

Conference call for papers

"Viewing Change/Changing Views "

Keynote speaker: Prof. Millicent P. Marcus (Yale University)

On behalf of the graduate students of the Department of Italian Studies at Brown University and the Italian Section of the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures at Harvard University, we are pleased to announce the third joint Graduate Student Conference for Italian Studies, to be held on **March 12-13, 2010** at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island.

This conference will investigate cultural, historical, and political changes in Italian society as well as the various critical perspectives on these changes. What cultural conventions and practices define the notions of change and perception? How do different perspectives affect social, political, and historical change? How have historical and cultural transitions been envisioned, perceived and represented? How are these changing views reflected in cinema, visual arts, literature, etc.? We welcome papers that investigate and assess issues related to social, cultural, political and historical change and the way it has been viewed in all historical periods and cultural fields. Proposals may address, but are not restricted to, the following topics:

- theories of evolution, revolution, substitution, progress, regression
- experiences of continuity and discontinuity
- social mobility and political instability
- migration and identity
- visual cultures
- territorial, geographical and environmental changes
- redefining spatial and temporal limits and perceptions
- colonial and postcolonial experiences
- gender and sexuality
- cultural studies
- subalternity and power relations
- national identity and historical differences
- conformism and critique
- artistic and literary canons and counter-canons
- languages and dialects
- scientific and epistemic transformation

The conference will host both panel sessions and a seminar. The topic for the **seminar** will be "**Viewing Change in/through Cinema.**" Participants can present at either a panel or a seminar session. For panel sessions, presentations should not exceed 20 minutes (approximately 8-10 pages of double-spaced text). For the seminar session, papers should not exceed 8 pages (double-spaced) and will be distributed among all the participants of this session a week before the conference.

Abstracts, papers, and presentations may be in Italian or English.

Please send an abstract (no longer than **300 words**) via email and indicate in the body of the email separately the title of your paper, your name, affiliation, contact information (including telephone and e-mail address) and technical equipment needed, as a Microsoft Word file attachment to chiasmi@brown.edu. **Please also specify if you prefer to participate in a panel or the seminar session.** Abstracts must be received no later than **January 10, 2010**.

Information on the Seminar Format

The seminar is an alternative format to panel sessions opened to a maximum of 7-8 participants.

Each participant writes a brief "position paper" (max. 10 pages, double-spaced) that will be circulated among the participants to the seminar a week before the conference. **Papers will not be read during the seminar session.** Each participant is expected to previously read all the seminar papers, which are meant to provide a common basis for a constructive discussion with comments, questions, and suggestions during the session.

During the seminar, each participant presents a summary of his/her own work (around 8-10 minutes). In order to include the

potential audience, participants should bring copies of their individual 1-page abstracts for attendees.

At the end of the discussion within the presenters, audience can contribute with questions, comments, and general feedback.

If you have any question about the seminar, please contact chiasmi@brown.edu.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JANUARY 10, 2010

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