

**The Department of Modern Languages and Literatures,
Italian Studies,
University of Winnipeg**
Proudly hosts

**THE 17TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF ITALIAN CANADIAN WRITERS**



Image by: Rachel Berg (Photos provided by R. Moretti-Lawrie)

**Roots, Routes and
Recognition:
Italian Canadians in Literature
& the Arts**

Winnipeg, September 27-29, 2018

The Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, Italian Studies,
University of Winnipeg

Proudly hosts

**Roots, Routes and Recognition: Italian Canadians in Literature
and the Arts**

**17th Biennial Conference of the Association of Italian Canadian Writers
Winnipeg, September 27-29, 2018**

Unless otherwise indicated, the conference will take place at:

University of Winnipeg

515 Portage Ave

Manitoba Hall Boardroom, 2M70 &

Eckhardt Gramatté Hall, 3rd Floor, Centennial Hall

R3B 2E9

**Keynote Speaker: Carmine Starnino (Deputy Editor of the Walrus Magazine,
Toronto)**

Thursday, September 27th - MAN 2M70, University of Winnipeg

9:00 am **Registration**

9:30 – 9:50 **Welcome**

Rosaria Moretti-Lawrie, Acknowledgment: Treaty One Territory

Dr. Catherine Taylor, Acting Dean of Arts, University of Winnipeg,

Stanislao Carbone, Vice Consul of Italy in Winnipeg

Dr. Sante A. Viselli, Chair of Modern Languages and Literatures, University of Winnipeg

Dr. Licia Canton, Past-President, Association of Italian Canadian Writers

10:00 – 12:00 SESSION 1: Moderated by Carmelo Militano

10:00- 10:45 Panel:

The Making of an Anthology: People, Places & Passages

Domenic Cusmano, Delia De Santis interviewed by Carmelo Militano

10:45 - 11:00 Break

11:00 – 12:00 Readings

George Amabile, Winnipeg, Poetry

Delia De Santis, Sarnia, from *Why is it Dark?*

Domenic Cusmano, Montreal, from *Wisidatu*

Dennis Maione, Winnipeg, from *Pietro: A Journey out of Italy*

LUNCH 12:00 - 2:00 at Sorrento's (529 Ellice Ave, Winnipeg, MB R3B 2S4)
Hosted by the Chair of Modern Languages and Literatures (Conference Members)
Readings by Licia Canton

2:00 – 5:00 SESSION 2: Moderated by Carmelo Militano

2:00 – 2:30 Readings/ Discussion

Drowning Lessons/Sussurri dall'acqua: A Bilingual Poetry Reading
Alessandra Bordini & Maureen Scott Harris

2:30- 3:15 Readings

Liana Cusmano, Montreal, spoken word poetry and trailer for short movie
Violet Mayhew, Winnipeg, from *The Darkest Place* (Horror)
Cella Lao, Winnipeg, 'Ruth' and 'Heather' from *Damsel* (Horror)

3:15-3:35 Paper

Frescoist, Guido Nincheri
Melanie Grondin, Montreal

3:35 – 3:50 Break

3:50– 4:10 Paper

Biography of baritone Gino Quilico
Connie Guzzo-McParland, Montreal

4:10 – 5:00 Readings

Carmelo Militano, Winnipeg, Poetry
Carmine Coppola, Winnipeg, Poetry
Sante A. Viselli, Winnipeg, *Aux lisières de... rêvant au retour, à son ailleurs éthéré*

5:00 -5:20 Paper

Dal XVI secolo in poi: Contributo italiano alla formazione e allo sviluppo del Brasile
Aldo Colangelo, Toronto

5:20- 5:25 End of Day remarks

AICW AGM 5:25-6:00 (TBC)

Reading at McNally Robinson Booksellers, 7:30 pm. (Licia Canton)
4000-1120 Grant Ave, Winnipeg, MB R3M 2A6

Friday, September 28th

Eckhardt Gramatté Hall, 3rd Floor, Centennial Hall, University of Winnipeg

8:30 – 9:30 Registration & Coffee and Cookies Reception
Donated by DeLuca's Fine Foods

9:30 - 12:45 Session 3: Moderated by Carmelo Militano

9:30 – 10:15 Readings

Darlene Madott, Toronto, from *Toilet Bowl Blues*
Keith Henderson, Montreal, from *Acqua Sacra*
David Bellusci, Vancouver, *Daffodils and bumble bees (poem)*

10:15 – 10:45 Book Discussion: Bicycle Thieves

Written by **Mary di Michele**, Montreal
Interviewed by Carmelo Militano

Break 10:45- 11:00

11:00 – 11:20 Paper

All Roads Lead to Roots: On Italian Diaspora and the return to places of origins
Connie Guzzo McParland, Montreal

11:20 – 11:40 Presentation: Italian Canadian Archival Project

Caterina Bueti- Sotiriadis, Winnipeg

11:40 – 12:00 Presentation: Oral History and Writing

Kimberley Moore, Oral History Centre Coordinator, Winnipeg

Lunch Break 12:00 – 1:00 – The University of Winnipeg is the home of Diversity Food Services (*Pangea's Kitchen, Tony's, The Malecón*) <https://www.diversityfoodservices.com/>

1:00 – 5:00 Session 4: Moderated by Rosaria Moretti-Lawrie

1:00 – 1:20 Paper

Photography and Immigration: An Illustrated Lecture
Vincenzo Pietropaolo, Toronto

1:20 – 1:40 Paper

Paul Lawrie, Winnipeg
Commentary on Lewis Hines' work and immigration

1:40 – 2:00 Paper

Italian-Canadian Writers and the Hyphen
Joseph Pivato, Athabasca University, AB

2:00 – 2:15 Break

2:15 – 2:55 KEY NOTE SPEAKER ADDRESS

Carmine Starnino, Toronto, Deputy Editor of the *Walrus* Magazine

3:00 - 4:00 Readings

Caterina Edwards, Edmonton, from *The Sicilian's Wife*

Frank Spezzano, Toronto, from *Cousins: Transmitting Cultural Memories*

Pietro Vitelli, Cori, Italy, from *Stanley Park and The Sumach*

Pierangelo Piccolo, Venice, Italy, from *Il Grande Castello*

4:00 - 4:20 Short Film Screening

Liana Cusmano (will show trailer at spoken word presentation)

4:20 – 4:30 Closing Remarks

Dr. Annette Trimbee, University of Winnipeg President and Vice-Chancellor

7:00 – 10:00 Dinner - The Fort Garry Hotel

Reception: 7:00pm – 7:30pm

Dinner: 7:30 pm

Readings by: Darlene Madott and Caterina Edwards.

Performances by: Mariella Cianflone and Cella Lao Rousseau

Saturday, September 29th - Centro Caboto Centre - Library & Café 13
1055 Wilkes Ave, Winnipeg, MB R3P 2L7

9:00 - 1:00 SESSION 5: Moderated by Rosaria Moretti-Lawrie
Café 13 will be open

9:00 - 9:30 Registration

9:30 - 9:40 Opening remarks

Welcome by Mario Audino, President of the Italian Canadian Foundation of Manitoba

Poetry reading: *Passatu e Presente*, written by the late poet Matteo Moraca

9:40 - 10:00 Paper

*Racines, routes, labyrinthe et lumière: la poésie d'Alexandre L. Amprimoz
et les rêves de caravelles*

Sante A. Viselli, Winnipeg

10:00 - 10:45 - Readings

Darlene Madott, Toronto, from *Dying Times*

Francesca Schembri, Stouffville, from *The Corner House*

Silvia Falsaperla, Toronto, from *The Pilgrim, Fellini's Woman, & Leonardo Kaneshige*

10:45 - 11:05 Paper

Missing Voices: 1st Generation Immigrant Italian Women in Canada

Giuliana Colalillo, Toronto

11:05 – 11:20 Break

11:20 - 11:55 Readings

Rosanna Micelotta Battigelli, from *La Brigantessa*
Caterina Edwards, from *The Bone Collector's Daughter*
Marco Lo Verso, from *Mother Tongue in People, Places & Passages*

11:55 - 12:30 Honouring and remembering Venera Fazio

Licia Canton, Delia De Santis, Silvia Falsaperla & Joe Pivato

12:30 -12:40 Closing remarks, Sante A. Viselli and Licia Canton (TBC),

12:45 Post conference luncheon in Café 13, lunch and bocce.

(Generously funded by the Italian Canadian Foundation of Manitoba)

Conference Organizing Committee Members:

Dr. Sante A. Viselli, Chair, Modern Languages and Literatures Dept., University of Winnipeg
Rosaria Moretti-Lawrie, Italian Studies, University of Winnipeg
Carmelo Militano, Writer and Poet and Broadcaster
Dr. Christopher Bidinosti, Associate Professor, Physics

Special Thanks to:

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Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, University of Winnipeg
Department of English, University of Winnipeg
Department of History, University of Winnipeg
Department of Religion and Culture, University of Winnipeg
Mario Audino
Rachel Berg
Licia Canton
Naniece Ibrahim
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Photos provided by R. Moretti-Lawrie

Biographies

George Amabile is a Canadian poet who lives in Winnipeg, Manitoba. His poetry, fiction and non-fiction have been published in Canada, the USA, Europe, South America, Australia and New Zealand in over a hundred anthologies, magazines, journals and periodicals.

Piccolo Pier Angelo was born in Venice, Italy. He is a graduate from the Ca`Foscari University with a degree in Literature and Modern History. He published three books, 30 short stories and received several literary awards. He teaches Venetian History, Italian Culture and politics. He is also involved in political life, councilman, writer articles about politics. Piccolo lived and worked in many countries including Italy, South America, Africa, Canada.

David Belluci was born in Vancouver, British Columbia. He completed his B.A. in English Literature at the University of Toronto, M.F.A. in Creative Writing at the University of Nebraska, and Ph.D. in Philosophy at the Dominican College in Ottawa. His poetry has been published as a collection in *Ontology of Blue*. David is assistant professor of Philosophy at Catholic Pacific College.

Dr. Christopher Bidinosti is an Associate Professor of Physics at the University of Winnipeg. His research encompasses both pure and applied science, with projects ranging from subatomic physics to medical imaging. Within the Winnipeg Italian community, he is a Board Member of both the Dante Alighieri Cultural Society and the Fogolar Association. He also plays in the local bocce leagues.

Alessandra Bordini works as a research associate with the Publishing Program at Simon Fraser University. An experienced editor and poetry translator, Alessandra holds an MPub (Master of Publishing) from SFU and an MA in Translation Studies from the University of Siena. She also serves as a liaison between Canada and Italy for the cultural association CanaDiana Club.

Toronto poet and essayist **Maureen Scott Harris** has published three collections of poetry: *A Possible Landscape* (Brick Books, 1993), *Drowning Lessons* (Pedlar Press, 2004), awarded the 2005 Trillium Book Award for Poetry, and *Slow Curve Out* (Pedlar Press, 2012), shortlisted for the League of Canadian Poets' Pat Lowther Award.

Giuliana Colalillo, Ph.D

As a professor at Sheridan College, Giuliana taught courses in Psychology, Research Methods, and Diversity and instructed faculty about integrating technology in both classroom teaching and the design of student-centered online courses.

Her post-graduate research was about Italian immigrant families. She has published essays in two books about Italians in Toronto (*Not Paved with Gold, College Street*) as well as the Italian-Canadian presence on the Internet (*Italian Canadiana*).

An English writer in Montreal, **Licia Canton** has also published stories, poems and essays in French, Italian and Venetian dialect. She is a literary translator and a self-translator. She is the author of the short story collection *Almond Wine and Fertility* (2008), published in Italy as *Vino alla mandorla e fertilità* (2015). Dr. Canton is founding editor-in-chief of *Accenti Magazine*. She has published nine books as editor, including *Conspicuous Accents* (2014) and two companion volumes on the internment of Italian Canadians (2012). She has

mentored emerging writers and editors. She holds a Ph.D. from Université de Montréal and an M.A. from McGill University

Aldo Colangelo was born in 1927, in Naples, Italy. In 1979 he received a M.Ed. (O.I.S.E.) from the University of Toronto. He was the former P.R. Supervisor for the Toronto Catholic District School Board from 1971-1989. From 1981-1998, he hosted several radio and television program and was a writer for ethnic media. He was an active volunteer at the following organizations: The United Way; Catholic Charities; The Ontario Council for Disabled; Grupo Brasil; EOH-Meta Centre (Board Director for 10 years) and St Philip Neri Church.

Domenic Cusmano is a communication professional, educator and journalist. He is the co-founder and publisher of *Accenti* (www.accenti.ca), an English-language ethno-cultural magazine, and of Longbridge Books (www.longbridgebooks.com), dedicated to the publication and promotion of works of fiction and nonfiction that celebrate cultural diversity. He is currently working on a collection of short stories.

Writer, filmmaker and spoken word artist, **Liana Cusmano** is the 2018 Montreal Slam Champion, representing her city at the Canadian Festival of Spoken Word in Guelph (November 2018). Her poems and short stories have been published in magazines and anthologies, including *The Radiance of the Short Story* (Universidade de Lisboa, 2018) and *Influence and Confluence, East and West: A Global Anthology on the Short Story* (East China Normal University Press, 2016). Liana has performed her work in English, French and Italian. She is also the writer of the short films *La Femme Finale*, screened at the 2015 Cannes Film Festival, and *Matters of Great Unimportance*, which she directed. She graduated from McGill University in 2017.

Delia De Santis is the author of the collection *Fast Forward and Other Stories*. Many of her short stories have been published in literary magazines. She's the co-editor of the anthologies *Sweet Lemons*, *Writing Beyond History*, *Strange Peregrinations*, *Sweet Lemons 2*, *Italian Canadians at Table*, and *Exploring Voice*, an anthology of works by 26 Italian Canadian female writers. De Santis is a lifetime member of the AICW.

Poet and novelist **Mary di Michele** is the author of over 12 books, including selected poems, *Stranger in You*, and the novel, *Tenor of Love*. Her awards include the C.B.C. literary competition, the Confederation Poet's prize, and the Malahat Review's long poem competition. *Luminous Emergencies* was short-listed for the Trillium; *Debriefing the Rose* and *The Flower of Youth* for the A.M. Klein. She is part of the writing group *Yoko's Dogs* with Jane Munro, Susan Gillis, and Jan Conn. Her latest collection of poetry *Bicycle Thieves* was published by ECW in spring 2017 and short-listed for the Pat Lowther Memorial Award. Mary lives in Montreal and teaches at Concordia.

Caterina Edwards's *The Sicilian Wife* was a National Post Best Book of 2015 and received rave reviews in Canada, the United States, and Sicily. Her five other books and several of her essays, particularly her work of creative nonfiction *Finding Rosa*, have won major awards and critical attention. In 2016, Caterina was inducted into the City of Edmonton's Cultural Hall of Fame.

Keith Henderson has published three previous novels, *The Restoration* (DC Books 1992), *The Beekeeper* (DC Books, 1990), *The Roof Walkers* (DC Books, 2013), political essays from when he was Quebec correspondent for the Financial Post (*Staying Canadian*, DC

Books 1997), as well as a prize-winning book of short stories (*The Pagan Nuptials of Julia*, DC Books 2006). He led a provincial political party in Quebec during the separatist referendum of 1995 and championed Anglo language rights and pro-Canada positions, covered in full length articles in the Los Angeles and New York Times as well as on CBS 60 Minutes. He has taught Canadian Literature for many years and has extensive media experience.

Mélanie Grondin is a Quebec writer, editor, and translator with an M.A. in Medieval Studies from the University of Leeds (UK). She is the editor of the *Montreal Review of Books* and has published a book on Guido Nincheri titled *The Art and Passion of Guido Nincheri* (Véhicule Press, 2018).

Co-director and President of Guernica Editions, **Connie Guzzo-McParland** has a BA in Italian Literature and a Master's degree in Creative Writing from Concordia University. In 2007, she received the David McKeen Award for creative writing for her thesis-novel, *Girotondo*. Her novel, *The Girls of Piazza d'Amore*, published in 2013 by Linda Leith Publishing was shortlisted for the Concordia First Novel Award by the Quebec Writer's Federation. Her second novel, *The Women of Saturn*, was released in May 2017 by Inanna Publications.

Cella Lao Rousseau is an award-winning blogger and best-selling author. She works full time as a tech journalist and works as a photographer and freelancer in her spare time. Cella is also an opera singer, spreading the sound and love of Italian music wherever she goes.

Dr. Paul Lawrie is a graduate of the University of Toronto (M.A., Ph.D) and an Associate Professor in the Department of History and a Senior Fellow at the Institute of Urban Studies at the University of Winnipeg. His research interests include histories of race, urbanism, labor, time and disability in modern America. His work appears in the *Canadian Review of American Studies*; *Journal of American Studies*; *Oxford Handbook of Disability History* and his book *Forging a Laboring Race: The African American Worker in the Progressive Imagination* was published by NYU Press in 2016.

Marco Lo Verso was born in Palermo, Italy. He completed a B.A. at the University of California, Davis, and an M.A. and a Ph.D. at the University of Alberta. He is now Professor Emeritus of English at Concordia University of Edmonton in Alberta, Canada. His recent personal essays have appeared in *More Sweet Lemons*, *Descant*, *The Centennial Reader*, *Accenti*, *Italian Canadians at Table*, *Twisted Vine Literary Arts Journal*, *Salon II*, and *Smoky Blue Literary and Arts Magazine*.

Darlene Madott is the author of seven books, including *Stations of the Heart* and *Making Olives and Other Family Secrets*. She has twice won the Bressani Literary Award and twice been short-listed for the Vanderbilt sponsored Carter V. Cooper award. Her short fiction has garnered numerous literary awards and been widely anthologized. A lawyer practising in Toronto, her forthcoming collection *Winners and Losers* will be the first to grow out of her legal background. Webpage: www.darlenemadott.com

Dennis Maione is a writer, speaker, teacher, and church pastor living in Winnipeg. In 2014 he self-published *What I Learned from Cancer* which traces his journey through cancer, genetic mutation, brokenness, and healing.. During that project he became fascinated with the culture and heritage on both sides of his family and how the choices of previous generations influenced his life. He is currently writing an historical fiction based on the life

of his Calabrian paternal great-grandfather, Pietro. His reading will be from that work, in progress, which chronicles Pietro's emigration from Italy in 1900 and his movement, first west, across the United States and finally north into the Kootenay Valley of British Columbia.

Violet Mayhew is a 23 year old student at the University of Winnipeg. An artist and a writer, their specialization is in the horror genre.

Rosanna Micelotta Battigelli is an executive member of the AICW, a professional member of the Canadian Authors Association, and an alumna of the Humber School for Writers. Her fiction appears in many anthologies, including *A SECOND COMING: Canadian Migration Fiction* (Guernica Editions) and *VIA's* special Folktales issue (Bordighera Press).

Rosanna's novel *La Brigantessa* will be released in 2018. (Inanna Publications)

Carmelo Militano is an award winning poet & writer. He won the F.G. Bressani award for poetry in 2004 for his chapbook *Ariadne's Thread*. (Olive Press, 2003). His poetry includes *Morning After You* and *The Stone Mason's Notebook*. Militano's prose work is the novel *Sebastiano's Vine* and non-fiction work *The Fate of Olives* each short-listed. Militano currently hosts and produces the P.I. New Poetry show, CKUW 95.9 FM, University of Winnipeg. **Lost Aria**, a short story collection, is due for publication in October, 2018

Kimberley Moore is the Programme Co-ordinator and Adjunct Professor at the Oral History Centre. She develops and coordinates the Centre's oral history workshops and assists in the development of the Oral History Centre.

Rosaria Moretti-Lawrie teaches courses in Italian Studies in the Faculty of Modern Languages and Literatures at the University of Winnipeg. She also teaches Italian at the Dante Alighieri Cultural Society of Winnipeg, where she was the coordinator of the Italian Language program and serves on the board of the Italian Canadian Foundation of Manitoba.

Vincenzo Pietropaolo is a documentary photographer and social historian who has published nine books on immigrant communities and social justice. Pietropaolo's work has been exhibited internationally and is collected by many institutions including The National Gallery of Canada. In recognition of his commitment to social justice, the Canadian Museum for Human Rights is currently featuring Pietropaolo as a *defender of human rights*.

Joseph Pivato is Professor Emeritus of Literary Studies at Athabasca University where he taught courses in comparative literature that included Italian-Canadian authors. His M.A. and Ph.D. are in Comparative Literature. In 1985 he edited *Contrasts: Comparative Essays on Italian-Canadian Writing*, the first critical analysis of this emerging literature. He has published *Echo: Essays on Other Literatures* (1994) and books on George Elliott Clarke, Sheila Watson, Mary di Michele, Caterina Edwards, F.G. Paci and other authors.

A retired teacher of Toronto Catholic Board of Education, Seneca College and University of Toronto, **Francesca Schembri** has consulted for Film and TV industries. She achieved a Bachelor of Education at York University and a Master degree at Toronto, where she was a Doctorate candidate. As the founder of Canatheatre Foundation for the Arts and Sicilian Cultural Society of Canada, she contributed to the enhancement of Toronto's cultural

scene. Francesca's versatile creativity is appreciated in the over a dozen published Italian Canadian pieces: poems, plays, short stories and essays. Francesca's is a recipient of multiples literary and community prizes.

Caterina (Bueti) Sotiriadis

An educator, an author, a modern language teacher, a university lecturer in the faculties of Art and Education, French consultant for the province of Manitoba, producer of children's video animation series and currently an independent educational consultant, Caterina received her degrees in Canada and in France. An active volunteer throughout her career, she has chaired innumerable committees and has recently initiated the ICAP Manitoba Committee.

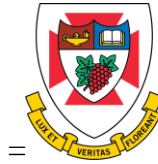
Frank Spezzano is Artistic Director of the Pirandello Theatre Society, Drama Teacher, Playwright and Author. His recent publications include his historical drama *Bressani* as well as a fine art book showcasing the work of renowned Canadian artist Ivan Kocsis and a biographical novel, *Caught Between Swastika, Hammer and Sickle*. Frank holds a B.A. from York University, a B. Ed. from the University of Toronto and a Master of Science in Education from Niagara University, NY. Frank is soon to publish a drama called *Paulus*, based on forgiveness.

Carmine Starnino has published five volumes of poetry, including *This Way Out* (2013), which was nominated for the Governor General's Award. His most recent collection is *Leviathan* (2016). Among his awards are the F.G. Bressani Literary Prize, the Canadian Author's Association Prize for Poetry, and the A.M. Klein Prize for Poetry. Starnino is the editor of *The New Canon: An Anthology of Canadian Poetry* (2005), and his critical writings have been collected in two books: *A Lover's Quarrel: Essays and Reviews* (2004) and *Lazy Bastardism: Reviews and Essays on Canadian Poetry* (2012). He lives in Toronto, where he is deputy editor for *The Walrus* magazine.

Il Professor **Sante Viselli** insegna lettere francesi e dirige il Dipartimento di Lingue e Letterature all'Università di Winnipeg. Nato nel Lazio, egli ha vissuto in Canada ed in Francia. Il suo itinerario intellettuale lo ha portato dalle classi della Dante Alighieri di Winnipeg alle aule universitarie in vari paesi del mondo. Instancabile nella sua ricerca sul come dare un senso alla vita, e fedele al suo messaggio dantesco, Sante Viselli invita i giovani a vivere la loro vita, non certo come turisti, ma con entusiasmo e responsabilità.

Pietro Vitelli was born in Cori, Italy. He has extensive experience in the public sector both in Italy and Canada working on behalf of the Lazio region. He received prizes for writing poetry as well as historical essays on Canadian History. His publications include: *Il primo italiano in Canada*; *Canadian Images*; the novel *Fiorina*, and historical essays on Enrico Tonti, Francesco Giuseppe Bressani, and Giovanni Caboto. His personal essays have appeared in *Italian Canadiana* and *Accenti Magazine*. His poems have been translated in English, Russian, Polish and Greek.

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