

# Welleslitalia! 2021 - 2022



It was a very challenging year, mainly due to the persistence of the covid-19 epidemic, but in spite of the obstacles we were able to teach all our courses in person, organize fun social activities with students, and cultural events for the College community via Zoom. It was great to be back teaching in the classroom and working directly with students, faculty, and staff on our beautiful campus! The number of students interested in the Italian language and culture seems to be growing and we look forward to the summer and next academic year with renewed optimism!



# Faculty/Staff Updates

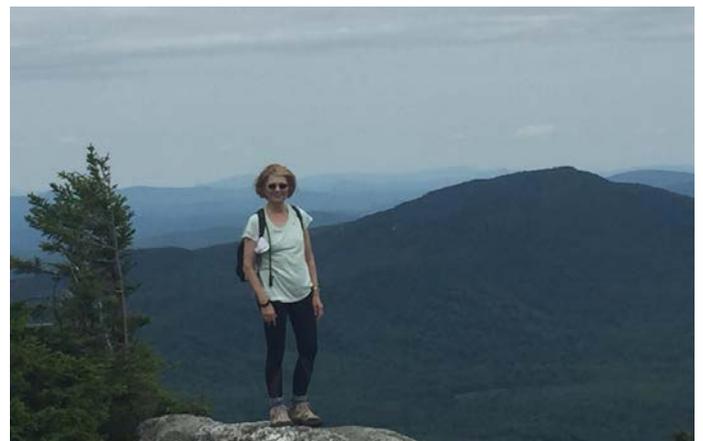
**Daniela Bartalesi-Graf** has enjoyed going back to teaching on our campus after the long pandemic hiatus, and helping the Italian Society organize some in-person cultural events, such as film nights and a workshop with the Italian theater company “Pazzi Lazzi”.

Daniela has also worked at improving our four online courses on edX. The most recent addition has been a set of voice recognition activities. This program employs the latest technology in online teaching and learning to replicate real conversations in Italian and give students feedback on their pronunciation.

Our online courses currently count more than 150,000 learners from 184 different countries, and are also used as the main curriculum for our intensive language track on campus. In January 2022, [Class Central](#), a Tripadvisor for online education, found our online course *Italian Language and Culture: Beginner (2021-2022)* to be one of the [250 most popular courses of all time](#). Together, the top 250 account for over 104 million enrollments, with an average of 416K enrollments. The whole list can be found here on the [Class Central website](#).

Daniela has collaborated with a colleague of the University of British Columbia at writing a chapter on teaching Italian culture that will be published in a book edited by Georgetown University Press. She also continues her collaboration on self-directed learning with colleagues at the University of Lisbon, Portugal, and has worked with them at writing an article on students’ learning experience in an LMOOC (Language Massive Online Open Course).

Daniela and her husband Mike enjoy travelling and hiking during their free time. She is sharing some photos of their recent hikes in British Columbia, Garfagnana (Italy) and New Hampshire.



*Top left: Daniela with her husband and daughter visiting British Columbia, Canada  
Top right: Garfagnana, Italy  
Bottom right and left: New Hampshire*

Last August our language assistant **Anna Cencherle** came to the US for the first time. At the beginning, being part of a country that she had only known through movies, books, and music felt unreal, and everything was so new and different that it made her head spin! But soon she got to know the amazing people of Wellesley College (and of the Italian Department, they are the best!) and slowly the campus became her second home. Her office in particular, considering the amount of time that she spent there, checking homework, studying Latin, drinking tea (she is probably the only Italian that doesn't like coffee), and of course meeting students! She found it so interesting to talk with them and listen to what they had to say: some became her friends, but everyone helped her grow as a person and improve as a teacher-to-be. She also enjoyed organizing events for the Italian society and editing *Ciao, Wellesley!*, the only non-English publication at Wellesley College by students and for students (impressive, isn't it?).

During the weekend though, she left her role as a teacher to become a tourist! She spent some time in New York, Chicago, Toronto and Montreal (where she thought she was going to freeze to death), and Miami (where on the contrary she enjoyed something that during New England winter she had almost forgotten existed: the warm sun!). Sandra, the Spanish language assistant, turned out to be the best travel companion she could have asked for.

Working and living at Wellesley College was a life-changing experience. It is sad to say goodbye, but it is a good sadness because it means it was tremendously special and Anna will never forget the time spent here. She feels so blessed and grateful for all the wonderful people she met: she will keep it all in her heart, and bring it back with her.



This is the third and final year of **Laura Ingallinella's** Andrew W. Mellon postdoctoral fellowship at Wellesley College. As she says *arrivederci*—much more apt than a “goodbye”—to the Wellesley community, her heart is filled with gratitude and happiness for three amazing years.

This year has been an intense one for Dr. Ingallinella, who has presented at over ten conferences in the United States and abroad. Two of her conference presentations had to do with Dante and the *Divine Comedy*. Her paper “The Eloquent Witness: Gender and Hermeneutical Insurrection in the *Divine Comedy*,” presented this March at NeMLA in Baltimore, MD, will soon appear in print in a special issue on female subjectivity in premodern Italian literature curated by Catherine Adoyo and Francesco Ciabattini. A second talk, entitled, “Charting the World with the *Commedia*: Dante in Fazio degli Uberti’s **Dittamondo** and Goro Dati’s *La sfera*,” was presented at the Dante Society of America sponsored panel, “Dante and the World,” at the New College Conference in Medieval and Renaissance Studies in Sarasota, FL. At that same conference, she presented at a roundtable on Goro Dati’s *La sfera* with Laura Morreale, Elena Brizio, and Monica Keane—a team of scholars who are preparing an English translation, with commentary, of this very popular poem about the world from fifteenth-century Italy.



In two of Dr. Ingallinella’s conference presentations, in December and May (at the workshop “Romance, Epic and Hagiography in Medieval Multi-Text Manuscripts,” hosted virtually at the Heinrich-Heine University in Düsseldorf, Germany, and at the International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, MI), Dr. Ingallinella presented portions of her upcoming book on French hagiography, *Legends of Brass: Collecting Saints’ Lives in the French-Speaking Middle Ages* (1250-1500). In September 2021, she also presented at the conference “From Fragments to Whole: Interpreting Medieval Manuscript Fragments” at the University of Bristol (UK); a revised version of her paper, which talks about a woman’s biography authored by a thirteenth-century female writer, Agnes of Harcourt, appeared in the spring issue of the journal *Revue Mabillon*.

Dr. Ingallinella also presented on several of her side and newer projects, such as a juicy case study of Renaissance forgery—a group of male intellectuals from sixteenth-century Italy who invented four women poets, one of whom, they claimed, corresponded with none other than Petrarch. This project received an Oscar Kristeller Short Research Grant by the Renaissance Society of America in Spring 2022.



Dr. Ingallinella joined the Italian Studies department and the Medieval and Renaissance Program in the fall of 2019 to teach Dante and courses on medieval and Renaissance literature. After one semester, the world changed in ways that none of us would have expected. And yet, despite the challenges imposed by the pandemic, Dr. Ingallinella was able to find a vivacious, cherishing, and enthusiastic community at Wellesley. Much has happened in these three years—with three successful iterations of ITAS 263, Dr. Ingallinella’s course on the *Divine Comedy* in English translation, and three new courses in the Med/Ren program. The exciting exchanges—intellectual and human—during these courses, in and out of the classroom, are the memory Dr. Ingallinella will cherish the most about Wellesley. She will be forever thankful for her students’ vivacious curiosity, inquisitive engagement, excitement, and genuine affection.

In fall 2022, Dr. Ingallinella will join the University of Toronto as a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Italian Studies, with a cross-appointment at the Department of Italian Studies and the Renaissance Program of U of T’s Victoria College. She hopes that the friendships and connections she made during her three years at Wellesley will continue, strong and ever-growing, as she moves on to the next step in her journey.

**Flavia Laviosa** has organized the international conference, *Journal of Italian Cinema & Media Studies Third International Conference Italian cinema and media: Past and present, continuity and change, expectations for the future*. The American University of Rome in June 16-18, 2022. [Full program available here](#).



In February 2022, Flavia Laviosa, Founder and Editor in-Chief of the *Journal of Italian Cinema & Media Studies* published the special issue Volume 10 Issue 2 on 100 years of history of Italian and Latin American cinemas. Scholars from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Italy, Mexico, and the United States contributed to this special issue. The cover was designed by Jacqueline Galison '23, English and Italian Studies double major.



In April 2022 the JICMS published the issue Volume 10 Issue 3 on Italian filmmaker Gianfranco Rosi. The issue was guest-edited by John David Rhodes, University of Cambridge and Rhiannon Harris, University of Nottingham.

**Forthcoming: Volume 11:1, 2023**

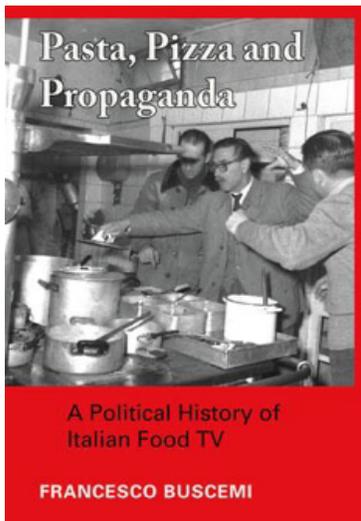
This special issue celebrates the centennial of Tonino Guerra (1920-2020).

Guest-editors:

- Frank Burke, Queen's University
- Amy Hough-Dugdale, Scripps College
- Marita Gubareva, Independent Scholar



In 2022, for the book series Trajectories, founded and directed by Flavia Laviosa, Intellect-Chicago UP published two books:



*Pasta, Pizza and Propaganda. A Political History of Italian Food TV.* By: [Francesco Buscemi](#)

This book aims to develop a political history of Italian ‘good food’ on national television, and the central role of food in Italian culture. The focus is highly original and this is a unique interdisciplinary study at the intersection between food studies, media studies and politics.

The three protagonists of *Pasta, Pizza and Propaganda* are food, television and politics. These are the three main characters that interrelate, collaborate and fight behind the scenes, while in front of the camera the writers, intellectuals and celebrity chefs talk about, prepare or taste the best Italian dishes.

The book retraces the history of Italian food television from a political point of view: the early shows of the pioneers under strict Catholic control in the 1950s and 1960s, the left-wing political twist of the 1970s, the conservative *riflusso* or resurgence of the 1980s, the disputed Berlusconi era and the rise of the celebrity chefs, which, for better or for worse, makes Italy similar to the other western countries.

The history of Italy since the mid-1950s is retold through the lenses of food television. This lively book demonstrates that cooking spaghetti in a TV studio is a political act, and tries to uncover how it is possible that, while watching on TV how to make pizza, we become citizens.

The primary readership will be an academic audience, including those in the disciplines of food studies, media studies, politics and Italian studies as well as potentially for those interested in Italian sociology and anthropology. There may be a potential wider readership because of the popularity of Italian food and food television.



*The Many Meanings of Mina: Popular Music Stardom in Post-war Italy* (2022), by [Rachel Haworth](#)

Mina — or Anna Maria Mazzini — is an Italian popular music icon whose sixty-year career has come to represent a range of diverse meanings. She is one of the best-loved popular music stars in Italy and abroad, with a large fan base across Europe, Asia, and South America. Her career began in the late 1950s and reached its peak in the 1960s and 1970s. Despite having retired from public appearances in the late 1970s, Mina remains iconic to this day. Her star status is exemplary of how stardom is constructed and what it reveals about the society from which it springs. This book explores Mina’s star image and iconic status, tracing the process by which she has come to embody a revelation of the values and ideals of contemporary Italian society.

On April 28, 2022, **Sergio Parussa** gave a Zoom lecture for Bryn Mawr’s Transnational Italian Studies department entitled *The Odd Couple: On the Ancient, Long-Lasting, and Unexpected Kinship between Homosexuals and Jews in the Western Artistic Imagination*, and dedicated to the representation of Jewish and gay characters in the works of famous twentieth-century European artists: Shakespeare’s *Merchant of Venice*, Proust’s *Recherche*, Giorgio Bassani’s *The Garden of the Finzi-Continis*, and Ingmar Bergman’s *Fanny and Alexander*.

In Recognition of  
LGBT+ HISTORY MONTH ITALIA,  
the Department of Transnational Italian Studies  
presents  
**THE ODD COUPLE:**  
On the Ancient, Long-Lasting, and Unexpected Kinship  
between Homosexuals and Jews in the Western  
Artistic Imagination  
A virtual talk by  
**SERGIO PARUSSA**  
Professor of Italian, Wellesley College

Thursday, April 28, 2022  
4:30pm - Via Zoom  
Pre-registration required.

LGBT+ HISTORY MONTH

# Events

On April 11, 2022, the Department of Italian Studies organized a Zoom lecture by Alessandro Giammei, Assistant Professor of Transnational Italian Studies at Bryn Mawr. Alessandro's lecture, entitled *Drama Kings, Closet Queens, and a Few Princelings: Queer Genealogies in Italy's Literary Culture*, was also organized to celebrate the month of April 2022 as the first LGBTQ Italian Month.



## **Drama Kings, Closet Queens, and a Few Princelings: Queer Genealogies in Italy's Literary Culture**

Alessandro Giammei  
Assistant Professor of Transnational Italian Studies  
Bryn Mawr College

**Thursday, April 14th  
5:15 pm**

Email [jmatos@wellesley.edu](mailto:jmatos@wellesley.edu)  
for Registration Link

Part of  
LGBTQ+  
History Month Italia



Questions? [sparus@wellesley.edu](mailto:sparus@wellesley.edu)  
Accessibility and Disability Resources? [accessibility@wellesley.edu](mailto:accessibility@wellesley.edu)

Drama Kings, Closet Queens, and a Few Princelings:  
Queer Genealogies in Italy's Literary Culture

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**LGBT + HISTORY MONTH  
ITALIA APRILE 2022**

Celebrare la storia LGBT+ è importante per scoprire e valorizzare ciò che non ci è mai stato insegnato a scuola.  
Per ricordare come abbiamo combattuto persecuzioni e discriminazioni.  
Per fare un bilancio dei diritti ottenuti e da ottenere.



What are we looking for when we look for "Queer" in "Italia"?

CLUNDI AMA IL PROSSIMO TUO  
MAI CHE ETERO BIANCO  
#NONCONCORDO



What are we looking for when we look for "Queer" in "Italia"?

**A High-Tech Twin for a Renaissance Masterpiece**

A copy of Michelangelo's David printed in 3-D will be the centerpiece of the Italy Pavilion at the next world fair.

The desiring boy: a queer(ing) literary trope

# Italian Society Events

SLATER INTERNATIONAL CENTER &  
THE ITALIAN DEPARTMENT INVITES YOU...

## Slater @ Night

Italian Cooking Series

Learn how to cook and enjoy with Italian  
Language Assistant, Anna!



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9TH | 6:00 - 7:30 PM  
@ THE SLATER HOUSE



The Department of Italian Studies and Italian Society present

# MASKS IN MOTION

Commedia dell'Arte Workshop and Demonstration  
with Pazzi Lazzi Troupe, Boston

Our Masks in Motion workshop and demonstration introduce students to the rich culture of Italy giving the opportunity to explore the ancient tradition of Commedia dell'Arte and its music, a tradition that still lives on today.

April 29th  
3pm - 5pm  
Library Lecture Room  
Room 138

Email [jmatos@wellesley.edu](mailto:jmatos@wellesley.edu) for  
Registration Link to attend Workshop



Questions? [dbartalesi@wellesley.edu](mailto:dbartalesi@wellesley.edu)  
Accessibility and Disability Resources? [accessibility@wellesley.edu](mailto:accessibility@wellesley.edu)



# Alumnae Updates

**Lara Prebble** - Ciao a tutte! Since graduating from Wellesley in 2019, I have returned to school to study landscape architecture at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. While I enjoy my new program, I do of course miss this department with its wonderful community of professors, language assistants, and students.

**Adrianna Tan '19** and I continued the Italian Table tradition through much of the pandemic when we would virtually meet for lunch to speak in Italian. **Melissa Loza '20** moved back to Boston this year and it has been so much fun to meet up to speak in Italian too. It has also been such a pleasure coincidentally running into Professor Parussa at the Lavazza Cafe in Eataly as well as on the commuter rail. As I write this, I am heading to Italy where I will be able to see two of the four wonderful language assistants I was fortunate to have as a student, Elena Gnudi (2016-2017) and Beatrice Basile (2017-2018).



Since graduating, I have also continued to work at Lago del Bosco, an Italian language Immersion camp in northern Minnesota. It has been so lovely to spend parts of my summers in the beautiful northwoods while also staying connected to the Italian language and culture.

While I do really miss being able to take formal Italian classes at Wellesley and living in the Italian Corridor, these past few years have shown me that Italian still and will continue to be a part of my life, even away from Wellesley. I am truly so grateful for all of the people and opportunities that make this possible.

*If you'd like to be featured in our next edition under "Alumnae Updates", please send an email to Jael Matos at [jmatos@wellesley.edu](mailto:jmatos@wellesley.edu).*

*CONGRATULAZIONI!!*  
*2022 Italian Studies*  
*Majors & Minors*



*Tiffany Chu*  
*Economics, Italian Studies*



*Elizabeth O'Brien*  
*Psychology, Italian Studies*



Department of Italian Studies Essay Prize  
Winner has been awarded to  
**Tiffany Chu '22**



**CONGRATULAZIONI!**

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

