

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY IN FLORENCE

Fall 2018

Lecture Series Program

Caroline Hillard, Tuesday, October 9

“Leonardo and the Etruscan Tomb”

An enigmatic drawing by Leonardo da Vinci of an Etruscan mausoleum has long puzzled scholars. Although they agree that the discovery of an Etruscan tomb near Florence inspired the work, questions remain about the artist’s interpretation of Etruscan architecture and its place within his broader oeuvre. Through a close reading of early documents related to the tomb discovery, this talk offers a new interpretation of Leonardo’s drawing, as well as insight into contemporary beliefs about the Etruscans and a major episode in the Renaissance recovery of antiquity.

<https://itatti.harvard.edu/people/caroline-hillard>

John Dickie (date TBA)

“Pellegrino Artusi: the father of Italian cuisine”

How did an eccentric retired businessman from the small town of Forlimpopoli, in the Romagna region, end up writing the most important cookbook in Italian history? What role did the city of Florence play in his story?

It has been said that Pellegrino Artusi’s *La scienza in cucina e l’arte di mangiar bene* (*Science in the Kitchen and the Art of Eating Well*—first published in 1891) has done more to give Italians a national identity than any other book. It has never been out of print, and for many years Artusi and the Bible were often the only two volumes to be found in many Italian homes. Drawing on his years of experience as a business traveller, Artusi blended science, humour and good taste in the cause of teaching Italy’s middle classes to be proud of their national food traditions. Indeed, Artusi did more than anyone to bring Italy’s different regional food traditions together in a mosaic that went a long way to creating Italian food as we know it today.

<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/selcs/departments/italian/research-excellence/staff/john-dickie>

Stefano Bartolini, Monday, November 12

“Manifesto for Happiness. Shifting Society from Money to Well-being”

We live in rich countries, we have defeated mass poverty, we have access to consumer goods, education and health care and we lead longer lives. And yet, dissatisfaction and psychological malaise are widespread. Why rich countries haven't succeeded in combining economic development and wellbeing? Bartolini's answer is that our relationships and time have been sacrificed on the altar of material affluence, which knows only two imperatives: work and the consumption. Hence our increasing wealth of goods and penury of relationships. Hence our growing unhappiness. Studies on happiness in most developed countries have confirmed the veracity of this dismal portrait. But does economic affluence really have to entail a penury of interpersonal relationships, wellbeing, time and natural environment? The answer is negative. Combining economic prosperity and happiness is as possible as it is necessary. Governments, political parties, entrepreneurs, managers, parents and all of us have it in our power to redesign our world. We can change our schools, change our cities, reduce traffic and advertising.

<http://docenti.unisi.it/stefanobartolini/curriculum/>

<http://docenti.unisi.it/stefanobartolini/economia-della-felicita/>

Jhumpa Lahiri, Wednesday, November 28

“Falling in Love with the Italian language and with Italy at 20. A Never Ending Love Affair” (tentative title)

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Jhumpa-Lahiri>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/3670.Jhumpa_Lahiri

Unless otherwise noted, all lectures begin at 6:20pm and are held in Rm. 13 of the Villa Rossa, Piazza Savonarola, 15.