

27<sup>th</sup> AISNA Biennial Conference

Narni 21-23 September 2023

# VULNERABILITIES

Weaknesses, Threats, Resilience in the USA  
and in Global Perspective

University of Perugia

FISSUF Department - CRISU

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

CONFERENCE VENUE:

Piazza Galeotto Marzio, Narni



## Thursday 21 September

- 9.00 Registration - (*Aula San Domenico*)
- 9.30 Greetings  
Prof. Maurizio Oliviero, Rector, University of Perugia  
Prof. Massimiliano Marianelli, Head of FISSUF Department, University of Perugia  
Dr. Christina Tomlinson, Minister Counselor for Public Affairs U.S. Embassy Rome  
Dr. Lorenzo Lucarelli, Mayor of Narni  
Prof. Leonardo Buonomo, AISNA President  
Chair: Prof. Alessandro Clericuzio, University of Perugia
- 10.00 Plenary Lecture: Jennifer Travis (St. John's University, NY, USA)  
Threat Horizons: Vulnerability and Invulnerability in American Culture  
Chair: Prof. Leonardo Buonomo, University of Trieste, *Aula San Domenico*
- 11.00 Coffee Break *Aula San Domenico*
- 11.30 PANEL SESSION 1  
Panels 8.1 (*San Domenico*) / 5.1 (*Aula C*) / 13 (*Aula Magna*) / 17.1 (*Aula I*) / 9 (*Aula B*) / 6.1 (*Aula Oriana Fallaci*)
- 13.15 Lunch Break Piazza Galeotto Marzio
- 14.30 PANEL SESSION 2  
Panels 14 (*Aula Magna*) / 8.2 (*San Domenico*) / 2.1 (*Aula C*) / 6.2 (*Aula Oriana Fallaci*) / 17.2 (*Aula I*) / 1 (*Aula B*)
- 16.15 Plenary Lecture: David Roediger (The University of Kansas, USA)  
Is the "White Worker" in the US Unfathomable? A Tribute to Howard Zinn  
Chair: Prof. Lorenzo Costaguta, University of Bristol, UK - *Aula San Domenico*
- 17.45 *Aula Magna* Round Table: Per un archivio (digitale) della letteratura americana in Italia: documenti, testimonianze, paratesti (1930-1970), with Andrea Carosso (University of Turin), Cristina Iuli (UPO, University of Eastern Piedmont), Stefano Morello (CUNY Graduate Center), Virginia Piganonli (University of Turin), Cinzia Scarpino (State University, Milan)
- 18.30 Graduate Forum  
Presentation of Publications  
A Celebration of AISNA and the Graduate Forum

## Friday 22 September

- 9.30** Plenary Lecture: Prof. Giuseppe Nori (University of Macerata)  
As to the Men: Indoor Vulnerabilities in Emerson and Melville  
*Chair:* Prof. Andrea Mariani (University of Chieti - Pescara)
- 10.30** Coffee Break in *Aula San Domenico*
- 11.00** **PANEL SESSION 3**  
Panels 5.2 (*Aula C*) / 15 (*San Domenico*) / 2.2 (*Aula Magna*) / 10.1 (*Aula Oriana Fallaci*) / 16.1 (*Aula B*) 4 (*Aula I*)
- 12.45** Lunch Break Piazza Galeotto Marzio
- 14.15** **PANEL SESSION 4**  
Panels 2.3 (*Aula Magna*) / 16.2 (*Aula B*) / 5.3 (*Aula I*) 11.1 (*San Domenico*) / 12 (*Aula C*)  
Plenary Lecture: Martha Albertson Fineman (Emory University School of Law, USA)  
Reasoning from the Body: Universal Vulnerability and Collective Responsibility  
*Chair:* Prof. Valeria Gennero, University of Bergamo
- 17.00** Aisna Meeting *Aula San Domenico*
- 20.30** Social Dinner, Ristorante Rustico, Narni
- Saturday 23 September**
- 9.30** AISNA 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Round Table - *Aula Magna*
- 11.00** Coffee Break - Piazza Galeotto Marzio
- 11.30** **PANEL SESSION 5 and Graduate Forum Workshop**  
Panels 7 (*San Domenico*) / 11.2 (*Aula B*) / 3 (*Aula Oriana Fallaci*) / 10.2 (*Aula C*)  
Graduate Forum Workshop: "European and International Grants for Beginners:  
How to Navigate the World of Funding without Freaking Out" *Aula Magna*
- 12.45** Closing Remarks
- 15.00** Social activity: Visit of Underground Narni

*Legend:* *Aula A* (a.k.a. Oriana Fallaci), *Aula B* (a.k.a. Aula Blu), *Aula C* (a.k.a. Aula 3) in the building of Casa del Popolo  
*Aula I* and *Aula Magna* are both in the central structure, Piazza Galeotto Marzio

## PANELS

### 1 VULNERABILITY AND RESILIENCE IN ITALIAN AMERICA: STRATEGIES FOR SURVIVAL

#### COORDINATORS:

Carla Francellini, University of Siena, francellini@unisi.it

Elisabetta Marino, University of Rome Tor Vergata, marino@lettere.uniroma2.it

Carla Francellini (University of Siena)  
Vulnerable Rocks: Miners and Fathers in Pietro di Donato's and Adria Di Bernardi's Works

Matteo Cacco (University of Cologne, Germany)  
Americanization as a Survival Strategy in Helen Barolini's *Umbertina*

Elisabetta Marino (University of Rome Tor Vergata)  
Exposing Vulnerability, Developing Resilience: Donna Jo Napoli's Children's Literature

Cristiana Pagliaruso (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)  
Emiliano Ponzi: the Italian Artist Who Inspired American People in Pandemic Times

Marta Lucari (University of Rome "Tor Vergata")  
Understanding the Italian American Ability to Survive through a Lexical Analysis of John Fante's  
Novels

### 2 RESISTING RESILIENCE: VULNERABILITY AS POSSIBILITY

#### COORDINATORS:

Pilar Martínez Benedí, University of L'Aquila, p.martinezbenedi@gmail.com

Chiara Patrizi, University of Bologna, chiara.patrizio@unibo.it

#### SESSION 1

Elizabeth Esch (University of Kansas, USA)  
Production and Reproduction in Frida Kahlo's *Henry Ford Hospital*: Vulnerability Confronts Fordism  
and Capitalism

Elle Griffiths (University of Nottingham, UK)  
Radical Hillbillies: Resisting the Trump Country Narrative in Appalachia

Giulia Magro and Sara Riccetti (University of Rome, La Sapienza)  
Dimensions of Vulnerability, Survivance, and Decolonized Futures in Yvette Nolan's *The Unplugging*  
and Gerald Vizenor's *Bearheart*

Maria Jennifer Estévez Yanes (University of La Laguna, Spain)  
Challenging the Promise of "The Good Life": Vulnerability as Resistance in *The Good Immigrant USA*

#### SESSION 2

Paolo Simonetti (University of Rome, La Sapienza)  
But We Know Another Truth, Don't We? Fiction, Physics, and Mental Disorders in Cormac  
McCarthy's *The Passenger* and Stella Maris

**Anna Ferrari** (University of Rome, La Sapienza)  
If My Life Wasn't Funny It Would Just Be True, and That Is Unacceptable: The Subversive Vulnerability of Carrie Fisher's Writings on Bipolar Disorder

**Chiara Parrizi** (University of Bologna)  
Healing in Black: Reclaiming Time, Challenging Resilience

### SESSION 3

**Paola Loreto** (State University, Milan)  
The Resilience of Vulnerability: Writing as Misreading, Inquiry, Process (and Failure) in the Eco-poetry of Orchard Terney

**Mena Mitrano** (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)  
Poetic Theology and Creatively Slaves (Revisiting Textuality)

**Andrea Ptozzi** (University of Bergamo)  
Errancy and Vulnerability as Alternatives of Life

### 3 HOLLYWOOD'S SINS: COUNTER-HEGEMONIC DISCOURSES IN US LITERATURE AND CULTURE

COORDINATORS:

**Enrico Mariani**, Roma 3 University, [enrico.mariani@uniroma3.it](mailto:enrico.mariani@uniroma3.it)

**Giacomo Traina**, University of Rome La Sapienza, [giacomo.traina@uniroma1.it](mailto:giacomo.traina@uniroma1.it)

**Francesco Chianese** (Cardiff University and California State University, USA)  
Connecting Diaporas on American Screens: From *Sopranoland* to *Everything Everywhere All at Once*

**Enrico Mariani** (Roma 3 University)  
Re-Writing the Script: The Multimedia Strategies of the Novel in Gina Apostol's *Insurrecto*

**Giacomo Traina** (University of Rome, La Sapienza)  
Fantasies of Revenge: Dismantling Hollywood's Vietnam

**Martina Arioli** (University of Bologna)  
*The Other Side*: Remediating the Vietnam War Experience from Hanoi to Hollywood to Comics

**Nicolangelo Becece** (Roma 3 University)  
*The Terror: Ingame* and the Limits of Contemporary Representations of the Japanese American Internment Experience

### 4 "IN THIS PLACE WE FLESH, FLESH THAT WEEPS, FLESH THAT LAUGHS, FLESH THAT DANCES WITH BARE FEET": DISSECTING AMBIVALENT NOTIONS OF BLACK VULNERABILITY IN AMERICAN DISCOURSES

COORDINATORS:

**Gianna Fusco** (University of L'Aquila) – [marfiagiovanna.fusco@uniwaq.it](mailto:marfiagiovanna.fusco@uniwaq.it)

**Giuseppe Polise** (University of L'Aquila) – [giuseppe.polise@uniwaq.it](mailto:giuseppe.polise@uniwaq.it)

**Gianna Fusco** (University of L'Aquila)  
Black Bodies, blood memories: The Triangulation of Grief, Joy, and Hope in Alvin Alley's *Revelations* and *Cry*

**Delisa D. Hawkes** (University of Tennessee, Knoxville)  
Black Vulnerability Beyond Earth in Contemporary Popular Television and Fiction

**Giuseppe Polise** (University of L'Aquila)  
A Beautiful Chokecherry Tree on Her Back: Sethe as the Enfranchisement of Black Female Vulnerability and Strength in *Beloved*

**Aashima Rana** (Dublin City University, Ireland)  
Rhetorical Strategies to Invoke Resistance in Toni Morrison's Fiction

**Simone Sannio** (Freie Universität Berlin, Germany)  
Find Your Voice: Colson Whitehead's Early Works and the True Apprenticeship of 'America's Storyteller'

### 5 SHAPING AN IMAGE OF THE SELF: IDENTITY FORMATION AS RESISTANCE AND POSSIBILITY

COORDINATORS:

**Livia Bellardini** (Roma 3 University), [livia.bellardini@uniroma3.it](mailto:livia.bellardini@uniroma3.it)

**Anna Cadoni** (Roma 3 University), [anna.cadoni@uniroma3.it](mailto:anna.cadoni@uniroma3.it)

#### SESSION 1

**Agnese Marino** (University of L'Aquila)  
Negotiating Vulnerability and Pride in Mand How's *Roma Beata* and *Two in Italy*

**Kazuya Ikuta** (Nagasaki University, Japan)  
"I am a Becoming?": Rethinking Emerson's Individualism in "Self-Reliance"

**Ilaria Tonelli** (University of Turin)  
The Plot Against American Exceptionalism: Philip Roth's Search for the American Identity and its Vulnerable Democracy

**Anna Cadoni** (Roma 3 University)  
Shaping Her: Words, Affects and Identity in H.D.'s *HERNIONE*

#### SESSION 2

**Cristina Consiglio** (University of Bari)  
Identity Crises and Vulnerable Selves in a Selection of Sherwood Anderson's and James Purdy's Short Stories.

**Cristiana Brunetti** (University of Rome, La Sapienza)  
Acquiring a Place within the Canon: Hart Crane as a Neglected Voice

**Olena Moskalenko** (University of Palermo)  
Ethnic Irony in Don DeLillo's *Underworld*: A Counter-Narrative of the Italian American Resilience and Vulnerabilities

**Julie Dickson** (Freie Universität Berlin, Germany)  
The Multiple-I in Imagining the Group: Queer Female Identities in Carmen Maria Machado's *Her Body and Other Parties*

### SESSION 3

**Beatrice Carnelutti** (The Graduate Center, CUNY, USA)  
"Mother Tongue is Your Refuge": Body, Language, Exile in Theresa Hak Kyung Cha's *Dictee*

**Stefano Franceschini** (Roma 3 University)  
Can Music Mean Things? Musical Identity and Signification in Richard Powers' *Orfeo*.

**Livia Belardini** (Roma 3 University)  
Adrienne Rich's "An Atlas of the Difficult World"

**Kamella Talebian Sedeqi** (University of Rome, La Sapienza)  
Memory and Identity Formation in *The Marrow Thieves*

**Giulia Brazzale** (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)  
"Stubb Kills a Whale": Overcoming the Challenges of Extractivism through the Non-Human

## 6 CALIFORNIA ON THE BRINK: EXPLORING THE VULNERABILITY OF THE GOLDEN STATE

### COORDINATORS:

**Vincenzo Bavaro** (University of Naples L'Orientale) - vbavaro@unior.it  
**Antonio Di Vilio** (University of Udine/Trieste) - antonio.divilio@phd.units.it

### SESSION 1

**Stefen Woll** (Leipzig University, Germany)  
Visualizing Vulnerabilities in R.H. Dana's Californian Travel Literature

**Vincenzo Maggitti** (Roma 3 University)  
The Ekphrastic Fear in *The Day of the Locust* by Nathanael West

**Antonio di Vilio** (University of Udine/Trieste)  
From Sunshine to Noir: The Manson Murders in the Re-imagination of the Sixties

### SESSION 2

**Daniela Fargione** (University of Turin)  
L.A.'s Vulnerabilities and America's Exaggerations in Lydia Millet's Trilogy

**Ali Dehdarfarad** (University of Rome, La Sapienza)  
"That's Life. Or That's Death?": California and the Environmental Vison in William T. Vollmann's *Imperial* and John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*

**Vincenzo Bavaro** (University of Naples L'Orientale)  
Out of California. Fragility and Persistence in Octavia Butler's *Parable of the Sower*

## 7 AMERICA'S VULNERABILITIES: U.S. HEGEMONY VIS À VIS EUROPE

### COORDINATOR:

**Cristina Bon** (Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Milan) - cristina.bon@unicat.it

**Alessandra Bitumi** (University of Teramo)  
The "Return of the Barricades": Atlantica in the New World (Dis)-Order

**Alice Ciulla** (Roma 3 University)  
Crises, Weaknesses, and Fractures. A European Left-Wing Perspective on Cold War America

**Michele Di Donato** (University of Pisa)  
US Hegemony and Social Democratic 'Embedded Internationalism': The 1970s as a Turning Point?

**Matteo Pretelli** (University of Naples L'Orientale)  
The Last City of the President: John F. Kennedy in Naples, July 2, 1963

## 8 PLOTTING VULNERABILITY, WRITING BACK FREEDOM: NARRATIVE AND VISUAL IMAGINATION

### COORDINATORS:

**Cristina Iuli** (UPO, University of Eastern Piedmont) - cristina.iuli@unipo.it  
**Marco Pretelli** (University of Pisa) - marco.pretelli@unipi.it

### SESSION 1

**Francesco Bacci** (Freie Universität Berlin, Germany)  
Confessions from the Margins: *Real Life* and *The Mad Man*

**Alice Balestrino** (Roma 3 University)  
Plotting an Alternate Genealogy after WWII: Female Genius and Gender in Gertrude Stein's *Four in America*

**Antonella Francini** (Syracuse University in Florence)  
Vulnerable Bodies and the Resistance of Poetic Forms

**Cristina Iuli** (UPO, University of Eastern Piedmont)  
Time for a New Gaze: Shirley Clarke's *The Cool World* in June Jordan's *Testimony*

### SESSION 2

**Viola Marchi** (University of Bern, Germany)  
Making Sense (Out) of Vulnerability: The Semiotics of Walking of Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah's "Zimmer Land"

**Stefano Morello** (The Graduate Center, CUNY, USA/University of Eastern Piedmont)  
Recovering John Henry Hewlett: A Study in Southern Racial Solidarity

**Marco Pretelli** (University of Pisa)  
Which Story is it? Narratives of Violence and Narratives of Redemption in *Candyman*

**Cinzia Schiavini** (University of Milan)  
Refracting Vulnerabilities, Writing Back Pluralities: Arab-American Playwrights beyond the State of Exception