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AISNA ASSOCIAZIONE ITALIANA
DI STUDI NORD AMERICANI

In collaboration with



UNITED STATES MISSION
TO ITALY



24th AISNA Biennial Conference

The US and the World We Inhabit

Milano, September 28-30, 2017

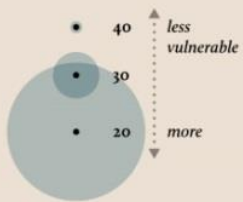
Università degli Studi di Milano

SALA NAPOLEONICA

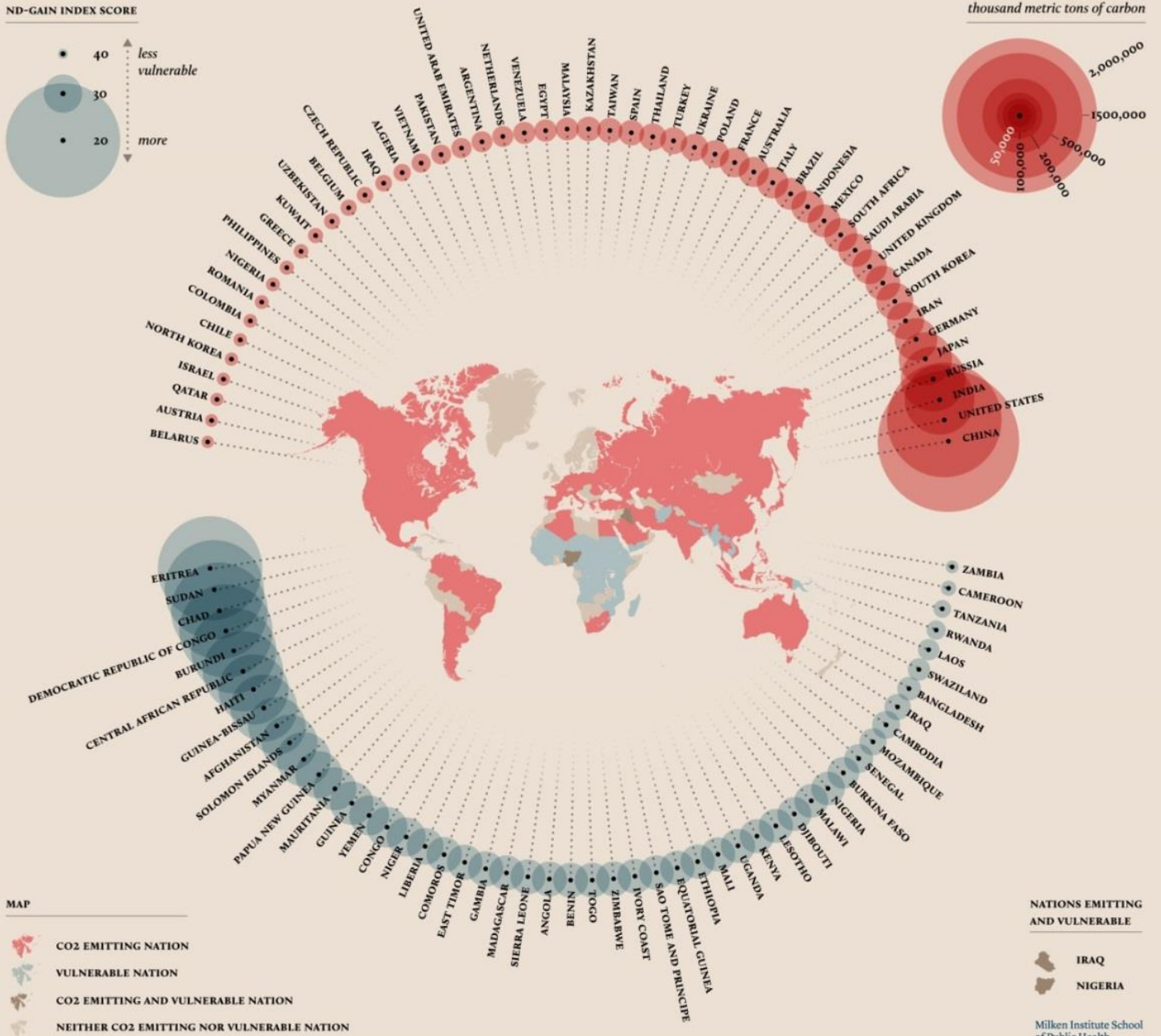
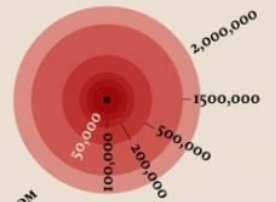
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CO2 EMISSION VS. VULNERABILITY TO CLIMATE CHANGE, BY NATION (2010)



EMITTED CO₂
thousand metric tons of carbon



**NATIONS EMITTING
AND VULNERABLE**



Milken Institute School
of Public Health
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

MHA@GW

SOURCES: CARBON DIOXIDE INFORMATION ANALYSIS CENTER; RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY AND ECONOMICS; ND-GAIN INDEX

MHA@GW

Thursday 28

8.30 – 9.30

Registration

9.30

Sala Napoleonica

Greetings & opening remarks

GIANLUCA VAGO – Rector, University of Milan

MARCO MODENESI – Chair, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures

STEVEN LEBENSKY – Cultural Attaché, U.S. Embassy, Rome

KIM NATOLI – Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Consulate General, Milan

ELISABETTA VEZZOSI – AISNA President

chair: **PAOLA LORETO** – Conference Organiser, University of Milan

10.00

Sala Napoleonica

Plenary lecture | SCOTT SLOVIC – University of Idaho

"[O]nly America first, America first": Ecocriticism, Cosmopolitics, and the Reign of Trump

chair: **SERENELLA IOVINO** – University of Turin

Coffee Break

12.00

Sala Napoleonica

New Directions for the AISNA Graduates Forum

LORENZO COSTAGUTA – University of Birmingham

VIRGINIA PIGNAGNOLI – University of Turin

Introducing the AISNA Graduates Forum

MARTA GARA – Independent Scholar

MARCO ANTONIO LOI – Independent Scholar

The New Website and Blog

STEFANO MORELLO – CUNY
ALICE BALESTRINO – “Sapienza” University of Rome
Ideas and Proposals for the Future

Lunch break

14.00

Parallel panels

Panel 1 – Sala Luree di Studi Umanistici | *The Wor(l)ds We Inhabit: Modes and Moods of Reading*

Panel 2 (Session 1) – Sala Napoleonica | *Next of Kin? Physiological Attachments in American Literature and Culture*

Panel 3 – Sala Malliani | *Breaking the Barriers: US Ecopoetry as a Means to Reconnect Humans and the Earth*

Panel 4 (Session 1) – Room 113 | *Migrating Food Culture between Italy and America*

Panel 6 – Infogiure | *Out of Time: Anachronisms Old and New*

Panel 15 – Sala Crociera di Studi Umanistici | *“Orbis Americanus”: A New Imperialistic Discourse?*

Coffee break

16.30
Sala Napoleonica

AISNA meeting

18.30

Tour of the Ca' Granda

Friday 29

9.00

Sala Napoleonica

Plenary lecture | **GRETA GAARD** – University of Wisconsin, River Falls
Climate Change Affects and Narratives: A Mindful Ecofeminism for the Anthropocene

chair: **STEFANO ROSSO** – University of Bergamo

Coffee break

11.00

Parallel panels

Panel 2 (Session 2) – Sala Napoleonica | *Next of Kin? Physiological Attachments in American Literature and Culture*

Panel 4 (Session 2) – Room 113 | *Migrating Food Culture between Italy and America*

Panel 7 – Sala Lauree di Studi Umanistici | *New Position[ing]s of Italian/American Studies: Re-readings and Re-viewings*

Panel 8 – Sala Malliani | *Sacred Landscapes: The Role of Religion, Spirituality and Faith in Landscape Morphology*

Panel 9 – Sala Crociera di Studi Umanistici | *Talking Climate: The Discourse(s) of Climate Change*

Panel 10 (Session 1) – Infogiure | *(Dis)Location: Identity And Language In Multicultural American Literature*

Lunch break

14.00

Sala Napoleonica

Round table | *US Global Ecopoetics & Ecopolitics*

chair: **GIULIANA IANACCARO** – University of Milan

CHRISTA GREWE-VOLPP – University of Mannheim

MARCUS HALL – University of Zurich

GRAMMENOS MASTROJENI – Coordinator for the Environment and Head of the Science-Policy Interface, Italian Development Cooperation

respondent: **SERENELLA IOVINO** – University of Turin

15.30
Sala Napoleonica

Ricordando Claudio Gorlier | GUIDO CARBONI, CRISTINA GIORCELLI, LUIGI SAMPIETRO

coordina: **CRISTINA IULI**

Coffee break

16.30

Parallel panels

Panel 10 (Session 2) – Infogiure | *(Dis)Location: Identity And Language In Multicultural American Literature*

Panel 11 (Session 1) – Room 113 | *Cultural Consumptions in/of America*

Panel 12 – Sala Crociera di Studi Umanistici | *West Coast, Left Coast*

Panel 13 – Sala Napoleonica | *The Fictional Worlds We Inhabit: New Directions for the Contemporary US Novel*

Panel 14 – Sala Malliani | *Readings of Wilderness in Ethnic Traditions*

Panel 18 (Session 1) – Room 435 | *Open Spaces and Common Places: Cultural Representation of America's Shifting Geographies*

Panel 20 – Sala Lauree di Studi Umanistici | *Spaces of Protest AISNA GRADUATE STUDENTS FORUM*

18.30
Sala Napoleonica

Book presentation | CRISTINA IULI, PAOLA LORETO, GIORGIO MARIANI, SONIA DI LORETO, LEONARDO BUONOMO

La Letteratura degli Stati Uniti dal Rinascimento americano ai nostri giorni

20.00

Conference dinner

Saturday 30

9.00
Sala Napoleonica

Plenary lecture | **PETER BARDAGLIO** – Former Provost and Professor of History, Ithaca College
We rise! Climate activism in the U.S.

chair: **ELISABETTA VEZZOSI** – University of Trieste

Coffee break

11.00

Parallel panels

Panel 5 – Sala Lauree di Studi Umanistici | *Gardens / Parks / Landscape / Environment*

Panel 11 (Session 2) – Room 113 | *Cultural Consumptions in/of America*

Panel 16 – Room 111 | *Black Mountain College: Removing Barriers, Eco/Echoing the World*

Panel 17 – Room 104 | *The Self and The Other in Relational Terms*

Panel 18 (Session 2) – Room 102 | *Open Spaces and Common Places: Cultural Representation of America's Shifting Geographies*

Panel 19 – Sala Napoleonica | *Evolving Beliefs and Ideologies: Religion, Nature, and Place in North American Literature*

12.30
Sala Napoleonica

Closing remarks

PAOLA LORETO – Conference Organiser, University of Milan

14.00

Social trip

PANEL 1

THE WOR(L)DS WE INHABIT: MODES AND MOODS OF READING

Coordinator: **MANLIO DELLA MARCA** – LMU Munich, Germany (manlio.dellamarca@lmu.de)

Discussant: **GIORGIO MARIANI** – “Sapienza” University of Rome

Over the past two decades, technology has infiltrated almost every aspect of our lives, dramatically reshaping our behavior and the way we engage with literary and nonliterary texts—in and outside the American Studies classroom. This panel brings together scholars in the fields of American literary studies, Classics, and Media Ecology to reflect on reading as both a cultural practice and a valuable cognitive and emotional experience. Exploring different modes and moods of scholarly and lay reading, panel participants will reflect on the future(s) of *Homo legens* and the enduring value of literary studies in an increasingly technologized, fast-paced, and hyper-stimulating world.

Papers:

ELENA LAMBERTI – University of Bologna

Living in a Déjà-Vu: Literature, Cognitive Pollution, Mediated Societies

MANLIO DELLA MARCA – LMU Munich, Germany

Explorations in the American Reading Imaginary: Emerson, Thoreau, and Pound

KLAUS BENESCH – LMU Munich, Germany

A Matter of Scale: Is Close Reading to American Studies What Place Is to Space?

PERRI GIOVANNUCCI – American University in Dubai

Book of Magic: The Book as Fetish Object in Millennial Times

PANEL 2

NEXT OF KIN? PHYSIOLOGICAL ATTACHMENTS IN AMERICAN LITERATURE AND CULTURE

Coordinators: **SERENA FUSCO** – University of Naples “L’Orientale” (serenafusco@gmail.com)
ELISABETTA MARINO – University of Rome “Tor Vergata” (marino@lettere.uniroma2.it)

Discussant: **FIorenzo IULIANO** – University of Cagliari

Accompanying a general “wearing out” of cultural constructivism, a renewed interest in biology, animality, humanity and its limits, and related topics has made its appearance in the humanities. This “turn” can be productive as well as problematic: while it is, in theoretical terms, related to the emergence of ecocriticism, it also speaks to some nowadays hotly debated topics in the public sphere – such as identity and belonging in the context of migration as (humanitarian) crisis, the validity of science, medicine and its others, and the practices and meanings of parenthood.

The workshop will explore how biology- and physiology-related topics are played out in American literature and culture, how they vary in different historical moments, and how they create and/or hinder structures of relations, but also more fluid/informal/chaotic types of exchange. We suggest that the renewed interest in “life” in biological/natural terms, and in the physiological components underlying social life, actually accompanies a very cultural, even political, preoccupation for the range, scope, and limits of the attachments felt by living beings for their various “kindred.” “Kindred” can be conceived of as corporealized or decorporealized, across time, space, and species. Ties of kindred may encompass various human and non-human domains, blood- versus law-regulated relations, can be broadly or narrowly conceived, in essentialistic as well as non-essentialistic terms. The papers in this panel propose to investigate how biology- and science-related paradigms interact with cultural dimensions and foreground the problem of scales, namely, local/global, small scale/broad scale tensions between communities and systems, and how a wide range of attachments come into being and/or are severed. Related sub-topics may include: bodies, blood and other bodily fluids, and organs; fertility and reproduction; the role of different regimes of scientific and non-scientific knowledge; and the relation between different kingdoms, species, and subspecies.

Papers – Session 1:

TINA GIANQUITTO – Colorado School of Mines

“Living Mingled”: Darwin’s Botany, Race, and Reproduction in Nineteenth-Century America

ZUZANNA LADYGA – University of Warsaw

Modernist Tactile Aesthetics and the Problem of Biopolitical Norm

PILAR MARTINEZ – “Sapienza” University of Rome

Nonhuman Attachments: Androids, Elevators, and the Vitalism of Inert Life

RAFFAELLA MALANDRINO – University of Ragusa

"The children who never forgot the experience of that time": The Gendered Voice of Utopia in Louisa May Alcott's Transcendental Wild Oats

Papers – Session 2:

SALVATORE PROIETTI – Università della Calabria

On Pain and Kindred Bodies in US Science Fiction

SERENA FUSCO – University of Naples "L'Orientale"

Attachment, Parenting, and the "Meddlesome Earth" in (Post)Ethnic American Literature

ELISABETTA MARINO – University of Rome "Tor Vergata"

Language for Women or Women's Language? Botany and Flower Language in Nineteenth Century America

PANEL 3

BREAKING THE BARRIERS: US ECOPOETRY AS A MEANS TO RECONNECT HUMANS AND THE EARTH

Coordinators: **KATHERINE R. LYNES** – Union College, Schenectady, NY (lynesk@union.edu)
ANASTASIA CARDONE – University of Leeds, UK (goodriddance.anak@gmail.com)

Discussant: **VIRGINIA MINELLA** – University of Milan

The different definitions of “ecopoetry” proposed by several scholars, from John Elder to Scott J. Bryson, frame this poetic genre as a subcategory of Environmental poetry that aims at overcoming the existing and yet rusted barriers between human beings and other-than-human beings to reconnect humans, the earth, and its inhabitants. While some key authors have been consecrated as “ecopoets,” many have expressed similar ecopoetic ideas without being directly defined so. A common feature of these writers is the emphasis on the porousness of the border between humans and other creatures, as well as the search for the best poetic translation of the life of another.

On these premises, ecopoetry can represent a meaningful interpretative tool for breaking the notorious Emersonian barrier between the “ME” and the “NOT ME,” therefore between human beings and the physical, tangible world we inhabit. In the face of the current ecological crisis, the US controversial and ambivalent role in the care and exploitation of the environment, and the future catastrophic scenarios that might display in front of us, this workshop aims to provide possible solutions through the reading and understanding of ecopoems as a means to re-establish a balanced, fluid, and respectful relationship with other living beings. In a time when the scientific discourse on climate change seems to have failed in affecting Western governments and their politics, a poetic discourse may continue doing its job in trying to affect readers’ conscience and perception of themselves as participants in an ecosystem.

The workshop investigates themes in the fields of Ecopoetry – and Black Ecopoetry, or Poetry of the African Diaspora – Ecopoetics, Environmental Poetry, Animal Studies, Human-Animal Studies, Ecofeminism, Biosemiotics, and Environmental Literary Studies.

Papers:

DAVID LLOYD – Le Moyne College, Syracuse

“The Way to Know the Bobolink”: Emily Dickinson’s Birds

CAMILLA BINASCO – University of Milan

Harboring contradictions: Self, Alterity and Ethical Repositioning in Mary Oliver’s Ecopoetry

CRISTIANA PAGLIARUSCO – University of Trento

Jean Toomer’s Affective Relationship with Georgia O’Keeffe’s Other-than-Human Nature

KATHERINE R. LYNES – Union College, Schenectady

“Words fail me here”: The Subject of Nature in Black Ecopoetry

PANEL 4

MIGRATING FOOD CULTURE BETWEEN ITALY AND AMERICA

Coordinators: **ANDREA CIRIBUCO** – National University of Ireland in Galway
(andrea.ciribuco@nuigalway.ie)

PERRI GIOVANNUCCI – American University in Dubai (pgiovannucci@aud.edu)

Discussant: **JOHN PAUL RUSSO** – University of Miami

Among the different signs of the presence of Italians in America, food is one of the most relevant, pervasive and recognizable. This workshop aims to discuss the manner in which food has channeled and facilitated moments of cultural difference, intercultural dialogue, and assimilation of the Italian community in the United States. Such moments have taken place through a broad range of media (material culture, literature, advertising, film) throughout the history of Italian emigration, from great waves of post-1861 migration to the global flows of today.

Cuisine, eating practices and social discourse about food reflect both the emigrants' socio-economic situation and the many ways in which Italians reacted to the American environment, often managing to make an impact in that environment. This impact is measured in terms of material culture and social practices. In turn, food names and advertising also reflect the Italian language (with its many dialects) and the English language interacting to exchange words and create meaning together. The linguistic landscape of America shows several contributions from Italian, through decades of shared environment and intercultural dialogue. Literature and cinema narrating and portraying the Italian-American experience make countless uses of food as symbols to describe the socio-cultural situation of Italian immigrants to America, and reflect on their reaction to the American environment.

The papers address a variety of backgrounds – literature, film, cultural studies, and applied linguistics – with the aim of reflecting on food as a cultural marker and a meaning-making process for Italian culture in America, considering both its importance in the cultural history of the Italian America and its relevance nowadays. Topics include: food in Italian American literature, cinema and television; oral narrative about food in the Italian America; material culture, popular culture and advertising relative to Italian food in America.

Papers – Session 1:

GULIANA MUSCIO – University of Padua

Spaghetti and Mandolin? Food Advertisers and Italian American Performers

ROBERTA TRAPÈ – University of Melbourne

Italian food in Contemporary American "Middlebrow" Films

MARIA PARRINO – University of Venice “Ca’ Foscari”

Food, Voice and Hospitality in Helen Barolini's Festa. Recipes and Recollections of Italian Holidays

JAN MARTA – University of Toronto

From the Basement Kitchen to Sotto Sotto: Mirroring the Evolution of Italian Canadian (Food) Culture in Literature, Language, and Architectural Spaces

Papers – Session 2:

STEFANO LUCONI – University of Florence

Autarkic Food: Advertisements for Italian-American Consumers during the Italo-Ethiopian War

ALESSANDRA COCCOPALMERI – Independent Scholar

Looking for the Italian Roots in the Kitchen: Italian-American Women and their Quest through the Lens of Food

SOSTENE MASSIMO ZANGARI – Independent Scholar

“Let's have a glass of vino”: Italian Immigrants, Wine and Community in John Fante's The Brotherhood of the Grape

FRANCESCA DE LUCIA – Minzu University of China

Gender, Generations and Ethnicity in Louise DeSalvo's Food Memoir Crazy in the Kitchen

PANEL 5

GARDENS / PARKS / LANDSCAPE / ENVIRONMENT

Coordinators and discussant: **FRANCESCA ORESTANO** – University of Milan
(francesca.orestano@unimi.it)

The terms chosen suggest a panorama of interactions with nature, which involve humans, animals, plants, across a considerable span of time, in the United States. The perspective of Ecocriticism can be viewed as the main avenue to the issue, but at the same time it may encompass literature and poetry, visual texts and photography, architecture and landscape planning, travel and earth sciences.

The workshop's subjects include Ecocriticism and Geocriticism, Green Cultural Studies and Environmental Literary Studies, Ecofeminism and non-anthropocentric Humanism.

Papers:

ANNA ZAPPATINI – Independent Scholar

Painting the Wilderness: Marianne North in America

ANNADOMENICA SANTACECILIA – "G. D'Annunzio" University of Chieti-Pescara

The whole world became my garden": The Pattern of the Garden in William Carlos Williams's Poetry

CLAUDIO PESENTI – University of Kentucky

Cats, Fish, and Ponds: Environmental Identity in 1950s American Literature

BARBARA MICELI – University of Rome Three

Freedom and My Bird Problem: Jonathan Franzen's Environmental Fiction

ANNA RUDELLI – University of Milan

Nature's Cathedrals, Stone Temples and the Dawn of Conservationism: John Muir's My First Summer in the Sierra and the Birth of National Parks

PANEL 6

OUT OF TIME: ANACHRONISMS OLD AND NEW

Coordinators: **GEORGE BLAUSTEIN** – University of Amsterdam (g.h.blaustein@uva.nl)
NICHOLAS STANGHERLIN – University of Venice “Ca’ Foscari” (nick5705@gmail.com)

Discussant: **GEORGE BLAUSTEIN** – University of Amsterdam

This workshop is about anachronism, and how anachronism flourishes in literatures of ecological or civilizational collapse.

Nineteenth-century stories of time travel are the most obvious examples. Historical settings become habitats into which temporally foreign agents are introduced. Mark Twain's *Connecticut Yankee* (1889) brings modern civilization to Arthurian England; farce and disaster ensue. Anachronism juxtaposed different temporal scales: the human scale of the novel collided with, say, the supra-human scale of Darwinian evolution. H.G. Wells's time machine (1895) allowed a supra-historical glimpse of evolutionary time. The ideological implications varied. Darwinism wrought “social Darwinism,” but also the asocial prospect of species extinction: to realize it, one had to travel in time and space. Nor was this limited to fiction. Faith in progress vied with gloomier parables of limited resources, such as Frederick Jackson Turner's lament of the closed frontier. We might all be anachronisms. We have all arrived too late.

If the nineteenth century was the first age of anachronism, ours might be the second. Anachronism flourishes in contemporary literatures of race and ethnicity. Racial slavery is a too-close, too-far anachronism approached earnestly (alternate histories like Colson Whitehead's *Underground Railroad* and Ben Winters's *Underground Airlines*) and uproariously (Paul Beatty's *The Sellout*). Contemporary American narratives of lateness and environmental collapse gravitate toward experiments in time. Archaic forms return in Emily St. John Mandel's post-apocalyptic *Station Eleven*. This anachronistic turn includes subtler meditations on time and habitat erosion, from the not-too-distant future of Jennifer Egan's *A Visit from the Goon Squad*, to the temporal layers of Ben Lerner's *10:04*, to the proleptic narration of the podcast *S-Town*. These narratives register the conquest of the “seasonal” by the “unseasonal,” as these terms themselves become anachronisms.

The papers consider anachronism as topic, narrative device, theme, ideological strategy, or point of departure for theoretical inquiry.

Papers:

CECILIA CRUCCOLINI – University of Bologna
Today's Anachronisms: Rethinking Future in Contemporary Dystopias

RICHARD HARDACK – NASA/Southwest Research Labs

A Climate of Nescience: Anachronism and Environmental Collapse in The Time Between Two Deaths

MENA MITRANO – Loyola University Chicago, JFRC

The Anachronism of Necessity and the Meaning of "World"

GIORGIA TOMMASI – Ludwig-Maximilians University, Munich

"Everything is ending, but not yet": Temporal Anomalies and Visions of the Future in A Visit from the Goon Squad

NICHOLAS STANGHERLIN – University of Venice "Ca' Foscari"

Gardens from Deserts: the Extension of the Frontier in Speculative-Utopian Fiction

PANEL 7

NEW POSITION[ING]S OF ITALIAN/AMERICAN STUDIES: RE-READINGS AND RE-VIEWINGS

Coordinator and discussant: **FRED. L. GARDAPHÉ** – Queens College, CUNY
(fred.gardaphe@qc.cuny.edu)

This workshop intends to suggest modes of interrogating Italian/American cultural products with the aim of preparing the terrain for new paradigms as to (a) the place of Italian/American studies and where it might reside in the academy, its intellectual home, and (b) new perspectives in the interrogation of said cultural products, which may very well be determinant as to the place of Italian/American studies within a less hegemonic cultural landscape. This workshop explores how the cultural products of Italian/American writers and artists were forged from the tension between immigration and assimilation, and offers a backdrop against which contemporary developments in the current U.S. administration can be viewed, criticized and acted upon through a transnational lens. The motivation behind this workshop has its origins in the wake of recent international meetings (e.g., Bellagio [2014]) and conferences (e.g., *Re-mapping Italian American Culture* [2017]), as well as a recent series in Italy dedicated to Italian/American studies (e.g., *Americana* published by Franco Cesati Editore). Hence, riding the wave of more novel and thought-provoking intellectual inquiry of the past two decades in the United States (e.g., Steven Belluscio, Mary Jo Bona, Fred L. Gardaphé, Edvige Giunta, Ilaria Serra, Anthony Julian Tamburri, Robert Viscusi, etc.) and, more recently in Italy (Leonardo Buonomo, Francesco Durante, Carla Francellini, Donatella Izzo, Cristina Lombardi-Diop, Martino Marazzi, Alessandro Portelli, Caterina Romeo, Sabrina Vellucci, Vito Zagarrì, etc.), the presentations in this section offer yet further suggestions for how we might re-interrogate Italian/American cultural products, be they written, virtual, or performative in light of the historically evolving processes of U.S. Americanization that have occurred from the nineteenth to the twenty-first centuries. Workshop participants will offer fresh looks at texts in a variety of media using different methodologies in order to demonstrate the complexities and richness of contemporary Italian/American studies.

Papers:

CARLA FRANCELLINI – University of Siena

The Subversion of Nature in Contemporary Italian/American Literature. Uno sguardo mobile on the most Compelling Sceneries of Italian/American Identity

SABRINA VELLUCCI – University of Rome Three

"The Environmental Imagination" of Contemporary Italian American Literature and Documentary Film

TERESA MELILLO – "Sapienza" University of Rome

Waiting for Spring: The Italian-Americans in John Fante's Fiction

ANTHONY JULIAN TAMBURRI – Queens College, CUNY

Signing Italian/American Cinema, Code-switching in the City: Mean Streets, Big Night, Dinner Rush

PANEL 8

SACRED LANDSCAPES: THE ROLE OF RELIGION, SPIRITUALITY AND FAITH IN LANDSCAPE MORPHOLOGY

Coordinators: **DANIEL COOPER** – School of Geography and the Environment, University of Oxford
(cooperwave@gmail.com)

JONATHAN TURNBULL – School of Geography and the Environment, University of
Oxford (jonathon.turnbull@chch.ox.ac.uk)

Discussant: **NINA KRUGLIKOVA** – School of Geography and the Environment, University of Oxford

Religion, spirituality and faith play integral roles in landscape transformation. Not only do spiritual beliefs and religious institutions inform individual and collective perspectives and engagement with each other and the land, but they also influence concepts of morality and justice in government, non-government, private, multilateral, and academic organizations. The fields of historical ecology, political ecology and spiritual ecology represent important frames of reference for understanding the complex dialects embedded in landscape. Most of the scholarship in these fields focuses on the nature-culture ontological continuum and biocultural integrity, often framing spirituality as an aspect of culture. However, many individuals and communities, including most indigenous populations, see beyond this binary framework to a deeper and more holistic understanding of landscape that includes a metaphysical or spiritual dimension. In such ontologies, social and environmental ethics are often dictated and enforced by other-than-human beings/biospiritual agents and interlocutors such as shamans, priests or priestesses. These beings and practitioners influence the way people perceive, feel and behave, often determining how and where resources are extracted and cultivated. The objective of this workshop is to bridge the gap between science and religion in pursuit of a more integrated and holistic understanding of landscape, resource exploitation, conflict, governance, development and climate change.

Papers:

RICHARD HARDACK – NASA/Southwest Research Labs

It's Always Already Too Late For White Men: Personified Nature and Personified Corporation, from Melville to Avatar

ADAM SEARLE – University of Oxford

Island Mythogeography: The Nonlife Charisma of St. Kilda

DANIEL COOPER – University of Oxford

Historical Spirituality: A Synthesis of Spiritual, Political and Historical Ecological Landscape Approaches

JONATHAN TURNBULL – University of Oxford

Religion and Spirituality in the Midst of Climate Change: Learning from Indigenous Perspectives

PANEL 9

TALKING CLIMATE: THE DISCOURSE(S) OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Coordinators: **Fritz Fleischmann** – Babson College (fleischmann@babson.edu)
Cinzia Scarpino – University of Milan (cinzia.scarpino@unimi.it)

Discussant:

Cinzia Scarpino – University of Milan

The discourses on climate change include many voices, ranging from the scientific to the religious, and including an extraordinary number of academic, journalistic, legal, business, and social participants. They also range across a variety of media (documentary films, radio and television shows, numerous websites and blogsites) and a variety of organizations (from recently founded local discussion circles and groups fighting pipeline or fracking projects to more established organizations like churches and synagogues). And they struggle with a large variety of questions: how to communicate effectively; how to build community; how to deal with climate deniers; how to lobby legislators. The panel is an attempt to offer some tentative answers on some of these questions, providing both primarily descriptive and informative analyses and historical or sociological perspectives.

Papers:

ANNA ROMAGNUOLO – DEIM, Tuscia University

US Presidential Discourse on Climate Change: The Changing Voice of Environmental Rhetoric

ANDREA CAROSSO – University of Turin

Cormac McCarthy's The Road and the Predicament of Extinction

ANTONELLA FRANCINI – Syracuse University in Florence

Representations of Post-human Scenarios in Jorie Graham's Recent Poetry

ADELE TIENGO – University of Milan

One Degraded World, One Degraded Environment: Climate Fiction and the Problems of Environmental Practice

PANEL 10

(Dis)LOCATION: IDENTITY AND LANGUAGE IN MULTICULTURAL AMERICAN LITERATURE

Coordinator: **SILVIA GUSLANDI**, University of Chicago (sguslandi@uchicago.edu)

Discussant: **MIRELLA VALLONE**, University of Perugia

Immigration, travel, tourism, political exile, the refugee crisis: whether individually or in ethnically marked groups, trans-national mobility has been one of the most pervasive phenomena of modern times. Among the consequences of this mobility, one that greatly affects writers is multilingualism. A possible effect of physical displacement is also intellectual and emotional dislocation: namely, the feeling of not belonging to either context – the one left behind and the one found upon arriving. On the other hand, in some cases a compromise is successfully achieved between different cultures and the result is a new sense of belonging to multiple contexts at once, in a movement toward a global perspective.

How do literary texts reflect this condition? What kind of language results from the negotiation between mother tongue and second language? To which, if any, literary traditions do migrant authors belong to? And what about second-generation immigrants and other writers born directly within multilingual or multicultural contexts? How does their geographical and cultural location inform their identity as authors?

Papers will explore the specific modes of expression of migrants, exiles, so-called hyphenated-American authors, and others working in between languages and traditions, with particular attention to issues of identity and language, such as self-translation and bilingualism.

Papers – Session 1:

RICHARD KIDDER – University of Calabria

"Jean Sans Terre Purchases Manhattan": Geographies of Identity in the Poetry of Yvan Goll

SILVIA GUSLANDI – University of Chicago

Emanuel Carnevali: The Making of an "American poet"

VALERIO MASSIMO DE ANGELIS – University of Macerata

"Libro italiano come pochi altri libri di lingua italiana lo sono": Pietro Di Donato's Christ in Concrete and the Language of "Italianness"

RITA FILANTI – Independent Scholar

"Facing the Great Desolation": Migration and Translating the Self in Giants in the Earth (1927)

Papers – Session 2:

CINZIA SCHIAVINI – "G. D'Annunzio" University of Chieti-Pescara

How Do the Other Halves Live? The Great Recession and Contemporary Ethnic American novel

ROSITA D'ELIA – “G. D'Annunzio” University of Chieti-Pescara

Kahlil Gibran and the Pen League: Arab Identity, Poetics of Vision and America

LISA MARCHI – University of Trento

Encroaching the Classics: Rabih Alameddine's An Unnecessary Woman

NINA BATT – Loyola Marymount University

“Estas Son Mis Armas”: Multilingualism as Rhetorical Device in Lorna Dee Cervantes “Coffee”

PANEL 11

CULTURAL CONSUMPTIONS IN/OF AMERICA

Coordinators: **GIULIA IANNUZZI** – University of Trieste (giannuzzi@units.it)
ELISABETTA BINI – University of Naples “Federico II” (elisabetta.bini@unina.it)

Discussant: **LEONARDO BUONOMO** – University of Trieste

This workshop critically assesses the role that different forms of cultural consumption have played in shaping ideas of the present and possible future scenarios of American society, contributing to – or calling into question – coeval conceptualizations of “center(s) and margin(s), subject(s) and object(s) in terms of relation,” within American power(s) and governance, and the economic and cultural relations that locate the US as part of a planetary system. Through the lens of cultural studies and transnational history, this workshop explores the influence that cultural circulation and consumption have had (and have) in defining the American way(s) of life.

Papers will assess the functioning of powerful and complex communication devices such as advertisements, television series, and soft power practices. The cases analyzed cover the decades between the post-World War II years and today – a chronological range spanning from a “short American century” to our post-industrial, digital age. Particular attention will be paid both to the circulation and reception of cultural products within the US, and to the paramount presence of American political culture and its entertainment industry in societies abroad, focusing on cultural circulation in transnational markets, and on specific case studies.

Papers – Session 1 | CULTURAL CONSUMPTIONS IN/OF AMERICA 1: CULTURES, CONSUMPTIONS, REPRESENTATIONS OF AMERICAN POWER(S)

CARLA KONTA – University of Trieste

Soft Power Commodities in Cold War Battlefields? Images of The United States at the Yugoslav Exhibitions and Trade Fairs (1955-1969)

GIULIA CRISANTI – Fordham University, NY

Tastes of the American Dream

ELISABETTA BINI – University of Naples, Federico II

Back to the Future: Changes in Energy Cultures and Patterns of Consumption in the US, 1973-1986

CHRISTOFOROS PAVLAKIS – University of Athens, Greece

Chinese and Korean Immigrant Entrepreneurship in Global Context and the Importance of Transnational Ethnic Networks

Papers – Session 2 | CULTURAL CONSUMPTIONS IN/OF AMERICA 2: REFLECTIONS ON THE SMALL SCREEN

GIULIA IANNUZZI – University of Trieste

Consumptions of American Futures: Dubbing US Science Fiction on Italian Small Screens

ANNALISA MOGOROVICH – University of Trieste

Women, Race, and Power in American TV Series

VALENTINA FERRIGNO & VALERIO FICCADENTI – University of Macerata

Deeper than Words: Frank Underwood in American Political History and Italian Political Consumption

FRANCESCO CHIANESE – University of Naples “L'Orientale”

“Sexit”: Sensuality and Sexuality at the Times of HBO, from Tony Soprano to Hannah Horvath

PANEL 12

WEST COAST, LEFT COAST

Coordinators: **FIorenzo IULIANO** – University of Cagliari (iuliano@unica.it)
STEFANO MORELLO – The Graduate Center, CUNY (s.morello@me.com)

Discussant: **ANDREA CAROSSO** – University of Turin

In the days following the 2017 Presidential Inauguration, presaging years of bitter conflict between the White House and the state that rejected the newly elected president by a landslide, California governor Jerry Brown delivered what the media labeled an “anti-Trump manifesto.” In the following weeks, Seattle’s mayor Ed Murray echoed by openly and repeatedly defying Donald Trump administration’s policies on immigration, eventually leading to Washington State’s lawsuit against Trump’s travel ban. From the sun-drenched valleys of Southern California to the rain-drenched inlets of Puget Sound, the West Coast has always been at the forefront of political dissent, resistance and activism. As evident in works as diverse as Ernest Callenbach’s *Ecotopia* and John N. Smith’s *Dangerous Minds*, Sherman Alexie’s *Reservation Blues* and Green Day’s multiplatinum record *American Idiot*, the local cultural production has insistently reflected on themes such as working class values, American imperialism, LGBTQ rights, gender inequality, race relations, suburban alienation, environmental issues, and youth disenfranchisement.

As scholar Lisa Chalkyoff has pointed out, “what is exciting about literatures of the West Coast [...] is how powerfully this concentration draws together key politico-cultural experiences we continue to think through [...] and situates them in an environment of tremendous aesthetic interest and ecological complexity.” A pilgrimage beyond the frontier, a tribute and an attempt at deconstruction of the role it has taken up in the common imaginary – this panel will investigate how the cultural and countercultural production from the “Left Coast” have reflected on/perpetuated political resistance and presented alternatives to the mainstream. The papers offer contributions from an array of historical periods and ranging across different fields, and conversations about American, Canadian, and Indigenous literatures as well as a diverse range of cultural productions (including, but not limited to film, television shows, music records, and the arts).

Papers:

GIOIA WOODS – Northern Arizona University

“Il poeta anarchico”: Lawrence Ferlinghetti, *City Lights*, and the Left Coast

CINZIA SCARPINO – University of Milan

“None of it adds up”: Joan Didion’s *Counter* - narrative of California Counter-culture in the Late 1960s

ANNA RE – Independent Scholar

The Future of Nevada: Protected Wilderness or Neglected Wasteland?

FIorenzo IULIANO – University di Cagliari

Specters of the 1990s. Seattle as Archive City

STEFANO MORELLO – The Graduate Center, CUNY

Mapping the Punk Rock Commons: Unity and Dissent in the East Bay

PANEL 13

THE FICTIONAL WORLDS WE INHABIT: NEW DIRECTIONS FOR THE CONTEMPORARY US NOVEL

Coordinator: **PIA MASIERO** – University of Venice “Ca' Foscari” (masiero@unive.it)

Discussant: **CINZIA SCHIAVINI** – “G. D'Annunzio” University of Chieti-Pescara

Contemporary US novels compose a heterogeneous territory whose contours are intertextual, intermodal, and interdisciplinary: at their center there lies American reality and the challenge of representing it. Novelists have long been reality hunters: how does the present debate regarding the construction or removal of barriers as well as the interrelated issues of a powerful center and dispossessed peripheries impact the ways in which the novel invents story-worlds? In the age of post-post poetics, where, arguably, everything has already been told, such authors as Chabon, Danielewski, Díaz, Egan, Eggers, Foer, Franzen, Saunders, Strout, Vollmann, Wallace wonder how the already told concerning US landscapes and society, politics and communal belonging may be told anew.

The Fictional Worlds we Inhabit attempts to map the forms contemporary novels take, as far as core narratological categories are concerned—voice, characters, time, space, plot—as well as generic crossings and various forms of transmedial experimentation. The deeply interrelated nature of form and content calls for a reflection on how contemporary US novel responds to present tense America.

We witness, among others:

- The return to realism with magical or science-fiction insertions;
- The re-appropriation of contextual and historical underpinnings;
- The return of omniscient narratorial voices and the centrality of character;
- A new readerly-oriented writing that re-negotiates postmodernist innovations;
- The conjugation of escapist with ethical trajectories;
- The coexistence of maximalist with minimalist tendencies.

The panel addresses some of the new directions listed above or/and others, so as to help mapping the territory of contemporary US fiction with the strong belief that the safe exposure to US realities fiction guarantees may contribute to the necessary debate concerning what lies ahead of us.

Papers:

SIMONA PORRO – University of Turin

“The smell of infrastructure”: The “Tragic” Realism of Jonathan Franzen's Strong Motion (1992)

PAOLO PITARI – University of Venice “Ca' Foscari”

Maximalism, Minimalism and the Principles of Contemporary US Fiction: A Comparative Study of Wallace's The Pale King and McCarthy's The Road

MATTIA RAVASI – University of Reading

A World Made Out of Stories: The Role of Storytelling in Michael Chabon's Moonglow

ANGELO GROSSI – University of Venice “Ca' Foscari”

“The Pernicious Illusion of Realism”: Infinite Jest's Strategies Toward the Real

PANEL 14

READINGS OF WILDERNESS IN ETHNIC TRADITIONS

Coordinator: **PAOLA A. NARDI** – Catholic University of Milan (paola.nardi@unicatt.it)

Discussant: **FRANCESCA BALESTRA** – University of Siena

The American wilderness, together with other categories such as the frontier or the conquest of the West, is one of the founding myths of the United States. Writings on the wilderness have recently departed from traditional Western male, white, middle-class readings whose stereotyped, partial and illusory representations of untamed nature have been extensively criticized in the last thirty years. New perspectives like those of Native Americans, feminist theorists or ecocritics have suggested interpretations of the wilderness different from those that see it as “the province of white heterosexual masculinity” (Mei Mei Evans, 2002).

Less attention has been given to African Americans and other ethnic perspectives on wilderness so far, although this field is being more and more investigated by literary critics. Melvin Dixon’s ground breaking *Ride Out the Wilderness: Geography and Identity in Afro-American Literature* (1987), focused on the relationship between African Americans and landscape with specific reference to wild nature, has contributed to change the impression of the “whiteness of the wilderness” (Daegan Miller 2013) created by influential and widely quoted texts such as *Wilderness and the American Mind* (1967) by Roderick F. Nash or William Cronon’s critical “The Trouble with Wilderness” (1995).

The papers in this panel present readings of the American wilderness from various ethnic traditions such as African American, Latino, Asian American in a variety of areas, literary, visual, theoretical, historical, political.

Papers:

SELMA SIEW LI BIDLINGMAIER – New York University

“His body became the outline of the horizon”: Chinese American Re-visioning of the American West

PIRJO AHOKAS – University of Turku, Finland

Indigenous Relationship with Nature versus Colonization and Exploitation of Wilderness/Nature in Linda Hogan’s Solar Storms

MARINELLA RODI-RISBERG – University of Vaasa, Finland

Inhabiting the Fictional World of Trauma: Realism and Storytelling in Betty Louise Bell’s Novel Faces in the Moon

PAOLA NARDI – Catholic University of Milan

“You are nothing but wilderness. No constraint. No mind”: Toni Morrison’s *A Mercy*

PANEL 15

ORBIS AMERICANUS: A NEW IMPERIALISTIC DISCOURSE?

Coordinators: **ALBERT LATORELLA LEHNER** – University of Fukui, Japan (albert.lehner@gmail.com)
NICOLANGELO BECCE – University of Fukui, Japan (bekkhen@gmail.com)

Discussant: **MARINA MORBIDUCCI** – “Sapienza” University of Rome

In the 1990s, there was a decisive recognition of the fatal impact on local languages and cultures by English linguistic imperialism across the globe. From varied disciplines, a strong pushback occurred, thereby revealing and rejecting the destructive nexus of asymmetrical power relations (within societies, among races, and between nations), an emerging global neoliberalism, and a deteriorating language ecology worldwide that was becoming more “American” and hegemonic. The role of the English language, now most closely associated with the United States, was implicated, as globalization – economic, political, cultural, and linguistic – metastasized. A generation earlier, the seeds had been sown to organize and resist neoliberal pedagogies and political realities. As a result of well-conceived praxis for the past thirty years, the English language has witnessed radical deconstruction as world englishes and critical literacy emerged from among disquieted academics and grassroots organizations.

In the fall of 2016, the newly elected president of the United States, in a perilously threatening discourse, enunciated reckless slogans – about the greatness of the United States, about Mexican and Muslim immigrants, and about the use of English within the United States – slogans that shattered a developing and advantageous language ecology both within and beyond the borders of the United States. To that end, the new president's most imperialistic proclamation – about building a border wall – was heard with disbelief and apprehension in nearly every capital of the world.

One inescapable question materializes at present: Is a new American imperialism – with its neoliberal, colonizing, and deadly impact on the linguistic ecology of the world – now emerging through the birth of an *Orbis Americanus*?

This panel focuses on the language ecology of English in the post-2016 American election. This topic will be approached from different perspectives: North American studies, U.S. literature, U.S. history, multilingualism, immigration/diaspora, language, borders and mobility, etc.

Papers:

KATE WOLFE-QUINTERO – University of Southern Florida

Dividing the People: The “Anti-Public” Discourse in the United States

ALBERT LATORELLA LEHNER & NICOLANGELO BECCE – University of Fukui, Japan

Global Ecologies of Language and Culture at a Moment of American Resurgence

GIANNA FUSCO – University of L'Aquila

Code-Switching Goes Viral: Sounding "White" in Contemporary US

EVA PELAYO SAÑUDO – University of Oviedo

Old and New Urban Capabilities: A Comparative Analysis of Cities in U. S. Twentieth-Century Migration and Contemporary Anti-Imperialistic Discourse

PANEL 16

BLACK MOUNTAIN COLLEGE: REMOVING BARRIERS, ECO/ECHOING THE WORLD

Coordinator: **MARINA MORBIDUCCI** – “Sapienza” University of Rome
(marina.morbiducci@uniroma1.it)

Discussant: **ANDREA MARIANI** – “G. D'Annunzio” University of Chieti-Pescara

Sixty years after its definite closure, Black Mountain College still propagates waves of energy, avant-garde, research, and innovation, framing its history and peculiar academic experimentation in a utopian – “globalized” (*ante litteram*) – vision of education and cultural growth. Born from the daring experimental project of a handful of rebels, BMC's “exploration in community” – and the development of its progressive arts curriculum – remains as a unique example of creativity, iconoclasm and empathic understanding of the surrounding environment (immersed in the Blue Ridge Mountains landscape, extracurricular activities such as trekking, growing vegetables, milking cows, or recycling chicken bones to make hanging mobiles, were common practices). Much more distinctively, though, the first historical performance which ever took place should be mentioned, the famous 1952 *Untitled Event*, which imprinted all contemporary art, with Charles Olson, Merce Cunningham, Robert Rauschenberg, John Cage, among the others.

Black Mountain attracted and invited excellent personalities from the international artistic scenario (from Nazism fugitives and ex-Bauhaus artists in the Thirties, to counterculture and restless experimental figures in the Fifties), removing all the barriers which existed between academic disciplines and creative arts, in favour of self-expression, welcoming students and professors of different nationalities. The anticipation of such an open-minded, decidedly subversive vision of education through the arts, and the creation of an academic system where the neck would not represent the “dividing line between the intellect and the emotions,” are key features of its experimentation.

Workshop participants will focus on the processes and products of those forms of art which implemented the creative and ecosystemic vision of education thriving at BMC. From pottery to painting, from poetry to criticism, from music to dance, in all the multifaceted and innovative artistic expressions performed, a propagating explorational atmosphere emerged, and a luminescent vision of culture ec(h)oes.

Papers:

MARY EMMA HARRIS – University of North Carolina at Asheville
Black Mountain College: Open Form in American Education

BARBARA MONTEFALCONE – Chair of Liberal Studies, Paris College of Art

“Robin Hood's Band”: Community, Collaboration, and Books at Black Mountain College, 1933-1957

HITOMI NAKAMURA-NABAE – Kobe City University of Foreign Studies

Experiment and Experience: Black Mountain College and Japanese Mingei Undo (Folk-Art Movement)

MATT THEADO – Kobe City University of Foreign Studies

Black Mountain Review: Mass Consumerism and the Little Magazine

PANEL 17

THE SELF AND THE OTHER IN RELATIONAL TERMS

Coordinator: **MELIS MENENT** – University of Sussex (m.menent@sussex.ac.uk)

Discussant: **CRISTINA IULI** – University of Eastern Piedmont

Thinking about the self in national and international terms has become more challenging than before. The interconnectivity of the world society, which has been built for a long time by the cosmopolitan society, is now under threat. While the process of mutual understanding has been established through the efforts of those practicing as well as writing on issues of cultural communication, the criticism of this interconnectivity, mostly, belongs to the practical domain. Rendering public spheres more responsive to one another is made possible through the medium of language as a tool: it opens the door to culture and to the politics of culture. Translation, a process which is carried out both knowingly and unknowingly, runs through the channels of communication both within and among nation-states. It is through a process of interpreting that understanding is possible. Once the channels of communication are open, more comes in with it: different identities, packed into the names that surround and shelter them, bring forms and clusters of “meaning”.

Scholars in this workshop will unpack different aspects of social and political culture. Forms of relating to the other without relativising the perspective of the self, thinking about the centre and the periphery of knowledge and the difficulties of rendering these understandable to one another will be discussed with a view to the natural as well as the social habitat. An interdisciplinary perspective will be privileged.

Papers:

MELIS MENENT – University of Sussex

The Self and The Other in Relational Terms

ADIL EL ALAOUI – Sultan Moulay Slimane University, Beni Mellal, Morocco

Cultural Identity for Moroccan Americans

ROSEMARY SERRA – University of Trieste

InterAmerican Encounters: Understanding the Self and the Other through Tango

PANEL 18

OPEN SPACES AND COMMON PLACES: CULTURAL REPRESENTATION OF AMERICA'S SHIFTING GEOGRAPHIES

Coordinators: **UGO RUBEO** – "Sapienza" University of Rome (ugo.rubeco@uniroma1.it)

MARCO PETRELLI – "Sapienza" University of Rome (marco.sal.petrelli@gmail.com)

Discussant: **UGO RUBEO** – "Sapienza" University of Rome

Charles Olson's statement "I take SPACE to be the central fact of America's shifting Geographies," in his renowned *Call Me Ishmael*, stands as a synthetic formula to read American literature and culture in spatial terms. Later critics, from E. Soja to B. Jarvis, and F. Jameson have further developed that approach, together with philosophers like Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari, who, in his *A Thousand Plateaus*, suggests a classification of spaces based on a fundamental distinction between "smooth" and "striated" ones: "the two spaces [...] exist only in mixture: smooth space is constantly being translated, transversed into striated space; striated space is constantly being reversed, returned to smooth space." This dynamic relationship between an open, unsystematic space as opposed to an artificial, socially constructed one, has come to play a significant symbolic role in the way America has conceived, inhabited and represented its spaces.

The workshop's aim is to discuss the co-existence of heterogeneous spaces as they are represented in American culture, with a particular emphasis on the semiotic variations of space in relation to the ever-changing geography of social relations, characteristic of the global world we inhabit. Paraphrasing Faulkner, geography is never merely something to walk upon, it is always a medium – a central notion for a tradition that, starting with its Puritan origins, and all the way to Walker Percy's *The Moviegoer* (1961) or Paul Auster's *City of Glass* (1985) – not to mention Steinbeck's, West's and Pynchon's California – has always attributed social and political implications to the representations of its indigenous spaces.

Topics include:

- Global city vs country space
- Horizontal and vertical: social and geographic grids
- Thirdspace, cognitive mapping and spatial alienation
- Myth of space and space of myth
- Contemporary Frontiers
- Lost and/or reconquered space

Papers session 1:

ELENA FURLANETTO – University of Duisburg-Essen

Philip Freneau's Tentative Americanness: Caribbean Landscapes between Colonial Exotic and American Self

NICOLA PALADIN – “Sapienza” University of Rome

The “Men” of the Crowd: Mobs, Armies and Public Space in Classic American Literature

GAETANO MARTIRE – “Sapienza” University of Rome

City versus desert: postmodernist spaces in Point Omega by Don DeLillo

MARCO PETRELLI – “Sapienza” University of Rome

“Out of Eden: Old Southm Post-South and Ur-South in Sara Taylor’s The Shore

Papers session 2:

ILARIA BOTTONE – “Sapienza” University of Rome

Donald Barthelme and the Postmodern urban Geography of the City

ALICE BALESTRINO – “Sapienza” University of Rome

Alternative Geographies for Alternative Histories: The Diagonal Space in Chabon’s The Yiddish Policemen’s Union

THOMAS HEISE – Pennsylvania State University

The Ruins of Los Angeles: Walled Cities, Broken Highways, and the Limits of Empathy in Octavia Butler’s Parable of the Sower

MONIA DAL CHECCO – University of Padua

A Farmer in the Ghetto: Space and Black Identity in Paul Beatty’s The Sellout

PANEL 19

EVOLVING BELIEFS AND IDEOLOGIES: RELIGION, NATURE, AND PLACE IN NORTH AMERICAN LITERATURE

Coordinators: **ALANA DAGENHART** – Johnson & Wales University, Charlotte
(alana.dagenhart@jwu.edu)

GINEVRA PAPARONI – University of Milan (ginevra.paparoni@unimi.it)

Discussant: **ELENA OGLIARI** – University of Milan

The panel aims at investigating how conceptions of Judeo-Christian origins affected the perception and the representation of nature in the prose and poetry of American writers throughout history.

From the seventeenth century on, Judeo-Christian ideas about nature were treated by American authors according to their philosophical beliefs, their political and ideological aspirations, their ethics, or simply their personal sensibility and experience. In different historical ages, authors as various as Mary Rowlandson, Jonathan Edwards, Herman Melville, Robert Frost, and Marilynne Robinson supported, questioned or creatively elaborated in their work notions and conceptions such as the demonization of nature as a place of spiritual trial; its sacralization as a source of revelation and regeneration; the panentheistic interpretation of nature; the belief in a governing design presiding over nature; the idea of fallen nature; the view of the human being as either legitimate exploiter or guardian of nature deriving from the Genesis and the anthropocentric perspective implied in it. Papers will address the treatment and development of these and further ideas about nature in the production of North American writers.

Papers:

FRANCESCA RAZZI – “G. D’Annunzio” University of Chieti-Pescara
Nature’s “Artifex Polytechnes”: Anthropocentric Aesthetics and Transcultural Perspectives in Edgar Allan Poe’s “The Landscape Garden”

MARCO ANTONIO LOI – Independent Scholar
Rural America and Revelations in Bernard Malamud’s A New Life and Philip Roth’s American Pastoral

ALANA DAGENHART – Johnson & Wales University, Charlotte
The Mountains as Sacred Spaces: Church, Place, and Culture in Appalachian Poetry

GINEVRA PAPARONI – University of Milan
Contemplating the Gardener’s Mysterious Design: The Life of Plants in Theodore Roethke’s Greenhouse Poems

PANEL 20

SPACES OF PROTEST: AISNA GRADUATE STUDENTS FORUM

Coordinators: **VIRGINIA PIGNAGNOLI** – University of Turin (virginia.pignagnoli@unito.it)
MARTA GARA – Independent Scholar (marta.gara85@gmail.com)

Discussant: **GIANNA FUSCO** – University of L'Aquila

This panel aims at investigating contemporary spaces of protest in the United States. In particular, papers will focus on the relationship between social movements and the specific sites where the protests take place, e.g. Anti-Trump muslim ban/US airports; The Occupy Wall Street movement/Zuccotti Park in New York City; Hippy movement/Haight Ashbury in San Francisco; Racial riots from 1965 to 1968/Watts (Los Angeles), Harlem (New York City) and other inner cities; labour protests in 1886/Haymarket Square (Chicago). These sites acquire symbolic meaning and become inevitably intertwined with the narratives of protest they accommodate. For instance, it is significant that many of the most famous protest marches have been aimed at the seats of local, state, and national power, while some sites have become synonymous of protest and resistance over the years, despite the original activists' intentions, e.g. Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama. The panelists will reflect not only on the geographical, social, economic significance of the protest environments and their connection with the strategy of protest, but also on the politics of memory or oblivion over sites of historical relevance connected to opposition and protest, with the objective of exploring their current social and cultural meaning.

Papers:

ELISA RONCOLI – University of Bergamo

From Experience to History: Facts and Myths of the Sixties in Joan Didion's Slouching Towards Bethlehem

CRISTINA DI MAIO – University of Turin

Holding Their (Play) Ground: The Playground as a Space of Protest in Three Short Stories by Grace Paley

FRANCESCO LANDOLFI – Florence University

Fighting for Civil Rights: School Desegregation in Boston (1965-1974)

ANGELA SANTESE – University of Bologna

Describing the Nuclear Armageddon: The Atomic Menace in the U.S. Popular Culture of the 1980s"

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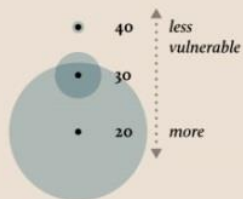
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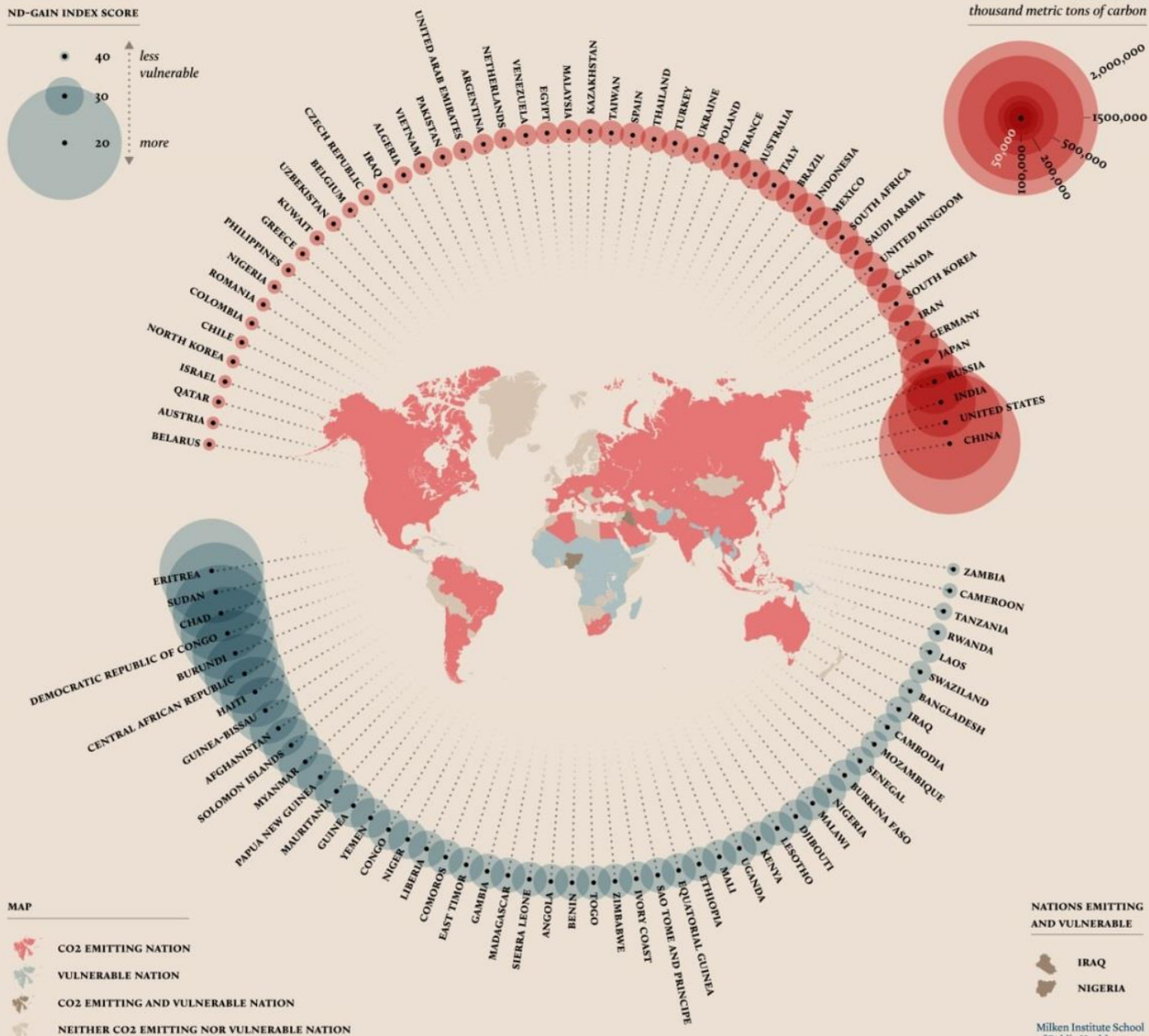
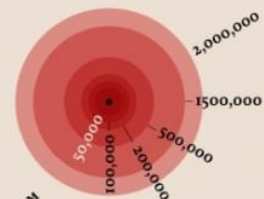
GINEVRA PAPARONI (ginevra.paparoni@unimi.it)

CO2 EMISSION VS. VULNERABILITY TO CLIMATE CHANGE, BY NATION (2010)

ND-GAIN INDEX SCORE



EMITTED CO2
thousand metric tons of carbon



SOURCES: CARBON DIOXIDE INFORMATION ANALYSIS CENTER; RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY AND ECONOMICS; ND-GAIN INDEX

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