The Catholic University of America Presents

“From Grazia Deledda to Melania Mazzucco: Italian Literary Narrative Trajectory into the Twenty-First Century”

A Symposium organized by the Program of Italian Studies of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures and generously sponsored by the Graduate Students Association at CUA and the Italian Cultural Institute in Washington.
10:00 am-5:00 pm Pryzbyla 327
March 18, 2009

Keynote Speakers Margherita Heyer-Caput- University of California-Davis; Cristina Della Coletta- University of Virginia; Stefania Lucamante- The Catholic University of America

With the advent of women’s emancipation and feminist theory, Italian literature has been marked by an unprecedented conflation of critical and readership interest. This phenomenon is due to an array of reasons, roughly organized around deconstructionist criticism and change in publishing market. Despite the list of women writers in Italian literature is quite long as it harks back to the works of Veronica Franco and Gaspara Stampa, and even earlier examples, Grazia Deledda’s Nobel prize and Melania Mazzucco’s Strega Prize frame temporally this symposium. On this occasion, scholars and students will examine the trajectory designed by women writers throughout the twentieth century and the outcome of their influence in the twenty-first century writers. Papers will deal with women’s contribution to the expansion of the Italian canon. Scholars and CUA students will present recent works that deal specifically with this issue while also assessing the most important modes of expression and themes in women’s contemporary narrative.

This symposium has been made possible by the generous sponsorship of the Graduate Students Association of CUA.