



## Center for Italian Studies, Stony Brook University

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Dear Friends of the Center for Italian Studies,

The first of my newsletters goes out right after the first day of Spring, a season that marks the re-awakening from the sleepy winter months.

At the Center, we have been all but napping and after the conference in honor of our founder Mario Mignone, we have been working to organize a series of wide-ranging events and secured a line-up of guests of the highest calibre to propose an enjoyable and rich program to our varied constituency.

We have just hosted the launch of our very own Vito De Simone's book *The Ovum Government* (March 24) and are ready to welcome writer and activist Porpora Marcasciano to discuss the docu-film *Porpora* (March 29) on her life and social battles. April is going to bring to us a talk by musicologist Danilo Prefumo (April 12, UNICO Roy S. Dragotta Lecture) on Niccolò Paganini's 'American Dream', followed by a performance by three outstanding students in the Music Department. The notes of Paganini's *Caprices* will also open the exhibit on the composer's 'afterlives' to be hosted at the Center, while our array of events will continue with international guests such as Alessandro Testa (University of Prague) and David García Cueto, Head of the Department of Italian and French at the Museo Nacional del Prado in Madrid (May 1).

During the winter, we have also been planning some mayor renovations of our spaces, which will result in the transformation of our main lecture room into a digital exhibition area, and in the upgrading of our meeting room into a state-of-the art conference space fully equipped to connect virtually with the world.

As you may imagine, a significant amount of money has been invested in upgrading the facilities of the Center, which will be starting by the end of the month of March and will be completed by the end of the Summer. And while we are working incessantly with the University to create new opportunity to raise funds through institutional and corporate donations, we still heavily (and gratefully) rely on our private donors to help cover for such expenses.

We are excited to share that we are taking part in this year's #SBUGivingDay on March 29. To show your support for the Center for Italian Studies, please visit our donation page [here](#) to learn more about our mission and objectives. As well as participating in this 24-hour online giving event, we are planning, together with the Advisory Council and the University's Advancement specialists, the fundraising campaign that will culminate in the naming of the Center after our founder, Prof. Mario B. Mignone.

As you all know, in November 2022 we dedicated the Center to Mario Mignone's memory - and I am now able to announce that a commemorative plaque will be placed on our premises in the coming months - yet the official renaming of an academic department or building requires reaching a significant fundraising goal.

The Mignone Fundraising Campaign, lasting up until the Fall of 2025, when the Center will celebrate its first 40th anniversary, should enable us to become financially independent, while continuing to expand our offerings to students, academics, and the (Italian American) community.

It is a fact that both our fellowship programs and the language for the community classes are suffering from increasing administrative costs and without a financial boost it will be difficult for us to keep offering them as they are. Similarly, it will prove even more complicated to keep organizing the same number of high-quality events, create a proper research library, reinstate a faculty-led Study Abroad Program in Italy, create educational funds in support to students in need and financial aids for the teaching of the Italian language within and outside the University, where we started a promising and mutually enriching collaboration with the American Association for the Teachers of Italian and local schools.

A *Concorso d'Arte* on the theme of *Quickness* organized with the invaluable help of teachers at Murphy and Gelinas High Schools and supported by the Italian institutions in New York is the first of many co-sponsored events that will see more students experience Stony Brook University, the Center and, most importantly, our beautiful language and rich heritage. Without forgetting that, in order to grow, we need to invest heavily in the potential of the present, of the future, and their generations.

I hope to see many of you at the Center, on the occasion of one of our events or just for a coffee and a chat.

A presto!

Matteo Brera



 Stony Brook University  
College of Arts and Sciences

# Spring 2023 Calendar

## March 29, 2023

### 5:30PM, Porpora

Presented by Center for Italian Studies and the Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Join us for a screening of the documentary, *Porpora*, followed by a Q&A session with Italian sociologist, writer and LGBTQ+ activist, Porpora Marcasciano, and Prof. Liz Montegary of the Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies







# April 12 2023

## 3:00PM, Multilingualism, Translation, Diaspora: Challenges and Opportunities

Presented by the Alfonse M. D'Amato Endowed Chair in Italian American and Italian Studies

Jo Angouri (Warwick University) and Moira Inghilleri (UMass Amherst) and Loredana Polezzi (Stony Brook University) will discuss the role played by language in shaping multiple forms of diasporic belonging and in creating inclusive communities



# May 1, 2023

## 2:30PM, Italy in Spain: Organizing an Exhibition on Guido Reni at the Prado Museum in 2023

Presented by Center for Italian Studies with the Department of Hispanic Languages and Literature and the Department of Art

This public lecture given by David García Cueto, Head of the Department of Italian and French Painting, Museo Nacional del Prado, Madrid, focuses on the challenges and overall project of the colossal exhibition "Guido Reni" on view at the Prado Museum from March to July 2023



THE CENTER FOR ITALIAN STUDIES  
Stony Brook University  
Frank Melville Memorial Library E4340  
Stony Brook, NY 11794  
(631) 632-7444  
www.stonybrook.edu/italianstudies

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Find us on facebook at **www.facebook.com/italianstudies.sbu**.

The Center for Italian Studies is a community supported entity.  
We are happy to say that we have earned the trust and affection of our followers, who individually and collectively, have made it possible to carry out our mission.  
**Thank You for your Ongoing Support!**

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### Center for Italian Studies, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY 11794-3358

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