

LECTURE SERIES SPRING 2019 Program

Emergent Genres of Art in the Mediterranean

Dr. Eva Kekou, Monday, February 4

This talk will illustrate the cultural and art scene in the Mediterranean using the example of Athens as a case in point. It will focus on how institutions have changed and how this change is related to politics and other factors. Furthermore, the lecture will touch upon art in the public art sphere, performance, locative art and new media art projects related with the urban space. The aim of the talk is to show how a city can be transformed into an open museum, and how politics and art are interwoven in different contexts determined by sociological, anthropological and economic parameters.

Dr. Eva Kekou is an art historian, cultural theorist and curator. Her field of expertise is: art in public space, interactive media and transdisciplinarity in the arts. She has organised the symposium Urban Digital Narratives at the National Research Foundation in Athens. Her research work is published in reputable academic journals.

High Energy Physics in Modern Medicine

Saverio Braccini, Monday, February 11

The abstract will be provided ASAP

Saverio Braccini is a senior physicist at the Laboratory of High Physics of the University of Bern, where he leads the research activities on medical applications of particle physics. He was formerly Technical Director of the Foundation for Oncological Hadrontherapy TERA, where he contributed to the development of innovative accelerators and detectors for the treatment of tumors with hadron beams. Previously he has been active in particle physics at the Large Electron Positron Collider (LEP) and at Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at Cern, giving important contributions to low energy QCD and to the construction of high precision particle detectors.

Dialogue with John Hooper, The Economist's correspondent in Italy and for the Vatican.

Tuesday, February 19

We will engage this influential journalist in a conversation about today Europe, focusing especially on some hot issues such as the immigration crisis, populism and the Brexit.

Hooper worked for the BBC and began his career as a foreign correspondent in Cyprus after the Turkish invasion of the island where he reported for a number of news organisations including the BBC, the Guardian, The Economist, Reuters and NBC.

In 1994, he came to Italy for the first time as Southern Europe Correspondent for the Guardian and Observer. From 1999 to 2003 he was Central Europe Correspondent for the same two papers, based in Berlin.

Since 2003, he has been The Economist's correspondent in Italy and for the Vatican.

Over the course of his long career in journalism, John Hooper has covered several conflicts including in Northern Ireland, the Middle East, Algeria and Kosovo. In 2001, he was in Afghanistan for the Battle of Tora Bora and the search for Osama bin Laden.

His book, *The Spaniards: A portrait of the new Spain*, won the 1987 Allen Lane award for a best first work of history or literature. He later published two expanded and revised versions under the title of *The New Spaniards*. His latest book, *The Italians*, was published by Penguin in the UK and Viking in the US in 2015.

Women and leadership: from equal opportunities to gender equality. Legal instruments and policies to help women break the glass ceiling

Stefania Carpini, Tuesday, February 26

The international debate on gender issues with particular focus on the UN. The Swedish experience and its impact in EU legislation. Gender mainstreaming Italy's performance as far as gender gap is concerned. Is our society ready to accept affirmative action? One special kind of affirmative action: quotas. Bill 120/2011 and its impact in the private sector.

Min. Plen. Laura Carpini is the Diplomatic Advisor of the Mayor of the Metropolitan City of Florence since March 27th 2017. She joined the Italian Foreign Service in 1994, and was subsequently assigned to the to the Cabinet of the Director General of Political Affairs of the Ministry of External Affairs in Rome. She completed her first assignment abroad as Vice Consul and then Deputy Consul at the Consulate General of Italy in New York from 1998 until 2002. She served in Cuba as Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Italy until 2006, when she returned to Hqs in Rome. She served as Human Rights Director until 2010, and led to success, in 2007, the first resolution on the moratorium of executions at the UN General Assembly. The last two positions she held were in India, as First Counsellor Head of the Political and Consular Sections in New Delhi, and in Ghana as Ambassador, also credited to Togo, from 2012 to 2016.

Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa

Rab Hatfield, Tuesday, March 19

Professor Hatfield's chief purpose in this lecture is familiarize listeners with some very important but rarely discussed laboratory photographs and documents pertaining to Leonardo da Vinci's *Mona Lisa* or *La Gioconda*. He will also propose some new ideas about the history of this famous painting.

Rab Hatfield received both his B.A. and his Ph.D. from Harvard. From 1964 to 1966 and again in 1970-71 he was a fellow of Villa I Tatti, the Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies. In 1995-96 he was a member of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton. From 1966 to 1970 he taught at Yale. He then taught for 43 years for our program before retiring in 2014.

The Ironies of Italian and American History

Stan G. Pugliese, Wednesday, March 20

As controversy and debate rage over the statue of Columbus in NYC and the fate of Columbus Day generally, it is necessary to confront the dilemmas and paradoxes of Italian American history. Columbus has become a prism through which much of Italian American history is refracted and often times distorted. But there is no ambiguity in the minds of Italian Americans. Columbus has evolved into a sacred totem, and woe to those who would contest his place in history (or Columbus Circle). As the latest controversy plays out—an MTV series about Italian American culture on Staten Island, NY—this lecture is an attempt to unravel the stereotypes and ask questions about how we construct both our past and our future.

https://people.hofstra.edu/Stanslao_Pugliese/

Red Gold

Stefania Prandi, Tuesday, April 2

Female greenhouse and field workers are sexually harassed, coerced, blackmailed and raped in Mediterranean countries. Women from Romania, Morocco, Bulgaria, Poland, but also locals, are forced to accept exploitation in order to keep their jobs. Reporting to the authorities is almost impossible and useless because they are not believed.

In the course of a two years investigation on this issue I spoke to more than 130 women as well as unionists and representatives of associations. My book *Oro rosso* (Red Gold) published in 2018 by Settenove and the [multimedia feature “Rape in the fields”](#), originally published [in English and German](#) (and then translated [in Spanish](#)) for [BuzzFeed News Deutschland](#) and [Correctiv](#) and co-authored with German journalist [Pascale Mueller](#), have for the first time shed a light on the widespread sexualized violence over female workers. I focused on the major export-oriented agricultural areas of three different Mediterranean countries: Huelva in Spain, Souss-Massa in Morocco and Sicily and Apulia in Italy.

The investigation has sparked a huge debate in Spain and Morocco, with politicians and prosecutors calling for action to be taken by the relevant authorities. A large number of farm workers reported alleged abuse to the police and migrant women took to the streets to protest against their bosses. The reporting and the subsequent public outcry made it possible for a hitherto silenced issue affecting thousands of women to surface and opened up a space for these women to seek justice. Nonetheless nobody has been charged as yet with these crimes.

<https://www.stefaniaprandi.it/index>