

The Department of French & Italian
presents a PhD dissertation defense

Marzia Bagnasco

A Disputed Country: Italy, Migrants,
and National Identity in Contemporary
Films and Documentaries



Friday, May 14, 2021

10:00 am

Via Zoom

Please notify Prof. Colleen Ryan (ryancm@iu.edu) if you would like to attend.

Abstract:

This dissertation critically analyzes and interprets the Italian migration-themed film production of the last decade [2010-2020], to provide an updated picture of the current audiovisual panorama concerning the topic of migration to and in Italy. More precisely, this thesis focuses on a specific set of recent fiction films directed by Italian, Italian-American, and second-generation Italian filmmakers, that offers provocative insights into the socio-cultural and personal-human interactions between Italy and foreign migrants at the present time. The corpus of cinematographic texts for this dissertation includes: *Il sangue verde* (Green Blood, A. Segre, 2010), *Il villaggio di cartone* (The Cardboard Village, E. Olmi, 2011), *La prima neve* (First Snowfall, A. Segre, 2013), *La mia classe* (My Class, D. Gaglianone, 2013), *Sta per piovere* (It's About to Rain, H. Rashid, 2013), *Mediterranea* (J. Carpignano, 2015), *Fuocoammare* (Fire at Sea, G. Rosi, 2016), *Fiore gemello* (Twin Flower, L. Luchetti, 2017), *Piazza Vittorio* (A. Ferrara, 2018), *Bangla* (P. Bhuiyan, 2019), *Tolo tolo* (C. Zalone, 2020). These films are explored in three separate chapters, each of which deals with a specific aspect of the macro theme of migration: race, hospitality, and citizenship. Throughout, I argue that to fully understand the socio-cultural and juridical-political relationships between Italy and migrants at the present moment, it is necessary to consider how these three aspects have played a predominant role in the formation of national identity. Through the analysis of the selected films, I aspire to accomplish two goals: 1) demonstrate the disputing notions of nation-making that have existed within the literature of these films and documentaries, and 2) show how the analyses of this purposefully selection of films can sharpen our understanding of the issues both shaping and challenging Italy as a problematic site of transnationalism and multiculturalism.

Committee:

Colleen Ryan, French & Italian, Chair
Andrea Ciccarelli, French & Italian
Massimo Scalabrini, French & Italian
Faye Gleisser, Art History