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Note biografiche

ALESSANDRO GIARDINO is a Ph.D. candidate and Lecturer in Italian Studies at McGill University, Canada. He is also an executive member of APIQ, Association of Italian Professors of Quebec and a teacher at the Italian Cultural Institute of Montreal. Before coming to McGill, he obtained a Laurea in DAMS and a Laurea Specialistica in Art History at the Università di Bologna, and he was a visiting scholar at UC Berkeley, and at the Université de Montreal. In the last few years, Giardino participated at numerous conferences and published professional and academic articles, often applying a visual, semiotic, and psychoanalytic reading to literary and cinematic texts. In Fall 2008, Giardino was a recipient of a Mae-Cui Fellowship and worked as a Director Assistant at the Italian Cultural Institute of New York. Previously, he had served as Curator Assistant for several galleries and cultural associations. In his doctoral research, Giardino aims at an in-depth understanding of Giorgio Bassani's oeuvre with an analysis of his visual sources, visual references, and recurring visual motives. Giardino is currently using Bassani's work as a case study to develop a methodology of reading literature through visual studies and psychoanalytic semiology.

ANDREA HAJEK (1979) received her doctorate in Italian Studies from the University of Warwick (UK) with a dissertation on the public memory of student protests in the late 1970s. Previously, she studied French, Comparative Literature, and Italian at the University of Utrecht (Netherlands). She is currently a Visiting Fellow at the Centre for the Study of Cultural Memory (University of London) and an Associate Fellow of the Institute of Advanced Study at the University of Warwick. Since 2009, she has been the senior editorial assistant for the Sage journal of *Memory Studies*. She was recently appointed assistant editor for the journal *Modern Italy*. In 2011, she co-founded the Oral History Network at the University of Warwick.

XIN LIU è nato a Xiamen in Cina nel 1984. Si è laureato con la tesi *Fra l'Esistenza e la Libertà – l'Analisi dei Personaggi di Il Cavaliere Inesistente di Italo Calvino* in Lingua e Letteratura Italiana nel 2007 presso l'Università di Lingue Straniere di Pechino, dove ha anche conseguito il Master nel 2010. Adesso è uno studente dottorato in Italianistica con la borsa di studio Royster presso l'University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

negli Stati Uniti. Ha svolto le sue ricerche prevalentemente nell'ambito della contemporanea letteratura e cultura italiana. Attualmente attende ad approfondire lo studio della comunicazione culturale fra l'Italia e la Cina. Alla Conferenza Annuale d'AAIS presso l'Università di Pittsburgh nel 2011, ha presentato il saggio *From Cultural Conflicts to Biopolitics – interpretation of the “otherness” in Italian Migrant Literature*.

ROBERTO RISSO è un Ph.D. candidate e Teaching Assistant presso il Dipartimento di *French and Italian* della University of Wisconsin, Madison, dove intende di occuparsi di prosa narrativa italiana. Dopo la Laurea in letteratura italiana all'Università di Torino nel 2004, un Master di Studi americani nel 2006 presso la stessa Università, ha conseguito nel 2010 il Dottorato in letteratura italiana a Torino, con una tesi sul romanzo epistolare italiano fra Cinque e Seicento. Le sue pubblicazioni riguardano principalmente la narrativa e l'epistolarieta' fra Cinquecento e Novecento.

MAURO SASSI worked as a story editor and Lecturer of TV scriptwriting in Italy before coming to Canada in 2007. He has a Ph.D. (ABD) in Italian Studies from McGill University and is recipient of the FQRSC (Fonds de recherche du Québec - Société et culture) Doctoral Research Fellowship and McGill Principal's Graduate Fellowship. He has published on TV scriptwriting, documentary theory and contemporary Italian documentary.

HEATHER SOTTONG is a Ph.D. student of Italian Literature at UCLA. She received her B.A. in German from the University of Notre Dame in 2004, and her Laurea in Lingue e Letterature Straniere from the Università degli Studi di Firenze in April 2008. Her research interests include Renaissance theatre and art history and the influence of Dante on North and South American authors.

CAMILLA ZAMBONI is a Ph.D. student in the Italian Department at UCLA. She graduated from the Università Ca' Foscari in Venice in 2006, and she completed her Masters in Italian Studies at The Ohio State University in 2009, with a thesis on the representation of the Holocaust in Italian Film. At UCLA her research interests include politically and socially engaged cinema and theatre. In particular, she is focusing on Italian political cinema of the 60s and 70s and the representation of power and authority in the works of a selection of directors, with a dissertation on the cinema of Elio Petri. In 2009, Zamboni attended a

conference on *impegno* at NYU with a paper on Mafia Film, and in 2010 she presented on Wertmuller's "Seven Beauties" at Warwick University. In 2010 and 2011, Zamboni has attended the annual AAIS conference and presented papers on immigration cinema and on Elio Petri. She also composed a report on the 2010 and 2011 AAIS Conference's Film panels for "The Italianist."