

Writing and Translating Culture

Bridging Differences Together

15th Biennial Conference
Association of Italian Canadian Writers (AICW)

www.aicw.ca

Montreal, Quebec
May 1 to 3, 2014



Conference Committee

Licia Canton
Domenic Cusmano
Venera Fazio
Maria Cristina Seccia

WITH THANKS

For their collaboration, hospitality and/or sponsorship, the Association of Italian Canadian Writers is grateful to

Italian Cultural Institute (Montreal)
Blue Metropolis Montreal International Literary Festival
McGill Institute for the Study of Canada
Accenti Magazine
Cusmano Communications
Longbridge Books
Michael Mirolla, Giulia De Gasperi, Alexis Chouan, Nora Martin



McGill Institute for the Study of Canada
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MEDIA INQUIRIES

Licia Canton, President, Association of Italian Canadian Writers
514-826-9290 or info@aicw.ca

Publications by conference participants and on Italian Canadian writing will be available for purchase during the conference.

THURSDAY, MAY 1

Italian Cultural Institute, 1200 Dr. Penfield
9:00 Registration and Book Sales

10:00 – 10:15

Official Welcome

Martin Stiglio, Director Italian Cultural Institute
Licia Canton, President AICW

10:20 – 11:50

Memory and Italian Canadian Literature (Panel)

Host: Joseph Pivato

Michael Mirolla (Guernica Editions) *Of Immigrant Roots & Psychic Journeys: A Metafictional Approach*

Linda Morra (Bishop's University) *The Politics of Memory and Desire in Connie Guzzo-McParland's The Girls of Piazza D'Amore*

Susan Noakes (University of Minnesota) *Austria/Istria/Italia: Search for a Rose*

11:50 – 12:50 Lunch (RSVP required) offered by the AICW

1:00 – 2:00

Love and Other Exciting Tales (Readings)

Writers from Ontario and Quebec read stories about love, identity and gender.

Host: Terri Favro

Licia Canton, Delia De Santis, Eufemia Fantetti, Gianna Patriarca

2:05 – 3:05

Memory, Place and Space (Readings)

Writers explore cultural origins and memory as they revisit the places and spaces of their past.

Host: Gianna Patriarca

Carmela Circelli, Sonia Di Placido, Venera Fazio, Rossana Bruzzone

3:05 – 3:20 Coffee Break

3:20 – 4:20

Roots and Routes (Readings)

Ontario authors focus on the journey as a metaphor for living in-between cultures, in-between languages, in-between gender identities.

Host: Maria Cristina Seccia

Michelle Alfano, Josie Di Sciascio-Andrews, Carole Giangrande, Antonino Mazza

4:30 – 5:30

Graphic Novels: Comics, Creativity and Collaboration (Panel Discussion)

Artist Ron Edding and Toronto authors Eufemia Fantetti and Terri Favro discuss the types of graphic novels published in Canada and abroad. What are the advantages and challenges of creative collaborations between writers and artists?

Host: Alexis Chouan

Ron Edding, Eufemia Fantetti, Terri Favro

5:30 Room Change: 2nd floor of Italian Cultural Institute

5:50 – 6:35

Sex, Crime and Other Nighttime Stories (Readings)

A Sicilian wife, a radioactive love story and the sex trade in East Africa. How does *Italian* fit into it all?

Host: Linda Morra

Domenic Cusmano, Caterina Edwards, Terri Favro

6:45 – 7:45

Memory and Translation in Italian Canadian Literature (Panel)

Host: Joseph Pivato

Maria Cristina Seccia (Bangor University) *Cultural Translation in Practice: The Case of Caterina Edwards' The Lion's Mouth*

Rosina Martucci (Università di Salerno) *Da Casacalenda a Montreal, il tema del viaggio, della ricerca del sé e delle proprie origini attraverso i romanzi di tre autori molisani: Pietro Corsi, Mary Melfi, Giose Rimanelli*

FRIDAY, MAY 2

Italian Cultural Institute, 1200 Dr. Penfield
9:00 Book Sales

9:20 – 10:20

The Dark Side of La Cena (Panel Discussion)

It's time for the nightly *cena*! The table is set for rivalry, betrayal and possibly familial strife.

Host: Venera Fazio

Michelle Alfano, Darlene Madott, Jim Zucchero

10:20 – 10:40 Coffee Break and Book Sales

10:45 – 11:45

Readings in the Morning

Italian Canadian writers from Vancouver, Winnipeg and Toronto explore love, belonging and identity.

Host: Terri Favro

Isabella Colalillo Katz, Darlene Madott, Carmelo Militano, Osvaldo Zappa

11:50 – 12:50

Immigration and Memory (Readings)

Canadian and American authors read from their most recent work.

Host: Eufemia Fantetti

Gil Fagiani, Maria Lisella, Connie Guzzo-McParland, Joseph Ranallo

12:50 – 2:20 Lunch (RSVP required) offered by the Italian Cultural Institute (at nearby restaurant)

2:30 – 3:25

Readings in the Afternoon

Writers from Montreal and Ottawa present their most recent work.

Host: Alexis Chouan

Ralph Alfonso, David Bellusci, Antonio D'Alfonso, Linda Morra

3:30 – 4:30

Separation and Inclusion: Breaking the Impasse Alone and Together (Panel Discussion)

The role of Italian-Canadian literature within the Canadian literary canon.

Host: Isabella Colalillo Katz

Connie Guzzo-McParland, Antonino Mazza, Gianna Patriarca

4:30 – 4:50 Coffee Break

5:00 – 5:50

Translating Culture and Bridging Differences (Panel Discussion)

The development of Italian Canadian writing and the practices of translating culture and bridging differences within the Canadian context.

Host: Linda Morra

Antonio D'Alfonso, Joseph Pivato

6:00 – 8:00

Accenti Magazine Awards and Longbridge Books Reception

6:00 – 7:00

The 9th Accenti Magazine Awards

Come celebrate the winners of the annual Accenti writing & photo contests. Since 2007, the Accenti contests have awarded over \$25,000 in prizes to winning writers and photographers. www.accenti.ca

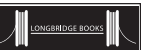
7:00 – 8:00

Longbridge Books Launch

Making Olives and Other Family Secrets – Ripasso by Darlene Madott and *Conspicuous Accents: Accenti Magazine's Finest Stories of the First 10 Years* edited by Licia Canton. www.longbridgebooks.com

Host: Marianna Simeone

Licia Canton, Domenic Cusmano, Darlene Madott



SATURDAY, MAY 3

Hotel 10, Salle Jardin, 10 Sherbrooke West

9:00 – 10:00

Becoming an Italian-Canadian Blogger (Multimedia Presentation)

Founder of Italocanadese.com, Agata De Santis presents a new web series that features the personalities and trendsetters who make us proud to be Italian-Canadian. An episode of the series will be filmed with the participation of Italian-Canadian writers in attendance.

Host: Venera Fazio

Agata De Santis

10:10 – 11:10

Memory, Immigration and the Visual Arts (Panel)

Shining Bridges: The Work of the Late Dr. Anna Carlevaris
A tribute to the late Dr. Anna Carlevaris, whose work as a teacher, curator and historian bridged cultural, geographic, institutional and temporal divides. Anna Carlevaris' research, writings and exhibition projects will be presented by colleagues and fellow artists.

Host: Licia Canton

Giuseppe (Joe) Di Leo, François Morelli, Frank Mulvey

3:30 p.m. AICW Meeting and Refreshments
RIDI Restaurant, 1800 Sherbrooke St. W. 514-904-1900

6:00 p.m. Dinner
RIDI Restaurant

Conference Participants

Michelle Alfano is Acting Co-Editor-in-Chief of *Descant*, a literary quarterly, and co-organizer of the (Not So) Nice Italian Girls & Friends Reading Series. Her novella *Made Up of Arias* (Blaurock Press) won the 2010 Bressani Prize for Short Fiction and her short story “Opera” was a finalist for a Journey Prize anthology. She was recently featured in the documentary *Saturnia*.

Ralph Alfonso is a Montreal based beatnik poet who has performed all over Canada, the US, Italy, and even the famous Cavern Club in Liverpool. He has released five CDs of his music, three books of his poetry, and contributed to various anthologies in Canada and Japan. He runs the BBAM! art gallery in Montreal which hosts literary, music, and artistic events.

David Bellusci was born in Vancouver, British Columbia. He holds a B.A. in English Literature (University of Toronto), M.A. in Linguistics (University of Calgary), M.F.A. in Creative Writing (University of Nebraska), and Ph.D. in Philosophy from the Dominican University College where he teaches Philosophy of Culture. His poetry has been published in Canada, USA, UK, Australia, and New Zealand.

Rossana Bruzzone è scrittrice, insegnante di italiano, presentatrice radiotelevisiva e attrice. Organizza serate di Musica e Parole, con letture di poesia e musica dal vivo. Promuove la cultura italiana, valorizzando i punti di incontro con quella nordamericana. L'ultimo suo libro è *Verso Santiago*, un romanzo breve sull'esperienza del Cammino di Santiago de Compostela. Il suo sito è www.rossanabruzzone.com Ora vive a Montréal.

Licia Canton is the author of *Almond Wine and Fertility* (2008), short stories for women and their men. She is also a literary translator and critic, and founding editor-in-chief of *Accenti Magazine*. She is (co)editor of seven anthologies including *Conspicuous Accents* (2014) and two (2012) volumes on the internment of Italian Canadians. She holds a Ph.D. from Université de Montréal. www.accenti.ca

Carmela Circelli was born in southern Italy and grew up in Montreal. She moved to Toronto in 1976 to study philosophy. She has been teaching on contract, in the Philosophy and Humanities department, at York University, since 1990. *Sweet Nothing: An Elemental Case for Taking out Time* is her first publication.

Isabella Colalillo Katz is the author of two books of poetry, *Tasting Fire* (Guernica, 1999), *And Light Remains* (Guernica, 2006). Her work appears in numerous journals and anthologies, including *Italian Canadian Voices*. She has translated Elio Vittorini’s poetic novel *Conversazione in Sicilia/ Conversations in Sicily* portions of which were published in the anthology, *Sweet Lemons 2* (2010).

Domenic Cusmano is a Montreal publisher, writer and communications professional. He is the co-founder and publisher of *Accenti Magazine*, an English-language print and online publication giving expression to Canada’s Italian heritage. He is also the founder of Longbridge Books, a publishing house launched in 2007, whose mandate is to promote fiction and non-fiction about Canada’s multicultural character.

Antonio D’Alfonso is a poet, novelist, essayist, film-maker and academic. His many books in French and English include *The Other Shore* (1986), *L'autre rivage* (1987), *Fabrizio’s Passion* (1995), *Avril ou l’anti-passion* (1990), *A Friday in August (2005)*, *Un vendredi du mois d’Août* (2004), *In Italics: In Defence of Ethnicity* (1996), *Gambling with failure* (2005) and *L’aimé* (2007).

Agata De Santis is a Montreal-based writer and filmmaker. She is the founding president of Redhead Productions (www.redheadproductions.com) and editor-in-chief of the online magazine, www.italocanadese.com.

In 2010, Agata completed her latest documentary film, *Mal’occhio (The Evil Eye)*. The film was broadcast on CBC Television and has screened in Canada, the U.S., and Australia. Her writing has appeared in various newspapers and magazines.

Delia De Santis’ short stories have been widely anthologized, and several of them have been translated into Italian. Her collection *Fast Forward and Other Stories* was published in 2008. She is the co-editor of the anthologies *Sweet Lemons*, *Writing Beyond History*, *Strange Peregrinations*, *Sweet Lemons 2*, and *Italian Canadians at Table*.

Visual artist **Giuseppe Di Leo** (MFA, York University, 1980) was born in Foggia. He teaches drawing in the Fine Arts program at Concordia University. He also teaches at Dawson College where he is Director/ Curator of the Warren Flowers Art Gallery. His drawings continue to focus on the human figure as a representation of dualities, that is, the body as a victim and violator.

Sonia Di Placido is a poet, playwright and writer from Toronto, ON, currently enrolled in the UBC Creative Writing MFA distance Program. A graduate of Ryerson Theatre School, 1996, and Hon. B.A. Humanities, York University, 2006, Sonia is a member of the AICW. Her poetry book, *Exaltation in Cadmium Red*, First Poets Series, was released by Guernica Editions in Autumn 2012.

Josie Di Sciascio-Andrews has two collections of poetry: *The Whispers of Stones* and *Sea Glass*. In 2013, she was shortlisted for *Descant’s* Winston Collins Best Canadian Poem Prize. Josie is the author of *How the Italians Created Canada* (Dragon Hill Press), a non-fiction historical account of the Italian contribution to Canada. She lives, teaches and writes in Oakville, Ontario.

Ron Edding was born in Montreal. He studied at Dawson, Concordia and the University of Western Ontario. He has exhibited artwork and presented performances in Canada, England, Chile, Serbia and Mexico. Along with a lifelong individual art practice, Ron has always had strong collaborative relationships with other artists and writers. He has illustrated two “Bella” graphic novels, a poetry collection and a music instruction book.

Caterina Edwards’ last book, *Finding Rosa*, won the Wilfred Eggleston Award for Nonfiction, the Bressani Prize and was shortlisted for the Edmonton Book Prize. She has also published a novel, a book of novellas, a play, and a collection of stories. Her work has appeared in many anthologies and literary magazines. She recently won the Edna Staebler Essay Competition.

Gil Fagiani is a translator, essayist, short story writer and poet. His most recent collection of poetry is *Serfs of Psychiatry* (Finishing Line Press, 2012). He has translated into English poetry written in Italian and Abruzzese dialect. Gil co-curates the Italian American Writers’ Association’s readings at Cornelia Street Café, is Associate Editor of Feile-Festa, and founding member of the Vito Marcantonio Forum.

Eufemia Fantetti is a graduate of The Writer’s Studio and holds an MFA in Creative Writing. She is a winner of *Event Magazine’s* Creative Nonfiction contest and a two-time finalist in the Canadian National Playwriting competition. Mother Tongue Publishing released her collection of short fiction, *A Recipe for Disaster & Other Unlikely Tales of Love*, in November 2013.

Terri Favro’s *The Proxy Bride* (2012) won the KenKlonsky-Quattro Novella Award. She has been published in magazines and anthologies, including *Behind Barbed Wire*. In 2013, Terri was a finalist for the CBC Literary Prize, Broken Pencil Deathmatch and CZP-Rannu Award for Speculative Fiction. She is a two-time finalist for the Accenti Magazine Awards. She collaborates on graphic novels, including *Waiting For Mario Puzo* (2013).

Venera Fazio was born in Sicily and now lives in Bright’s Grove, ON. Before dedicating herself to writing and editing, she worked as a social worker (MSW). She has co-edited six anthologies on her culture of origin including the recent *Descant* issue, *Sicily: Land of Forgotten Dreams*. With Delia De Santis, she is currently working on an anthology highlighting Italian Canadian women writers.

Carole Giangrande’s books include the novels *An Ordinary Star* and *A Forest Burning*, the short story collection *Missing Persons* (all published by Cormorant), and the award-winning novella *A Gardener on the Moon* (published by Quattro). A former CBC Radio broadcaster, her work has been anthologized and published in Canadian journals and newspapers. Her novella *Midsummer* was published by Inanna in April 2014.

Born in Italy, raised in Montreal, **Connie Guzzo-McParland** has enjoyed an eclectic mix of life experiences. She majored in Italian at Concordia University, pursued a teaching and business career, then graduated from the Creative Writing Master’s program at Concordia. Her debut novel is *The Girls of Piazza d’Amore* (Linda Leith Publishing, 2013). Since 2010 she has been co-director and President of Guernica Editions.

Maria Lisella is an editor and writer specializing in tourism. Her Pushcart Poetry Prize-nominated work appears in *Amore on Hope Street* and *Two Naked Feet* and other journals. Her collection, *Thieves in the Family*, will be published by New York Quarterly Books in 2014. A charter member of the online poetry circle, Brevitas, she co-curates the Italian American Writers Association.

Darlene Madott is the author of six books, including *Bottled Roses and Joy, Joy, Why Do I Sing?* She is recipient of the 2002 Paolucci Prize, and the 2008 Bressani Prize for “Making Olives,” title story of the Longbridge collection *Making Olives and Other Family Secrets*. “Waiting,” in *Stations of the Heart* (Exile, 2012), was short-listed for the 2012 Gloria Vanderbilt/ Carter V. Cooper Prize.

Rosina Martucci is a PhD candidate in Italianistica and Comparative Literature and a researcher in Italian-Canadian and Italian-American Literature (Giose Rimanelli, Mary Melfi) at the Università di Salerno (Italy). She has worked as a professor of English and French and published articles on English and American culture and civilizations, and several texts analyzing the work of authors like Bocaccio and Thomas Paine.

Antonino Mazza is an award-winning poet, translator and editor. He lives in Ottawa and teaches at Carleton University. He is recipient of the 2001 Groterria Poetry Prize, the 1994 Brutium “Calabria” Gold Medal in Rome, and the 1992 Italo Calvino Translation Prize from Columbia University. His recent publications: *The Other Passenger* (Trans-Verse, 2013), *Immigrant Songs by Saro D’Agostino* (Quattro Books, 2012).

Carmelo Militano is a Winnipeg poet and writer. He is the recipient of the 2004 Bressani Prize for poetry. Militano’s latest work is a novel, *Sebastiano’s Vine* (Ekstasis Editions, 2013). He also writes essays and reviews, and conducts literary interviews for a wide range of journals and on-line magazines in Canada and the USA.

Michael Mirolla’s publications include three novels: *Berlin* (a Bressani Prize winner), *The Facility*, and *The Giulio Metaphysics III*; two short story collections, and three collections of poetry. His short story, “A Theory of Discontinuous Existence,” was selected for The Journey Prize Anthology. Michael is the co-owner of Guernica Editions and spends most of his time commuting between Montreal and Toronto.

François Morelli completed a BFA at Concordia University in 1975 concentrating in drawing. He lived in the New York area from 1981 to 1991, and received an MFA in installation and performance art from Rutgers University in 1983. He teaches at Concordia and is represented

by the Joyce Yahouda Gallery. He is interested in notions of passage, circulation and transformation.

Linda Morra is an Associate Professor and Chair of the English Department at Bishop’s University. She published *Corresponding Influence: Selected Letters of Emily Carr and Ira Dilworth* (UTP 2006), and transcribed, annotated, and saw to publication Jane Rule’s memoir, *Taking My Life* (Talon 2011), which was short-listed for the LAMBDA prize.

Frank Mulvey is a Montreal figurative artist who explores themes of desire, union, transcendence and transformation (frankmulvey.com). He holds an MFA degree from Concordia University, and has taught in the Fine Arts Faculty of Dawson College for 24 years. In 2009 he was granted a teaching excellence award by Director General Richard Filion. Frank is author of the art book *Voyage* (2012).

Susan Noakes, professor of French and Italian (University of Minnesota), now works primarily on global interconnections in the Middle Ages. Related research on theories of displacement and nationhood, and her own history as caregiver for a mother with progressive dementia and a descendant of the South Tyrol drew her to Edwards’ memoir.

Gianna Patriarca’s publications include eight books of poetry and one children’s book. *My Etruscan Face* was short listed for the Bressani Award in 2009. Her work has been anthologized and adapted for Canada Stage Theatre and for CBC radio drama. Her books appear on the course list of Canadian, American and Italian universities.

Joseph Pivato teaches at Athabasca University, Edmonton. He is editor and contributor to the book *Africadian Atlantic: Essays on George Elliott Clarke* (Guernica). His primary research is on Italian-Canadian literature and he has published seven books including *The Anthology of Italian-Canadian Writing* (1998), and *Pier Giorgio Di Cicco: Essays on His Works* (2011). He is founding president of the AICW.

Joseph Ranallo was born in Vinchiaturò, Molise and emigrated to Rossland, BC in 1952. With a BA (Hon. English, University of Victoria, 1968) and an English MA (Washington State University, 1972), he has taught and administered at the elementary to the university levels. Joseph is also a licensed, practicing acupuncturist. His writing has been published in Canada, the US, Australia, China, and Italy.

Maria Cristina Seccia is a PhD candidate in Translation Studies and a Teaching Assistant at Bangor University (Wales). Her main fields of interest are cultural translation, self-translation, migrant writing and Canadian women’s writing. She has published translations of poems by Marisa De Franceschi and articles on Caterina Edwards’ works. She is on the AICW executive and currently co-editing the proceedings of 2012 AICW conference.

Oswaldo Zappa was formally educated in Italy. After graduation, he immigrated to Canada where his family had settled. He continued his studies in both night school and attended university. He loves to read and write. He married his wife, from France, in 1964. In 2010 he published his book of memoirs. Currently he has completed writing his second book.

Jim Zucchero teaches Canadian Studies at King’s University College at Western University. He earned a PhD in English at Western and has published creative non-fiction and numerous essays on Italian-Canadian writers. He co-edited *Reflections on Culture* (2010) and two (2012) books: *Beyond Barbed Wire: Essays on the Internment of Italian Canadians* and *Behind Barbed Wire: Creative Works on the Internment of Italian Canadians*. **Both volumes are available as free e-books at www.guernicaeditions.com/free_ebooks**

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