“A way of happening”: Cecilia Mangini’s Poetics
Guest Lecturer Noa Steimatsky
Tuesday, November 28th, 2017, 6:00pm
Casa Italiana Library, 24 West 12th St

*Essere donne will be shown at 6:00pm, followed by a discussion at 6:30pm*

Cecilia Mangini is now widely acknowledged as one of the most accomplished documentarians in Italian film history. Her sharp analysis of the situation of workers, migrants, women; her unique insight into the predicament of the south; her tracing of social and political tensions in late-modern Italy – all animate her work starting from the late 1950s, when she was the only woman in a postwar generation of filmmakers. This presentation will explore Mangini’s stylistic idiom, particularly her cinematic appropriation of poetic and prosodic devices, with special emphasis on Essere donne (“Being Women,” 1965): an intricate film which juxtaposes glossy advertising images, press photos and found footage, with poignant documentation of women’s labor in the wake of the economic miracle.

Noa Steimatsky was the recipient of the Fulbright Award, the Getty Research Grant, the NEH Rome Prize, and is currently an ACLS fellow. She was faculty member at Yale and at the University of Chicago, and has been most recently visiting faculty at UC Berkeley. Her book, Italian Locations, was published by the University of Minnesota Press (2008). Her new book, The Face on Film (2017) was published by Oxford University Press.