

Welleslitalia! 2022 - 2023

Honoring Retiring Faculty

After 34 years of service to Wellesley, **David Ward** will retire at the end of the current academic year. He will look back fondly on many years of achievements and of productive work with his colleagues in the Department. He is proud about how the Italian Studies at Wellesley has developed over the years establishing itself as a center of excellence. He is also proud to have been involved in the new directions the Department has taken, from the establishment of the ECCO program in Bologna; the UniBo/Wellesley short-term faculty exchange; Winter sessions on campus and in Rome; blended learning and online courses. In retirement, his plan is to devote himself to literary translation of contemporary Italian narrative.



Faculty/Staff Updates



Daniela Bartalesi-Graf has worked at expanding our four online courses on edX. Specifically, she has developed a new program called “Virtual Tour to Three Italian Piazzas” (for the beginner course) and “Virtual Tour to Six Italian Cities” (for the intermediate and advanced courses). These virtual tours consist of video interviews with residents of each city, and enrich the cultural content of our online Italian program on edX.

For the AP Italian course on edX, Daniela has developed new units on the Shoah in Italian (interview with Liliana Segre), female soccer (interview with the Captain of the Italian National Team, Sara Gama), and adult literacy programs (documentary on the popular TV program *Non è mai troppo tardi*).

During the spring semester, Daniela was on professional leave devoted to an OER (Open Educational Resource) project which involves publishing online and for free, a textbook at the intermediate/advanced level called *Caleidoscopio*. She continues her collaboration with colleagues of the University of British Columbia, Wesleyan University and University of Federico II of Naples, with whom she has organized a session for the upcoming AATI (American Association Teachers of Italian) conference in Catania.

Daniela and her husband Mike enjoy travelling and hiking during their free time, and shares some photos of their recent hikes near Lake Como and in Tuscany, Italy.

Last August our language assistant **Sara Cuniberto** came to the US for the first time. She will always remember her initial weeks in the States: everything on campus was new and amazing and she got to know many people, some of whom later became fundamental to her life at Wellesley College. She was soon introduced to the other language assistants, who became dear friends and travel companions, and to the wonderful professors of the Italian Studies Department. She spent most of her time in Founders Hall meeting students, working on her thesis, and chatting (oops!). Sara was lucky enough to meet Alice and Camilla, the Senior graders of the Italian Department and to share every aspect of life at Wellesley, from the beautiful events to stressful times of exams with them.

When not working in the department, Sara spent time travelling inside and outside the United States. She visited New York and Toronto, and in Puerto Rico, under the warmest sun she experienced in months, she met up with Jael, the dear academic administrator of the department, and Carmen, the Spanish language assistant.

Working and living at Wellesley College was a life-changing experience for Sara. She is so grateful for every person with whom she had the chance to talk and from whom she learned so much.





Flavia Laviosa was very active this year as an editor and an invited speaker. For a conference at the Istituto Italiano di Cultura di New York she participated in a round table on “Liliana Cavani: *Francesco*” with Professor Gaetana Marrone of Princeton University, and Yale University’s Professor Millicent Marcus. At the 13th International Conference of University of Malta’s Institute of Anglo-Italian Studies (*Britain and Italy: Literary and Cultural Relations from 1300 to the Present*), Flavia delivered a paper titled “Honor Killings in British and Italian Media,” and made a formal presentation of a special double edition of the *Journal of Italian Cinema & Media Studies*.

Flavia explains that the purpose of the latest issue of her journal is “to explore the encounter between Italy and Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe and Russia during and after the Soviet period, as well as the fervid cooperation and fruitful co-productions between the film industries in this vast geographic region...[and] covers the following topics: the reception of neorealist films in Slavic countries and the influence of neorealism in Slavic cinema, the links between Italian political cinema and Slavic media, the presence of popular Italian genres of television shows and series in these geographical areas, transnational stardom in cinema and television, co-productions and their adaptation to the needs of national film and television markets, Soviet-Italian film institutional exchanges and co-productions and Italian film festivals in Russia and Italy.”

Flavia was photographed speaking in Malta, and with Prof. Gloria Lauri-Lucente (Head of the Dept. of Italian and Director of the Institute of Anglo-Italian Studies), and Glen Bonnici, an Asst. Lecturer in Malta’s Dept. of Italian. In NYC she is pictured with interlocutors at the Liliana Cavani round table.



Points of departure

- 20th International Screen Studies Conference: 2-4 July 2010, University of Glasgow
- 61st International Communication Association Conference: 28 May 2011, Professor Masoud Yazdani Chairman of Intellect Publishing, Westin Waterfront Hotel in Boston
- JICMS Volume 1:1, 2023, November 2012

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Throughout this past year **Jael Matos** is grateful to her heavenly father, Jehovah. Her mother, Eugenia was diagnosed with breast cancer in August 2021. Jael's older siblings Mara and Edwin took some time off from their secular work to go to Puerto Rico during their mother's chemotherapy treatments, which started in November of 2021. After just two extensive chemotherapy treatments, she was admitted to the ICU due to complications. Mara was there during that time and was able to give daily updates to the family on Eugenia's condition. In January of 2022, it was Jael's turn to care for her mother. Luckily, she was able to stay in the hospital (after testing negative for COVID) while she recovered. After about 10 days, they were allowed to go home. During the next two months, Jael cared for her mother just like a live-in nurse. It was truly trying time for Jael, but she is thankful to Jehovah, for giving her the strength and energy to be able to care for both her sick mother and elderly disabled father. By the end of Jael's two months stay, it was her brother, Edwin's turn. He was just the right person to oversee Eugenia's physical therapy, as he whipped her into shape and she was walking in no time! Jael is grateful for her siblings' their support during this difficult time, and happy to report that mom has recovered well and completed all her treatments. They are not out of the woods yet, but have faith that she will get to ring the bell at her oncologist's soon!

Back at Wellesley, the 22-23 Academic year was full of events, as in pre-pandemic days. Both the Department of Spanish & Portuguese and Italian Studies hosted many cultural events from lectures to Film Festivals. (See our events page section for more details and pictures). There was also a well-attended reception to mark Jael's 20th anniversary at the College.

Folks gathered for a celebration in her honor and to thank Jael for all she does to keep everything on track in the Department she supports and throughout the College.

For the past few years, Jael has become the unofficial curator of the Humanities Link, since before the renovation it used to be offices for the members of the Spanish Department. So, it was important to her to fill the space with all forms of art to be enjoyed by the College community. Last year, Jael has had the privilege to work with Eve Zimmerman the Director of The Suzy Newhouse Center for the Humanities, and Kathya Landeros, Professor in the Art Department, to display the latter's photography in the



Newhouse Center and the Humanities Link. Kathya is a Mexican-American photographer who focuses on LatinX communities and their exploration of history, migration, representation and belonging.

In April of 2023, in collaboration with Mared Alicea-Westort, the Advisor to LatinX students, the full support of The Suzy Newhouse Center for the Humanities, she invited [Fabiola Méndez](#) to perform during LatinX Month. Fabiola is a Puerto Rican cuatro player, singer, educator, composer and cross-over artist who combines folkloric, jazz & Latin rhythms in her original compositions. The first student to graduate from Berklee College of Music with the Cuatro as principal instrument (2018), Fabiola takes her listeners on a journey through her identities and culture, while celebrating the Cuatro puertorriqueño.

For Jael this year has been busy with all sort of fun and exciting developments, including connecting with someone special. Jason was totally unexpected and she was not looking for love. She is also so thankful that her mother is in recovery and just getting back to normalcy. Perhaps this is the happiest Jael has ever been.

BASSANI E TORINO
Convegno internazionale

30 MAGGIO Università di Torino
Palazzo Nuovo - Auditorium Quazza
Presidente Valter Boggione
15.00 Soliti inaugurali di Paola Bassani e di Dario Disegni
15.30 Luca Beltrami: Giorgio Bassani e Carlo Levi
16.00 Alberto Cavaglion: Paesaggi urbani. La Torino di Primo Levi e la Ferrara di Giorgio Bassani
16.30 Alberto Bertoni: Bassani e Pavese poeti a cavallo della guerra: due rivoluzioni tematiche e formali
17.00 Massimo Raffaeli: L'antifascismo di Bassani
17.30 Luca Bufano: Bassani e Fenoglio: contatti e affinità
18.00 Dibattito

31 MAGGIO Università di Torino
Palazzo Nuovo - Aula 6
Presidente Sergio Parussa
9.00 Nancy Harrowitz: A Question of Identity: Cesare Lombroso and Giorgio Bassani
9.30 Beatrice Manetti: Giorgio Bassani e Natalia Ginzburg: scritture e letture incrociate
10.00 Massimiliano Tortora: Bassani e l'Einaudi
10.30 Cristiano Spila: Bassani editor negli anni '50: il rapporto con Calvino
11.00 Brigitta Loconte: Nel segno de La provinciale: maquettes di scrittura nel cinema di Giorgio Bassani e Mario Soldati
11.30 Dibattito
12.00 Paola Italia e Sergio Parussa: Presentazione del volume di Angela Siciliano, *Catalogo della Biblioteca di Giorgio Bassani* (Giorgio Pozzi Editore) e del libro di Ermanno Tedeschi, *Una racchetta da tennis. Ricordi familiari della Ferrara ebraica* (Zamorani Editore)

Per seguire il convegno online cliccate qui o scannerizzate il seguente QRcode

Studi **un** **B** **COMUNITA' EBRAICA DI TORINO** Comitato scientifico: Valter Boggione - Sergio Parussa
Comitato organizzativo: Gaia Litrico - Giulia Sanguin

During the spring semester 2023, **Sergio Parussa** organized the following lectures:

The Jewish Ghetto of Venice: A Zoom Conversation with Shaul Bassi, a lecture by Shaul Bassi, Professor of English and Postcolonial Literature, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy, Tuesday, February 24th, 2023.

Italian Cinema and Holocaust Memory, an in-person lecture by Millicent Marcus, Professor of Italian, Yale University, Monday, April 10th, 2023.

The Pope at War: A Conversation with David Kertzer, an in-person book presentation and conversation by David Kertzer, Professor of History, Brown University, Tuesday, March 14th, 2023, organized in collaboration with Josh Lambert, Director of the Jewish Studies Program.

On February 6, 2023, Sergio was invited by the The Carolyn and Leonard Miller Center for Holocaust Studies and the Department of Romance Languages and Cultures at the University of Vermont to give a lecture Giorgio Bassani and the Shoah.

On May 30th and 31st, Sergio Parussa, in collaboration with Valter Boggione, Professor of Italian at the University of Turin, organized and participated in Bassani e Torino - a two-day international symposium on Giorgio Bassani and the intellectuals of Turin.

The Jewish Ghetto of Venice
Conversation with Shaul Bassi
Professor of English and Postcolonial Literature
Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy

Open Class
ITAS 209/JWST 211
February 24th ~ 9:55- 11:10am
Click Here to Join Via Zoom

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Questions? sparussa@wellesley.edu
Accessibility and Disability Resources: accessibility@wellesley.edu

Events



*The Department of Italian Studies and
East Asian Languages and Cultures Department Present,*

Looking East: A Conversation with Dacia Maraini

**Tuesday, November 1st
5:00pm
Pendleton East 239**




Questions? sparusaa@wellesley.edu
Accessibility and Disability Resources?
accessibility@wellesley.edu



*The Italian Studies Department and
the Jewish Studies Program invite you to*

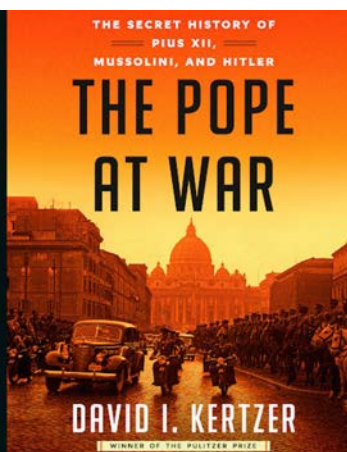
A Conversation with David Kertzer

**Tuesday, April 4th
5pm - Science Center, H105**

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Special thanks to the Elizabeth O'Brien Fund



Italian Cinema and Holocaust Memory

Millicent Marcus, Professor of Italian, Yale University



Monday, April 10th ~ 5pm
Founders Hall
Rm 120



Questions? sparussa@wellesley.edu
Sponsored by Department of Italian Studies and CLCE

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CINECITTÀ

The Department of Italian Studies at Wellesley College
in collaboration with the Department of Romance Studies at Boston University
presents

History, Society and Art in Contemporary Italian Cinema

November 5-6, 2022

Wellesley College

Collins Cinema (across from the Davis Museum)

Guests

Antonio Falduto, film critic

Stefano Mordini, filmmaker and producer

Luca Infascelli, screenwriter



Saturday, Nov. 5th
The Shadow of the Day (2022)
dir. Giuseppe Piccioni
2h 5m (English subtitles)
Opening remarks 5:00pm
Screening 5:30pm
Q&A to follow film

Sunday, Nov. 6th
Ennio (2022)
dir. Giuseppe Tornatore
2hr 36m (English subtitles)
Opening remarks 5:00pm
Screening 5:30pm
Q&A to follow film



Free and open to the public!
Masks required

Sponsors: Cinecittà, Italian Ministry of Culture, Committee on Lectures and Cultural Events, The Szabo Research Center for the Humanities, Italian Studies, French and Francophone Studies, Cinema and Media Studies, Jewish Studies, German Department, Journal of Italian Cinema & Media Studies.

Accessibility and Disability Services
accessibility@wellesley.edu



For questions contact Flavia Laviosa at flaviosa@wellesley.edu

Italian Studies Department
2023 Film Festival



We Want Roses Too (2007)
Q&A with director Alina Marazzi in attendance

Thursday, March 16
5:30pm ~ Founders Hall 120
Free and Open to the Public

Sponsored by: Committee on Lectures and Cultural Events, French and Francophone Studies, Cinema and Media Studies, Jewish Studies Program, German Department, Journal of Italian Cinema & Media Studies

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Question: flaviano@wellesley.edu
Disability and Accessibility Resources: accessibility@wellesley.edu



Italian Studies
End of Semester Cheese Party

Wednesday, May 3rd @ 5pm
Founders Terrace

Rain location: Newhouse Center for the Humanities GRH 240




Italian Majors/Minors Dinner



Italian Society Events

Italian Merenda Sunday 16th, 3.00 pm

Lake House basement kitchen

Cake & Tea Afternoon
Come bake
and eat with us!



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Italian Aperitivo

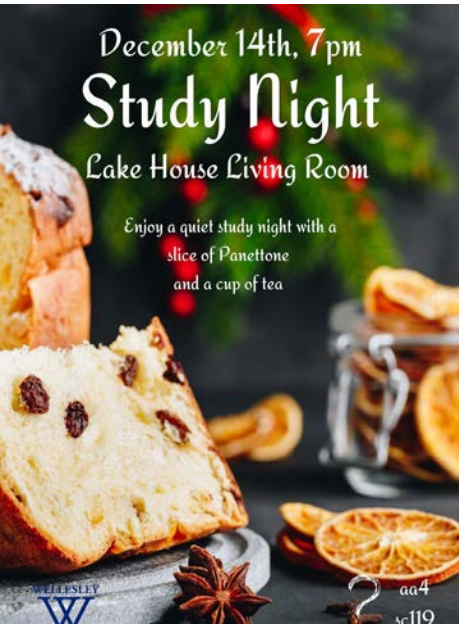
November 18th, 4.30pm

Italian Department
(Founders 224)

Soft drinks and snacks
will be provided!



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David's Retirement Party



Alumnae Updates

Jacqueline Galison '23. I have had the privilege of working as an Editorial Assistant for the Journal of Italian Cinema & Media Studies from fall 2020 to spring 2023. As an English and Italian Studies double major, I am grateful for the opportunity I have had to enrich my knowledge of both languages while helping non-native English speakers improve the cohesiveness of their submissions. Through my extensive experience with JICMS, I have gained an inside look into the world of academic publishing and prepared myself for a career in the publishing industry. While editing articles, I have also developed and strengthened various soft skills, such as effective communication with authors, the ability to manage multiple editorial projects at once, and time management. Editing has not been my only responsibility under Professor Flavia Laviosa, however; I have also worked with numerous digital platforms to complete various tasks, such as creating posters for guest lectures and international conferences, designing covers for JICMS, and creating a website for the journal. Professor Laviosa is a kind, supportive, and understanding Editor-in-Chief, and I truly feel as though my contributions to the journal and its operation are valued. I am confident that my experiences with JICMS have allowed me to gain a competitive edge in our challenging job market and set high expectations for my next professional opportunity.



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.

Department of Italian Studies Essay Prize
Winner has been awarded to
Jacqueline Gallison '23



CONGRATULAZIONI!

*Don't forget to follow us on:
Facebook: Wellesley College Italian Studies & Cultural Society
Instagram: wellesleyitalian*

