

UCLA

Carte Italiane

Title

Introduction and Acknowledgments

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/5pm2h00w>

Journal

Carte Italiane, 12(1)

ISSN

0737-9412

Authors

S.V. Cantor, Sarah
Di Blasio, Federica
Guarro Romero, Adriana

Publication Date

2019

DOI

10.5070/C9121046097

Copyright Information

Copyright 2019 by the author(s). All rights reserved unless otherwise indicated. Contact the author(s) for any necessary permissions. Learn more at <https://escholarship.org/terms>

Introduction and Acknowledgments

We are pleased to present the current issue of *Carte Italiane*, “*Il sangue non è acqua? The Significance of Familial Bonds in Italian Culture and Society.*” We chose the topic of this volume for its enduring relevance throughout Italian history. Family relationships are consistently represented and problematized in Italian literature, theater, art, music, television and cinema, whether those relationships are between husband and wife, mother and daughter, father and son, siblings, or any combination of the above. Italy also has an outstanding tradition of historians, anthropologists, and sociologists who have tracked the role of the Italian family through the centuries, describing and analyzing its idiosyncrasies, mutations, and connections with specific geographical, political, and religious contexts as well as criminal behavior and phenomena such as “amoral familism.”

This issue seeks to explore the ways in which “the family” and all the relationships this term encompasses have shaped and continue to shape Italian culture and society. To this end, we have arranged the articles chronologically by topic, tracing how writings on the theme of family have evolved over time. Our authors examine new and alternative understandings of kinship that may disrupt, dismantle, or even challenge perceptions of what constitutes *la famiglia italiana*. The articles range in discussion from the family’s effect on the spiritual authority of the medieval mystic Angela da Foligno to the violence that influences the family unit in Elena Ferrante’s Neapolitan novels. Other articles address the familial and possibly erotic bond that appears in letters exchanged between Poliziano and Lorenzo de’ Medici, the impact of Maria Drago on her son Giuseppe Mazzini’s Risorgimento politics and philosophy, the tie between Fascism and the family in twentieth-century women’s sports, the history of Clara Sereni’s Roman-Jewish family in her narrative *Il gioco dei regni* (1993), and the many shades of the mother-daughter relationship in Michela Murgia’s 2009 novel *Accabadora*. In addition to articles, the volume includes book reviews on recent publications in Italian studies and a short synopsis of the annual meeting of the California Interdisciplinary Consortium of Italian Studies (CICIS). We hope you will find the following pages to be a rich example of early career scholarship in Italian studies.

Volume 12 could not have come about without the dedicated work of our many collaborators. We would like to extend our sincerest thanks to our Editorial Board: Viola Ardeni, Nina Bjekovic, Allison Collins, Melissa Melpignano, Marianna Nespoli, Kelly Roso, Adele Sanna, Joseph Tumolo, and Catherine Whittinghill Illingworth for their devotion throughout the publication of this volume. Our gratitude also goes to the Faculty Advisory Board for their continued assistance with the blind review process. We would especially like to thank William Morosi for his hard work on our cover design and galleys, and for providing general guidance throughout the editing process. David Pederson,

former Director of GSA Publications, and his successor Dita Cole have also been an invaluable source of support for *Carte Italiane*. Finally, we would like to thank the UCLA Department of Italian for their continued support of *Carte Italiane*.

Sarah S.V. Cantor, Editor-in-Chief

Adriana Guarro Romero, Editor-in-Chief

Federica Di Blasio, Managing Editor