edited by Jo Ann Cavallo). Last year, he served as Curator of Multimedia and Digital Content for the exhibition Aristotele e Venezia (1454-1600), held at the Marciana library in Venice. While at Warwick, he has developed several projects in the digital humanities, carrying out the legacy migration of the Vernacular Aristotle database to a new platform (VARI 2.0), and has also produced two podcast series: one on the Renaissance Italian reception of Aristotle’s works, and one showcasing the research activity of Warwick’s Centre for the Study of the Renaissance. He is currently organizing an international symposium and related graduate workshop on the contexts of early modern Italian literary criticism which will take place in March 2017 at the Newberry Library in Chicago, with Jane Tylus as the keynote speaker (symposium and graduate workshop).
**Valeria G. Castelli** is a 2016-2017 College Core Curriculum Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow at New York University. Valeria received her Ph.D. in Italian Studies from New York University in 2016. Her dissertation is entitled “Rhetoric, Politics, and Ethics in Contemporary Italian Documentary Film.” Valeria also holds a Laurea in Lettere Moderne with a specialization in Philology from the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore di Milano and an M.A. in Italian Studies from the University College of London. Her research interests include documentary film studies, modern and contemporary Italian literature, Italian cinema, media studies, artistic activism and social change. Valeria was a 2015-2016 Public Humanities Fellow at the New York Council for the Humanities and the NYU Center for the Humanities, where she designed and developed a Public Humanities Project in collaboration with the Remember the Triangle Fire Coalition. Valeria is Chief Assistant Editor of the online peer-reviewed journal gender/sexuality/italy.

**Nicola Lucchi** received his PhD in Italian Studies in 2016. He is currently serving as Visiting Assistant Professor of Italian at Dickinson College, in the middle of Pennsylvania, where he enjoys working with new students, colleagues, and exploring the rural landscape. He is currently teaching a course on the cultural relevance of Italian industrial design, an offshoot of his dissertation work on the Fiat Lingotto factory. He has recently published an article on Eugenio Montale’s pictorial oeuvre in The Italianist, and soon to be published is another essay on Bruno Munari’s work in graphic design between the 1930s and the 1960s. Nicola recently joined the journal The Year’s Work in Modern Language Studies as a contributing editor for the Italian Novecento section.

**Shannon McHugh** was a Short Term Fellow at the Newberry Library in the summer of 2016. In December 2015, she co-translated with fellow alumna Danielle Callegari, "Diodota Malvasia: Writings on the Sisters of San Luca and Their Miraculous Madonna". Currently, she's working as Assistant Professor of Italian and French at University of Massachusetts and Boston.
After almost 4 years as a lecturer at Dartmouth, Jonathan Mullins is now a Visiting Assistant Professor at Ohio State University where he teaches courses on 20th century literature, film and cultural studies. This year he is also a visiting post-doctoral fellow at the Beinecke Library at Yale, where he will be using their collections to complete research on his book, “Ephemeral Media, Everyday Dissent: the Radical Left in 1970s Italy.”

Jennifer Newman successfully defended her doctoral dissertation, “Savonarola and Print Culture in Fifteenth-Century Florence,” in September 2015, after earning a master's degree in Library and Information Science from the Palmer School at Long Island University in September 2014. Since finishing her PhD, Jennifer has participated in the 2015 Digital Humanities Venice Fall School, part of the Venice Time where she worked with historian, archivists, and computer scientists to transcribe and annotate digital copies of eighteenth-century archival documents to extract and visualize data. In March of 2016 she shared some of her research at the University of Warwick conference Shaping the Self: Print Culture and the Construction of Collective Identity (1460-1660), with the paper "Beyond Pamphlets: A Reexamination of Savonarolan Incunabula." She continues to teach Italian language courses at New York's 92nd St. YMHA/YWHA and this fall will be a volunteer for the Digital Special Collections project at the American Museum of Natural History.

In Spring 2016, Melissa Swain was the recipient of an Ahmanson Research Fellowship from the UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, where she worked on fifteenth- and sixteenth-century literary manuscripts from the UCLA Special Collections. This coming spring, she will return to the department as an adjunct faculty to teach an undergraduate course on Renaissance court culture.
Gaoheng Zhang joined the University of British Columbia as Assistant Professor of Italian Studies after having worked as Assistant Professor of Italian Cinema at the University of Toronto and as a Provost’s Postdoctoral Scholar in the Humanities (now the USC Society of Fellows) at the University of Southern California. He was educated in the fields of Italian studies and comparative cultural studies at Beijing Foreign Studies University (B.A.) and at New York University (M.A., Ph.D.). His publications, teaching, public talks, and exhibition have focused on Italy’s global networks through travel, migration, and colonialism during the 19th-21st centuries. He specializes in contemporary Chinese immigration to Italy and Italian-Chinese relations as they are conveyed in print and digital media, television and cinema, and fiction and nonfiction writings. Currently he is under contract to revise a book manuscript titled “Italian-Chinese Cultural Encounters: Chinese Migrants and Globalization in Italy, 1992-2012.” He has also begun to research on a new book project, tentatively titled “Mobilities between Italy and China: Colonialism, Exile, Tourism, and Migration.” Another major focus of his scholarship and teaching concerns masculinity, gender, and, increasingly, queer studies within Italian and intercultural contexts. As his published articles and Ph.D. dissertation titled “Travel and Italian Masculinities in Gianni Amelio’s Cinema” show, a critical understanding of male identities and acts helps to unravel the intricate webs of movement and stasis that Italians have formed locally and internationally throughout the 20th century.
Recent Faculty Publications, Conferences, and Honors

Stefano Albertini reviews books and films for i-Italy TV and magazine, and has conducted video interviews with the likes of film director Gianni Amelio and super-star architect Renzo Piano. His video interviews with writers Dacia Maraini and Jhumpa Lahiri are upcoming. He recently published an article on Machiavelli in US pop culture on the Spanish daily El Mundo. Stefano was knighted by the President of the Italian Republic in recognition of his extraordinary contribution to the promotion of Italian culture in the world. He was also the recipient of the Re Manfredi International Cultural Prize. Since 1994, Stefano has directed the Summer Program in Florence for the Faculty of Arts and Science at NYU. He takes great pride in having introduced generations of students to know, understand, and love Italy and its culture in all its forms.

Maria Luisa Ardizzone (Italian Doctoral Degree in Medieval Studies) is a professor of Italian Literature at New York University, NY, where she has served as Director of Graduate Studies for more than 10 years. Ardizzone has studied medieval palaeography, literature, history at the University of Palermo and 19th-20th century literature at the Sorbonne in Paris. Her principal areas of interest are the Middle Ages, poetry, intellectual history, antique-medieval philosophy, science and 20th century poetry.

New Book

*Reading as the Angels Read. Politics and Speculation in Dante’s Convivio*, Toronto University Press, 2016

Articles

2015 “Tra i frammenti e i residui del Velliero sommerso. Antonio Barolini: La dimensione del ‘fondo’ e l’utopia linguistica della ‘parola d’acqua’.”


Lectures


*Ruth Ben-Ghiat* has been writing for CNN on issues surrounding the 2016 Election, including pieces entitled, “Trump controversy could be a good thing”, “Clinton, show us the real you”, “Clinton’s straight talk on Trump and all-right”, “Will mother's voices echo with voters?”, "With Trump's Twitter history, latest no surprise", "Is Trump the the new Silvio Berlusconi?". A complete list of articles and her biography can be viewed [here](#).


In addition, Ruth contributed comments on “New Work in Conceptual History,” a symposium on Enzo Traverso’s *Fire and Blood.* Center for Collaborative History at Princeton University on October 13, 2016.

She was also a co-organizer (with Jenny McPhee) and speaker, "Word, Image, and Sound: Political Communication in the 2016 election," at the symposium, “Political Rhetoric: the 2016 Election and Beyond,” at the Casa Italiana on October 19, 2016. Further, she also presented the keynote lecture, "Italian Journeys" at the "Transnational Italies" conference at the British School of Rome, October 26-28, 2016. Ruth has also continued writing her forthcoming book, *Prisoners of War* (Princeton University Press).

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**Rebecca Falkoff's** "Carlo Emilio Gadda's Professional Alchemy, or, How to Make Bread from Air and Literature from Science," published in early 2016, was awarded the *Romance Studies* Essay Prize for Early Career Researchers. This fall she presented related research on Primo Levi's *Periodic Table* at the New Materialisms and Economies of Excess conference at Emory University. Falkoff spends a lot of time thinking and teaching about "new materialisms," as well as old, broken-down things: last spring she presented papers on Gadda's unruly lists of obsolete objects at the American Association of Italian Studies annual meeting in Baton Rouge and at the Canadian Society for Italian Studies annual meeting in Toronto. These papers drew her research for the book she is currently completing, which traces the roots of the contemporary cultural obsession with hoarding in 19th and 20th-century literature. Surprisingly, detectives and hoarders have a lot in common, as those taking Falkoff's Murder and Modernity course this spring will learn... Last spring she taught a seminar on Elena Ferrante and the powerful emotions her writing elicits; this fall she wrote an article for *The Guardian* on the politics of anonymity and Claudio Gatti's "unveiling" of Ferrante's identity.

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**David Forgacs** recently published two articles, "Italian massacres in occupied Ethiopia" (2016) and "Gramsci undisabled" in two issues of *Modern Italy* (2016). In May 2015, Professor Forgacs presented "The blackening of East Africans in Italian ethnographic discourse" at *Black Portraits II: Imaging the Black Body and Re-Staging Histories* conference at NYU Florence. In November 2015, he gave a keynote lecture "Lo storico, i media e i fatti di Genova del luglio 2001" at *Cinema & storia: tempo, memoria, identità nelle immagini del nuovo millennio* conference at Università Roma Tre. He's currently writing on a short history of violence and communication in modern Italy, directing the research project "Migrant Roma in Italy", for which he has made 3 short interview-based films, available here (password: Napoli), here (password: romroma2015), and here (password: craiova2016).

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**Chiara Marchelli's** recent publications include: a short story entitled, "Mongolfiere", translated into English (by her Translation class students), "Hot Air Balloons" - and French - "Montgolfières" - by Terraferma Edizioni, Collana Collirio, and finally the novel entitled "Le notti blu" which will be published on March 2017 by Giulio Perrone Editore in Rome. She presented in a number of conferences including a conversation with Jhumpa Lahiri, "Le parole per dire casa" at the Casa Italiana; a Round table "Literature and Emotions" at the Italian Cultural Institute of New York; the presentation of the novel, L'amore involontario with journalist Andrea Visconti at Casa Italiana; spoke as a guest at New York Shor Stories, the
radio broadcast of Radio Capital; and finally served as a co-host for the first edition of radio broadcast Radio 1 Plot Machine in July 2014 with journalist Vito Cioce.

Chiara was also short listed and awarded Third Prize at Gran Premio delle Lettrici di Elle with the novel L'amore involontario Edizioni Piemme, published in 2015.

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**Ara H. Merjian** was a visiting scholar in the department of the History of Art this past spring at the University of Melbourne, and will teach as a visiting professor for Milan Politecnico this coming May. He recently published “Manifestations of the Novel: Genealogy and the Sculptural Imperative in F.T. Marinetti’s Mafarka le futuriste,” in Modernism/Modernity, as well as a review of Pasolini’s The Long Road of Sand in Bookforum.com. His essay “Giorgio de Chirico’s ‘Jewish Hour’: Metaphysical Painting and Semitic Primitivism, Ferrara 1915-1918” is forthcoming in the journal Art History, of the Association of Art Historians.

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**Jane Tylus** published two books in 2015: Siena, City of Secrets (Chicago), and with Karen Newman, the co-edited Early Modern Cultures of Translation (Penn). She gave two keynote lectures during academic year 2015-6, at the University of Rochester’s Ferrari Humanities Symposia and the Orange Lecture for the Norwegian Institute in Rome, as well as invited talks at the Istituto Italiano in Chicago, Harvard, Wesleyan, Yale, Southern Connecticut University, the University of Bologna, Notre Dame’s Global Gateway Center in Rome, and NYU. She is on the editorial board for PMLA (Publications of the Modern Language Association) and with Jessica Goethals, she edits the journal I Tatti Studies in the Italian Renaissance.

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