

Italian Studies Newsletter

2017 - 2018



We are very pleased to present the first issue of the Italian Studies Newsletter! Every year, we'll inform you about the cultural events organized at Wellesley by the Italian Studies Department, updates on our faculty's teaching and research, as well as on our current students' activities. The Newsletter will also include a section on our study abroad programs and internships and an Alumnae Spotlight.



Faculty Updates

In 2016-2017, **Daniela Bartalesi-Graf** created a new online course, AP® Italian Language and Culture, which opened in August 2017 as a MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) on the edX platform. Registration for this course is free and open to all! Here is the link: <https://www.edx.org/school/wellesleyx>

AP® Italian Language and Culture currently has an enrollment of more than 14,000 students from 163 different countries. The course features authentic media, such as newspaper articles, video interviews with Italian speakers on a variety of cultural subjects, radio programs, relevant realia (advertisements and TV ads), and literary excerpts from some of the major writers of the 20th and 21st centuries.

In conjunction with the free AP® Italian language and culture on edX, we also offered optional Online Live Instruction Classes, coordinated by Daniela and taught by Giusy Di Filippo, who had already taught a non-credit Italian online class offered to incoming students and alumnae in summer 2014, Elena Gnudi and Valentina Giovannini, two of our former Language Assistants from the University of Bologna.

As this experience was successful, the College has decided to support another iteration of AP® Italian language and culture. The new and improved edition of the course, to be opened on edX in late August, will feature new video interviews: with Italian architect Carlo Ratti on sustainable cities, with theatre company Pazzi Lazzi, and with robotic engineer Fausto Panizzolo on “esoscheletri”. So ... stay tuned!

Highlight of publications

Daniela's article “From a Small Liberal Arts College to the World: Our Blended Courses, SPOC and MOOCs in Italian Studies” was published in the peer-reviewed volume “Digital Education” (Springer International Publishing, 2018).

Daniela is also one of the contributors to a volume on blended learning and teaching that will be published by John Hopkins University Press, and she is currently working at the second edition of her text “L'Italia dal fascismo ad oggi: percorsi paralleli nella storia, nella letteratura e nel cinema,” to be published by Guerra Edizioni, Perugia, Italy.



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AP® Italian Language and Culture

Improve your language skills and expand your knowledge of contemporary Italian culture as you prepare for success in the AP® Italian exam!



Flavia Laviosa, originally from Italy, and having studied and worked in Italy, Great Britain and the United States, her academic background is in two distinct fields: foreign language education and film studies. She teaches professional development courses for teachers of foreign languages in the United States and Italy. She is the founder and Principal Editor of the Journal of Italian Cinema and Media Studies published by Intellect in the United Kingdom. She has presented the journal internationally at events including the Venice Film Festival, Cannes Film Festival and the Italian Film Festival in Seoul, South Korea. In 2017, she launched the first international conference for JICMS at the American University in Rome, and a second edition is already planned for 2019.



Journal of Italian Cinema & Media Studies | Volume 6 Number 3

Journal of Italian Cinema & Media Studies

Volume 6 Number 3

Special Issue:
Rome, Open City



intellect

Intellect Journals

ISSN 2047-7368

Sergio Parussa, Chair of the Italian Studies Department, and **Fran Malino**, Chair of Jewish Studies, organized a lecture on Elena Ferrante and Primo Levi to celebrate the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Jewish Studies Program at Wellesley College, as well as the long lasting collaboration between Italian and Jewish Studies at Wellesley.

The presentation, entitled *Translating Elena Ferrante and Primo Levi* by renowned American translator **Ann Goldstein** took place on Thursday, March 15 in Collins Cinema. Ann gave a lecture on her translations of Elena Ferrante's *Neapolitan Novels* and Primo Levi's *Complete Works* - a three-volume publication that she edited and in part also translated. The lecture was followed by a Round Table on translation led by Professor **Larry Rosenwald** and **Claudia Rosenzweig**, translator from Yiddish into Italian.

CELEBRATING the Thirtieth Anniversary of JEWISH STUDIES

LECTURE SERIES

"Elena Ferrante and Primo Levi" by Ann Goldstein

THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 5:30 P.M.
COLLINS CINEMA

Lecture followed by a round table on
translation with Goldstein, Larry Rosenwald,
and Claudia Rosenzweig-Kupfer.



Four months since leaving the Italian Department, where she worked for 8.5 years (for a total of 27 years at Wellesley College), **Janet Floyd Rubenstein** has been earning her certification in ESL teaching, and will soon begin working as a tutor. She also has been enjoying morning yoga classes, golfing with the Womens' Golf Association at the Nehoiden Golf Club, volunteering with the Needham Women's Club and church committees, traveling and spending quality time with family and friends.

Over the last year, **David Ward** has published two books, one as author, *Contemporary Italian Narrative and 1970s Terrorism: Stranger than Fact* (London and New York: Palgrave-Macmillan); the other as co-editor with Sciltian Gastaldi, *Era mio padre: Italian Terrorism of the Anni di Piombo in the Postmemorials of Victims' Relatives*. He was also invited to deliver papers on contemporary Italian literary criticism at the Columbia University Italian Academy for Advanced Studies in America and on Italian conspiracy theory at the Annual Meeting of the Modern Languages Association held in New York. In addition, he gave a lecture on Italian anti fascism at Penn State University.



Beatrice Basile

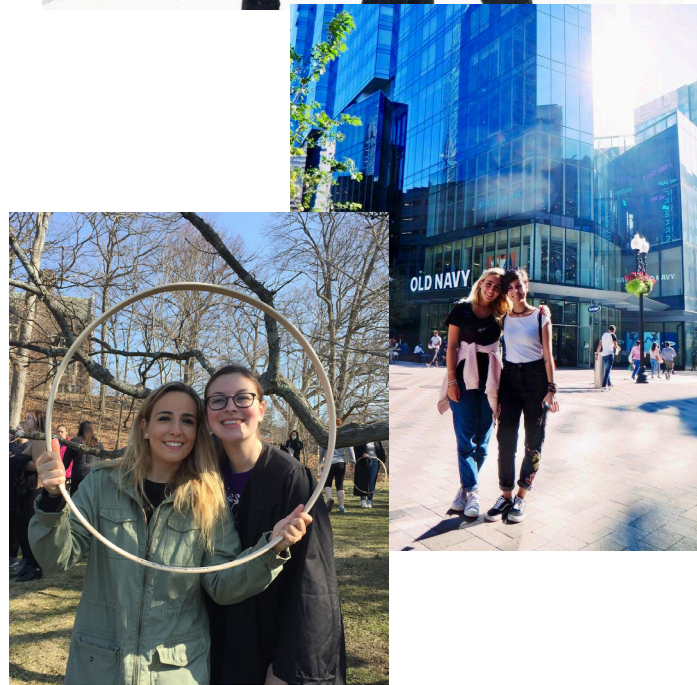
*Our Language Assistant from the University of Bologna, Italy,
shares her thoughts and experiences during
her year at Wellesley College*

When I arrived in the U.S last August, this was not my first time here, but it was my first time on the East Coast and in Boston. I went to California first and then to Seattle for a month-long high school summer school program over three consecutive summers. When I first came to the U.S in 2009, I suddenly realized that I wanted to have an experience here for a longer period, as many aspects of American culture really fascinated me. I was interested in getting more involved in the school system here, even though my experience was only limited to a summer school.

It wasn't hard getting used to life in the U.S. I think American people are very friendly and willing to help foreign students. Getting used to life at Wellesley College was very easy, even though the College life is completely different from the European university system. I can say that I have never felt alone here. At the beginning, it was a bit hard to get used to living in the same place where you study and work without "taking a break" from it. However, since you are always involved in events, activities and lectures, you can really feel the power of the Wellesley community and the importance of being a part of it.

There are many things and people I will miss at Wellesley College. First of all, the campus is beautiful, next to a lake and it feels like living in contact with nature. I will miss all the people I have met here and who have contributed to making my experience really wonderful: the language assistants, as well as all the Wellesley students who became my friends and taught me so much about life and culture. I will miss the Department of Italian Studies, and I will carry the best memories with me. All the Professors in the Department have always been welcoming, kind and considerate to me from the very beginning. Working with them was a memorable experience.

My advice for other Language Assistants is: make friends! Be friends with the other Language Assistants: they will "share" the exact same experience as you and you will be more comfortable if you surround yourself with people you can rely on. But also, be friends with Wellesley students: every person has a different story to share and each of them carries a different experience. You will be able to learn a lot from their perspectives. Get involved in all the activities that seem interesting and fun to you! Walk around the lake every time you can, go off campus and explore Boston as much as you can, and make the most of it!



Alumnae Spotlight

Robin Filan '09

I graduated from Wellesley in 2009 with dual degrees in IR-History and Italian. I chose to study Italian because I had heard about the ECCO in Bologna study abroad program and even as a first year I decided that was where I wanted to go (and be able to eat lots of gelato). When I returned I did an independent study with the Italian and History departments on the history of Italian Fascism, which opened my eyes to new ways of thinking about history and was probably one of the most challenging and interesting things I did at Wellesley. I became really close with the other Italian majors. One of my favorite experiences was decorating the Italian department as seniors, we printed out pictures of famous Italians and had them saying silly things in Italian! After I graduated I convinced my sister to study in Milan instead of Paris, and she ended up falling in love with an Italian guy! I take all the credit for their relationship and was able to give a bi-lingual speech at their wedding so both sides could understand.

I think I'm a good example of someone who is doing a "non traditional" role for a humanities major. My previous positions were doing historical research and nonprofit management, but now I'm the Product and Marketing Analytics Lead at XO Group Inc (The Knot, The Bump). I'm probably one of the only people in the Technology department who has a liberal arts degree, but I think it's been to my benefit. I have the technical knowledge, but I also have the skills from my humanities studies to explain difficult technical concepts to non-technical stakeholders. I try to use my Italian as much as I can, whether talking to a local shopkeeper or helping tourists with directions. Plus, now that my sister has in-laws in Milan, I have an open invitation to visit them and eat gelato whenever I want.



Wellesley College Study Abroad ECCO Program

Lara Prebble '19 - Architecture and Italian Studies Major

Growing up as an Italian-American, I had always wanted to learn how to speak Italian. My great-grandparents immigrated from Southern Italy to Chicago in the 1890s, and after only a few generations, the Italian language and dialects no longer existed within my family. Unfortunately, Italian was not taught as a class in my school district, so my only exposure to the language was through apps on my iPod touch and “Drive Time Italian,” a collection of CDs that was supposed to teach you Italian as you drove. I learned how to say phrases such as “c’è una macchina piccola” (“there is a small car,”) but that was the extent of my Italian knowledge until I arrived at Wellesley.

In my first year at Wellesley, I finally had the opportunity to begin learning Italian. I studied it in both my first and second years of college, and while I learned so much, immersion is essential to really learn a language. I am currently a junior, and this past fall, I studied abroad in Bologna, Italy with the Italian Department’s Eastern Collegium Consortium (ECCO) program.

Before leaving, I had spoken with other students who had lived abroad to learn other languages. People were always telling me things like, “You will learn Italian so quickly” or “After a couple of weeks, it will become so much easier” or “You will know it’s starting to click when you start dreaming in Italian.” I had heard a lot of optimistic stories, but no one had ever really told me how difficult and tiring it can be.

I arrived in Italy enthusiastic to speak Italian, but soon, every day became filled with one little embarrassing thing after another. For example, the first month of our program was spent in a beautiful city called Lecce, Puglia in the “heel of the boot.” I was confident enough to engage in basic conversation, like ordering food at restaurants or asking in stores where a certain item was, but at that point, I was still having a difficult time understanding people’s responses. When I had no idea what the person said, my go-to response was always “sì” (“yes”). Sometimes it worked out, but it was probably not always the wisest response. For example, there was one time in a café when I just wanted a single shot of espresso and ended up with a sundae-like gelato for breakfast. Another time, at a bookstore, I ended up paying an extra 10 euro to donate books to children—at least, I think that’s what the 10 euro was for. Anyways, it was still only the first month, so I just laughed these situations off and did not let them bother me.

I figured that once I arrived in Bologna at the beginning of September, everything would “click.” However, even after I started living with three Italian roommates and hearing Italian 24/7, this was still not the case. For example, during my first week in Bologna I was eating dinner with a group of Italians and confused the words sposare and sposare. One means to move and the other means to marry. There was not much room at the dinner table, and while I had meant to offer to move over, I had accidentally proposed instead.

With every story like this, I felt more and more embarrassed, and I realized that I was starting to avoid speaking Italian, especially to strangers. One time when I was alone in my apartment, the phone rang. I was nervous to answer it, so I quickly hopped in the shower to use that as my excuse for why I couldn’t come to the phone. In my class at the Università that had nearly 70 students, I was the only American. At one point, the professor was speaking about an American metaphor and asked where the “American student” was so that she could verify it. She kept asking over and over again, “Where is my American?” and, as I was terrified of speaking in front of so many people, I sat slouched in my chair. She began walking around trying to find me, but, fortunately, because of my Italian-American heritage, I must have blended right in because she passed me up and “the American” remained a mystery for the rest of the class.

I had wanted to study abroad in Italy so I could improve my Italian, but if I avoided speaking opportunities, I would not improve. This was a revelation for me, and around November, I started making more efforts to step outside of my comfort zone. Instead of staying in my room, I tried to speak to my roommates’ friends and families, and I made sure to always make small talk with baristas or the people who worked in print shops, the grocery stores and tabaccherie (convenience stores). I am especially grateful to have had such wonderful friends like Elena, the former teaching language assistant for the Italian department, and my three roommates, Sefora, Carla and Sarah, who were always supportive, encouraging and willing to speak to me in Italian.

Just as people told me before I went abroad, Italian did start to “click.” I no longer accidentally ordered gelato for breakfast or proposed to others. Instead, I could successfully have conversations over the phone in Italian and was prepared to answer the next time my professor asked, “Where is my American?”



My Italian is still not perfect, so I wish it would “click” even more, but when I think about how much it improved over the course of a semester, I am very satisfied. While it felt like I would be in Italy for a while, five months is really not a long time, so to those of you who told me my Italian was going to improve quickly, you were right as well.

Since returning to Wellesley, a few friends have asked me what I learned the most during my time in Bologna. This question has been hard to answer, but I think one of the most valuable things I learned was to stay motivated even when it is difficult. To anyone studying abroad in the future, learning a new language will definitely test your patience. As a word of advice, if you stay motivated and make sure to laugh about all the embarrassing moments that may come your way rather than let them get to you, eventually your new language will begin to “click.”

Article from The Wellesley News, February 15, 2018



Rebecca Winterich-Knox '19

I chose to study in Bologna to enhance my knowledge of spoken and written Italian, while having an authentic, immersive experience in one of the most culturally important cities in Northern Italy. Studying in Bologna has shaped my Wellesley experience, and I am grateful for the opportunity to have learned about day-to-day life in Italy while living with local Italian students. I would recommend ECCO Bologna to any student passionate about Italian language and culture, and about the prospect of a truly immersive experience in the oldest university city in the world.



Wintersession in Rome

This program has been offered since 2003. It goes through regular changes based on students' feedback and input both in curricular and extra-curricular offerings. Wintersession in Rome is available also to students interested in an Independent Study by enrolling in an ITAS 250 and to students from other academic institutions in the USA and Canada. Students from the WS 2018 have written:

Becca Gilgert (Wellesley College, Class 2020):

I had the pleasure of taking three semesters of Italian with Professoressa Laviosa and then was lucky enough to travel to Rome for ITAS 202W. Had I not travelled to Rome, I would have never experienced Italian culture and language in such an immersive way. I was able to see classical monuments and speak Italian with locals. Professoressa and Rome inspired a love of learning within me and I have chosen to continue my Italian studies at Wellesley.

Caroline Berger (McGill University, Canada):

As a student from an external university (McGill University), I felt welcomed by the students of Wellesley College and Professor Laviosa. At Wellesley College Rome, not only was I immersed in Italian both inside and outside the classroom, but I made lasting friendships with intelligent and articulate women from the program. As a student enrolled in the ITAS 250 Independent Study, I chose to research Italian feminism, and what more ideal an environment than being surrounded by the empowered women of Wellesley College and learning directly from an inspiring woman- Professor Laviosa.

I conducted a large portion of my research in one of Italy's most famous feminist archives, L'Archivia delle donne. I felt academically supported throughout my project by Professor Laviosa, and was able to practice my presentation with my peers at Wellesley College Rome. The project and course was both academically and socially enriching; I've gained a better understanding of the Italian language and a stronger sense of my own female identity through research Italian feminism and from my classmates.

Wintersession in Rome

Professor Flavia Laviosa
Italian Studies 202
January 6-24, 2019

Course description

This intensive three-week course is a full immersion experience in Italy. It consists of a fast-paced grammar review through the reading of literary texts and newspapers, oral discussions on Italian current events, and compositions on cultural topics. The course includes a rich program of guest speakers, such as university professors and artists, as well as movie screenings. In addition, students are encouraged to explore the historical and artistic sites of the city and use the language to interact with the Italian people.



January 2015
Students outside of Dilit International School

Costs

\$4,000

Includes:

- ❖ Round-trip group flight Boston/Rome
- ❖ Bus transfers to/from Leonardo Da Vinci airport
- ❖ Hotel accommodation
- ❖ Partial food allowance
- ❖ Instruction and guest speakers
- ❖ Cultural activities allowance

Accommodation

Hotel Columbia

Via del Viminale, 15

This 3-star hotel offers comfortable double rooms with en-suite bathrooms, refrigerators, HD TV, free Wi-Fi, and complimentary buffet breakfast.
www.hotelcolumbia.com



January 2015
Students outside the Colosseum

Prerequisites & Credits

3 semesters of Italian language or permission of the instructor.

Credit unit: 1.0 (or equivalent)

Dilit International School

Classes take place at Dilit
Via Marghera, 22
www.dilit.it

Traveling

From Rome students can easily travel to other Italian cities in their spare time.



Florence



January 2015
Students outside of Hotel Columbia

What students say about the program

"This wintersession program was truly one of my most memorable experiences since being at Wellesley. It was amazing to travel with such a diverse group of people and learn by living the Italian lifestyle. Every day was filled with unexpected surprises and discoveries on the streets of Rome."

-Holly Shreckengast '15

"In every corner there is a new moment waiting to be experienced. From the food to the people to the class discussions this program has allowed me the opportunity to experience a culture so different than my own."

-Dania Figueroa '17



January 2015
At the top of the Basilica

**For further
information contact:**

Flavia Laviosa
Italian Studies
flaviosa@wellesley.edu



January 2015
Enjoying lunch together at Dilit

Italian Cinema in Historical and Intercultural Contexts

October 27th, 28th, 29th 2017



Wellesley College
Collins Cinema



Artistic Director: Flavia Laviosa, Wellesley College
Coordinator: Antonio Falduto, President of Controluce



Friday, Oct. 27th, 6:00pm
L'uomo che non cambiò la storia/The man who didn't change history (2016)
Enrico Caria
The filmmaker will be present

Saturday, Oct. 28th, 6:30pm
Dopo la guerra/After the war (2017)
Annarita Zambrano
The filmmaker will be present



Sunday, Oct. 29th, 6:30pm
L'ordine delle cose/The order of things (2017)
Andrea Segre

Free and open to the public!

All films with
English subtitles

Sponsors: Controluce, CLCE, Italian Studies, Cinema &
Media Studies, Jewish Studies, History

d:twice

For any questions please contact Flavia Laviosa at flaviosa@wellesley.edu

Cultural Events

On the weekend of 27 October 2017, Wellesley College hosted its first Italian Film Festival, «Italian Cinema in Historical and Intercultural Contexts». The festival featured recent works by directors Enrico Caria, Annarita Zambrano and Andrea Segre, and took place over a period of three days. It saw attendees from Wellesley College, Smith College, Boston College, Brandeis University, Tufts University, several cultural associations in the greater Boston area, Wellesley and its neighbouring towns.

A second edition of an Italian film festival is being organized and it will be held in early November 2019.



Photo. Left to Right: Annarita Zambrano, David Ward, Antonio Falduto, Flavia Laviosa

On Thursday, February 22nd, at Collins Cinema, renowned Italian architect and MIT professor Carlo Ratti gave a lecture on Sustainable Cities. Ratti's lecture was part of a series of events on sustainability organized for the Wellesley Sustainability Year, and was focused on how the increasing deployment of sensors and hand-held electronics in recent years is allowing a new approach to the study of the built environment. The way we describe and understand cities is being radically transformed - alongside the tools we use to design them and impact on their physical structure. The contribution from Prof. Carlo Ratti addressed these issues from a critical point of view through projects by the Senseable City Laboratory, research initiative at the Massachusetts Institutes of Technology and the design office Carlo Ratti Associate.

The Sustainability Committee and
The Department of Italian Studies invite you to

Senseable Cities

Carlo Ratti

Director of MIT Senseable City Lab



Tuesday, February 20, 2018

5:30 pm - 7:00pm

Collins Cinema

The increasing deployment of sensors and hand-held electronics in recent years is allowing a new approach to the study of the built environment. The way we describe and understand cities is being radically transformed - alongside the tools we use to design them and impact on their physical structure. The contribution from Prof. Carlo Ratti will address these issues from a critical point of view through projects by the Senseable City Laboratory, research initiative at the Massachusetts Institutes of Technology and the design office Carlo Ratti Associate.

Sponsored by CLCE, the President's Office, Art, Environmental Studies Departments,
and the Botanic Gardens.



?? ysuzuki
sparussa

d: jwice

Italian Society at Wellesley College

The Italian Society of Wellesley College, in collaboration with Daniela Bartalesi-Graf, Lecturer in the Department, and Beatrice Basile, Language Assistant from Bologna, ran two Italian film series in Fall 2017 and Spring 2018. These initiatives were very successful, attracting about 20 students for each film event. The theme of the fall event was “Family Dynamics of the 21st Century” and we discussed two films: *Il capitale umano* and *La prima cosa bella*, both by director Paolo Virzì. In spring, we chose the theme “Italian Comedy of the 21st Century” and we chose to discuss three films: *Manuale d'amore* by Giovanni Veronesi, *Io, loro e Lara* by Carlo Verdone and *Viva la libertà* by Roberto Andò. We look forward to our next film series in fall 2018 and spring 2019, when we will present three contemporary Italian films per semester.

**The Department of Italian Studies and Italian Society
invite you to...**

ITALIAN FILM SERIES SPRING 2018!

Italian comedies of the 21st Century

Manuale d'amore (2005)

By Director Giovanni Veronesi

Friday, February 9



Io, Loro e Lara (2010)

By Director Carlo Verdone

Friday, March 2

All movies are in Italian with
English subtitles!

Viva la libertà (2013)

By Director Roberto Andò

Friday, April 13

4:45 pm Pizza and refreshments

Italian Department FND 224

5:15 pm Film presentation,
screening and

discussion-Lecture Hall, FND 120



For more information,
please contact
dbartale@wellesley.edu
bbasile@wellesley.edu

For disability accommodations please contact Jim Wice 781.283.2434 disabilityservices@wellesley.edu

exp 05/15/18



Upcoming End of the Year Events

Graduation Breakfast, June 1, 2018
8:30am, Founder Hall 224

Alumnae Weekend Reception
June 8, 2018 - 2:30pm
CLAPP Library Lobby

If you'd like to be featured in our next edition under "Alumnae Spotlight", please send an email to Jael Matos at jmatos@wellesley.edu.

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook at Wellesley College Italian Studies & Cultural Society.

