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**This month: Remembering Filippo Salvatore, Italian Fallen Workers Memorial Project, Accenti Magazine International Festival of the Arts, and more.**

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AICW Newsletter

18 maggio 2023

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## **AICW Newsletter, May 2023**

Dear AICW members,

Spring has finally arrived, and we can feel a new sense of excitement in the air with many AICW activities planned for the coming months.

The Librissimimi Toronto Italian Book Festival just took place this past May 5-7, and featured the works of many of our AICW members. We are so fortunate to have such talented writers in our community.

Join us on Friday, May 26 for a roundtable discussion on Queer(ing) Italian-Montreal Literature with our very own members Licia Canton, Liana Cusmano, Christopher DiRaddo and Domenic A. Beneventi. The event will take place at Concordia University from 1:45-3:00 PM.

Many of our AICW members will be participating in the Accenti Magazine conference taking place in Cosenza, Italy, at the Università della Calabria on June 28-July 1. It is so nice to be able to have in person conferences again.

I would like to extend my deepest condolences to the family of AICW member Filippo Salvatore who passed away on March 28, 2023. He will be always recognized as one of the pioneers of Italian Canadian literature.

Congratulations to AICW member, Elio Iannacci, for being the recipient of the Christopher Innis Award for Academic Excellence. We are all very proud of you.

I wish everyone a very happy summer and hope to see you at our next general assembly meeting this coming September.

-- Christine Sansalone, AICW President

Please note: The next newsletter comes out on July 18; you have until June 26 to get your items in to us through our [online form](#) (you have to be logged in to submit).

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## Latest News

### Festival of the Arts

AICW members will be gathering in Cosenza, Italy for the first **Accenti Magazine International [Festival of the Arts](#)**. The four day event, hosted by the University of Calabria (UNICAL), will take place from June 28 to July 1, 2023. The official program will be available in the coming weeks, but for now you can see [who will be participating](#). Registration is still open. Register before June 1 to avoid late fees. A list of [accommodations](#) is now available.



## The Many Accents of Italy in the World



### **The Italian Fallen Workers Memorial Project**

On April 28, the Committee for the **Italian Fallen Workers Memorial Project** gathered to pay tribute to the thousands of Italian workers who immigrated to Canada in search of a better life, but who instead died on the job. The ceremony was held at the Memorial Wall on the Villa Charities campus (Columbus Centre). The Committee is renewing its efforts to complete the Memorial Wall Project and publish their upcoming book (*Land of Triumph and Tragedy: Voices of the Italian Fallen Workers*) on the influence of Italian-Canadians in the labour history of Canada.



### **In Memoriam: Filippo Salvatore (1949-2023)**

One of the early members of the AICW and a former member of the Executive, **Filippo Salvatore**, passed away on March 28, 2023 at 75. Filippo was one of the poets whose work was included in the seminal anthology *Roman Candles* by **Pier Giorgio De Cicco** (1978). His essay “Italian Writers in Quebec” appeared in *Contrasts* edited by **Joseph Pivato** (1985). A pioneer of minority literature, Filippo Salvatore wrote in English, French and Italian. His works include *Suns of Darkness* (1980), *Tufo e gramigna* (1977), *La Fresque de Mussolini* (1985), *Antichi e Moderni* (1987), *Tra Molise e Canada* (1994), *Le Fascisme et les Italiens à Montréal* (1995), *Scienza ed umanità* (1996), *Referendum 1995* (2022), *Le Cinema de Paul Tana* (1997) co-written with Anna Gural. His last collection of poetry was *Nuova Mente, la poesia di Filippo Salvatore* (2018). He taught Italian Language and Literature for many years at Concordia University in Montreal and was involved in many journals such as *Panoram Italia*. Filippo Salvatore will be missed.







Photo caption: Filippo Salvatore

### **Elio Iannacci receives Christopher Innes Award for Academic Excellence**

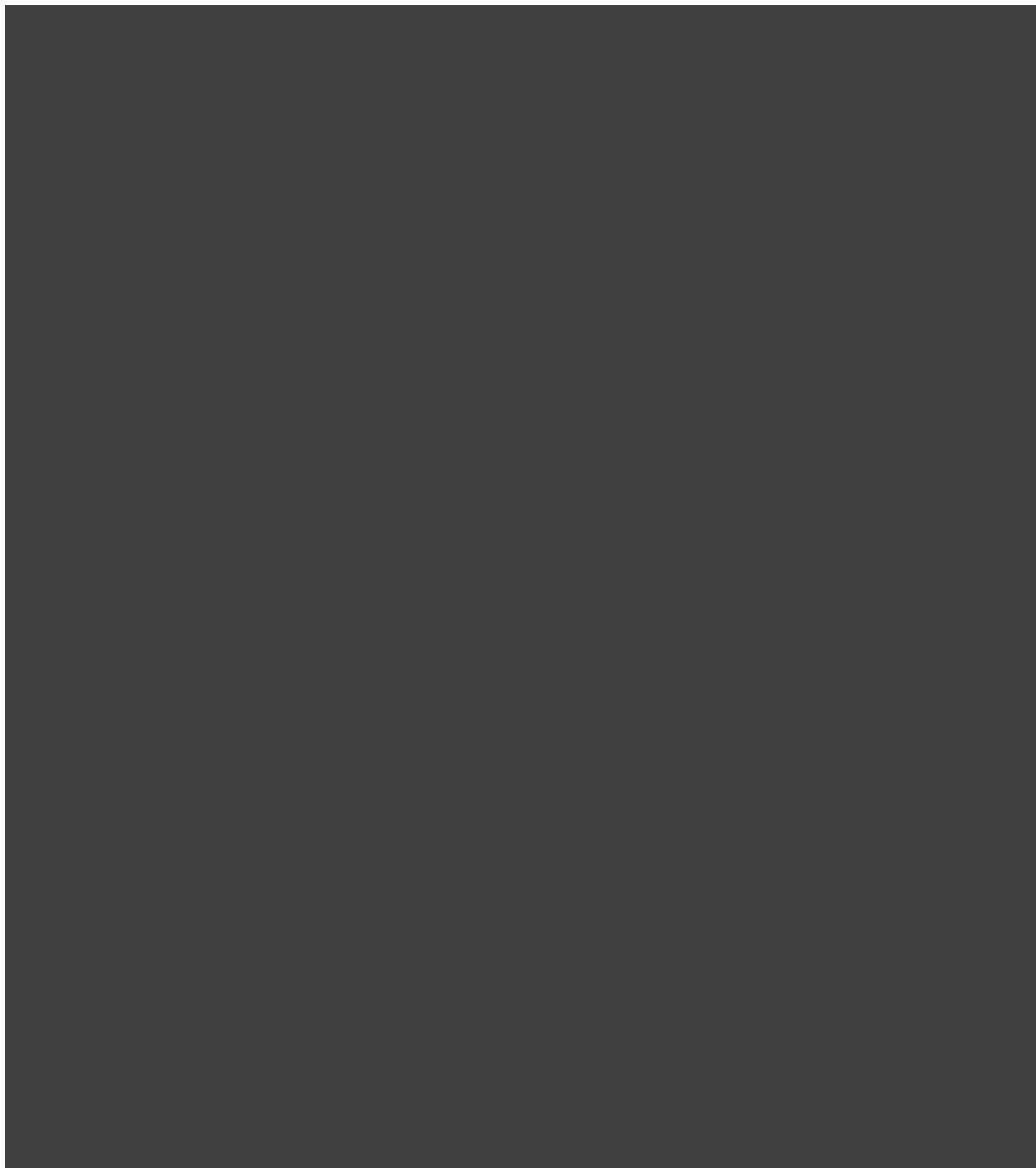
AICW member **Elio Iannacci** recently received the Christopher Innes Award for Academic Excellence at a ceremony held on April 14, 2023 at York University. The award acknowledges Iannacci's interdisciplinary research and writing, which focuses on LGBTQ+ Influences in Pop Diva Iconography. His scholarship—which recovers the closeted history of LGBTQ+ artists in popular music—is also the 2022 recipient of The Mariano A. Elia Graduate Scholarship and draws on research supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. You can [read more about his work here](#).



Photo caption: Christopher Innes Award-winner Elio Iannacci with Italian-American icons Cyndi Lauper and Lady Gaga.

### **Joseph Pivato at York University**

On March 16, 2023, **Joe Pivato** delivered a lecture to a class at York University. His topic was the development of Italian-Canadian Literature over the past 45 years. The students asked many questions about the love-hate relationship many Italian-Canadian writers seem to express towards Italy. This lecture was at the invitation of **Dr. Abril Liberatori**, the Mariano Elia Chair in Italian-Canadian Studies at York. Back in 1987-88 Pivato was the first holder of the Elia Chair.







Un momento del convegno degli scrittori italo-canadesi che si è svolto per tre giorni all'università di York. A sinistra, il prof. Pivato, dell'università di Edmonton. I partecipanti, tutti specialisti e addetti ai lavori, sono stati d'accordo su una funzione-ruolo degli scrittori italo-canadesi: ricostruire la memoria storica degli immigrati, lavoro che normalmente viene lasciato più all'impegno dello storico che a quello del letterato.

(Foto Corriere-Toni Pavia)

## Il "ruolo" degli scrittori italo-canadesi

di  
**Elio Ventura**  
Qual è la relazione - nel senso della funzione - tra scrittori italo-canadesi e comunità italo-canadese? Non è un quesito astratto o accademico. È invece il nodo da sciogliere per capire il crescente interesse attorno al fenomeno "scrittori italo-canadesi", che ultimamente sembra aver letteralmente investito il Canada.

"Noi esplichiamo l'importante ruolo di ricostruttori della memoria storica della nostra

comunità", è la risposta che mi viene data da un gruppo degli stessi scrittori, nel corso di un colloquio nella York University.

L'occasione del colloquio è stata fornita dalla "Conferenza degli scrittori italo-canadesi" che si è svolta per la seconda volta in Canada, con il patrocinio della Mariano Elia Chair in Italian Studies, della York University; coordinata dal prof. Joe Pivato, dell'università di Edmonton.

Alla conferenza ha preso parte un folto

gruppo di scrittori italo-canadesi, provenienti da tutte le città del nostro Paese, ai quali si è aggiunto il prof. Cesare Pitto, insegnante di Antropologia Culturale all'università della Calabria; ed il prof. Gino Chiellino, scrittore italo-tedesco, venuto appositamente da Augsburg (Germania Occidentale). Concretamente, un raduno strettamente per addetti ai lavori.

Ma se quest'ultima frase potrebbe far pensare a qualcosa di asettico, a qualcosa con pre-

cise linee geometriche che disegnano e tagliano le varie sfere di competenza; basta assistere ai lavori per accorgersi quanto il dibattito, sempre acceso e coinvolgente, è ancora una discussione di definizione, di ricerca di compiti e ruoli; più che una per le definizioni delle funzioni appunto.

Il ruolo di ricostruttori, di tessitori, delle maglie culturali originarie sta bene a tutti. E ciò perchè, spiega Chiellino, "quando mio figlio, nato in Germania, Canada, o qualsiasi altro

Photo caption: An Italian newspaper article on Joseph Pivato in the Elia Chair in 1988 (Credit: Corriere Canadese)



**Queer(ing) Italo-Québécois Literature : QUESCREN Working Paper no. 8**  
AICW member **Licia Canton** has published **Queer(ing) Italo-Québécois Literature : QUESCREN Working Paper no. 8.**, which explores the cultural production of Quebec English-language writers who function at the intersection of ethnicity and sexual identity: the LGBTQ+ and Italian community. In this paper, she introduces the writing of established and emerging literary artists **Steve Galluccio, Christopher DiRaddo, Liana Cusmano (aka BiCurious George), Vee DG (aka Vanessa Di Gregorio), Anthony Portulese** and others. These writers are the children or grandchildren of Italian immigrants to Quebec, and they identify as members of the LGBTQ+ community. [Read it here.](#)

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## Events

Thursday, May 25

### **Italian-Canadian Studies Fellows Day**

Everyone is invited to an afternoon dedicated to the work of the researchers currently affiliated with the Frank Iacobucci Centre for Italian-Canadian Studies. The event will take place from 3:15 PM to 6:15 PM at the Dept. of Italian Studies, University of Toronto (Carr Hall, Second Floor, [100 St. Joseph Street](#)). Topics include queer Italian-Canadian writing, the relationship between Indigenous Nations and Italian-Canadian communities, the role of sports in Italian-Canadian communities, and pedagogical projects in Italian-Canadian Studies. Speakers include **Prof. Michela Baldo** (University of Birmingham), **Nancy Black** (University of Toronto), **Prof. Paolo Frascà** (University of Toronto), **Prof. Anna Mongibello** (Università di Napoli, L'Orientale), **Dr. Angela Nardozi** (University of Toronto), and **Dr. Teresa Russo** (University of Toronto, Brock University). Register for the in-person event by [clicking here](#). The event will also be streamed online at [this link](#).

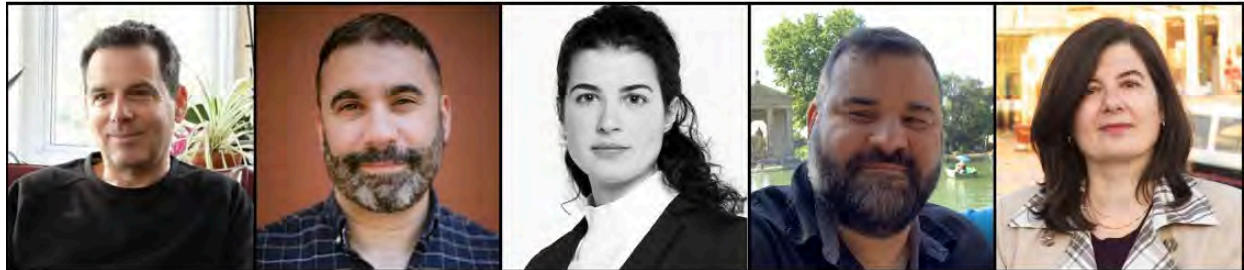
Friday, May 26

### **Queer(ing) Italian-Montreal Literature**

Join us for a roundtable discussion as part of QUESCREN Researcher-Member Symposium, featuring **Licia Canton** (Ph.D., Co-founder and Editor-in-Chief, *Accenti Magazine*), **Christopher DiRaddo** (writer/events producer), **Domenico A. Beneventi** (Ph.D., Professor, Université de Sherbrooke), **Liana Cusmano** (spoken word artist, novelist, and arts educator) and **Steve Galluccio**

(playwright/screenwriter). The event will take place at Concordia University from 1:45 PM to 3 PM. [Click here for more information.](#)

## Queer(ing) Italian-Montreal Literature



Roundtable discussion with authors **Steve Galluccio**, **Christopher DiRaddo**, **Liana Cusmano**, literary scholar **Domenico Beneventi** and **Licia Canton**, director of documentary *Creative Spaces: Queer and Italian Canadian* (ÉRÉQQ/AICW, 2021)

Wednesday, May 31

### A Reading by Italian-Canadian Writers

The Association for Canadian and Quebec Literatures (ACQL) is sponsoring an afternoon of readings by Italian-Canadian Writers at York University, featuring **Frank Paci**, **Gianna Patriarca**, **Darlene Madott**, **Antonio D'Alfonso**, **Rosanna Micelotta Battigelli**, **Nella Cotrupi** and **Michael Mirolla**. The event will take place at the York University Campus, Accolade Building East ([83 York Blvd](#), ACE room 006) at 3 PM, and will be hosted by **Joseph Pivato** (Athabasca University).

Thursday, July 13

### Christopher Castellani: Leading Men

Award-winning Italian-American author **Christopher Castellani** will be interviewed about his work on stage in Montreal at the Istituto Italiano di Cultura ([1200, Av. du Dr Penfield](#)). Castellani's most recent novel, *Leading Men*, tells the story of Frank Merlo, the somewhat forgotten working-class Italian-American who was transformational in the life and work of Tennessee Williams. The book is a breathtaking work of historical fiction, blending together the real and imagined lives of the two men as they navigate the literary and film circles of 1950s Italy. Hosted by **Christopher DiRaddo**, the event is a co-presentation between the Istituto Italiano di Cultura Montreal, the Queer Studies in Quebec Research Group (ÉRÉQQ) and Violet Hour. [Click here to register.](#) Event starts

at 7 PM.

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## Call for Submissions

### 40th Anniversary Anthology: Call for submissions

It is not too late to submit to the anthology to mark the 40th anniversary of the AICW. All AICW members, as well as established and emerging Canadian writers of Italian origin, are invited to submit their works of poetry and prose for consideration. We're especially interested in creative work that explores the themes of friendship and love. All submissions must be unpublished and may be in English, French, Italian or an Italian dialect. [For more information, click here.](#)

### Second Anthology of Queer Italian-Canadian Writing (2023)

We are still seeking literary contributions for a second anthology of Queer Italian-Canadian Writing. The first volume, [Here & Now](#) (2021), included more than 35 writers. Submissions can be on any topic: fiction, nonfiction (memoir, travel or personal essays), creative nonfiction and poetry (maximum 40 lines). Maximum 2,000 words. Contributors must be Canadian of Italian origin and members of the LGBTQ+ community. Queries: [lcanton@accenti.ca](mailto:lcanton@accenti.ca). [Find out more about the project here.](#)

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## Invitation to Submit

Thanks for subscribing to the AICW newsletter. The next newsletter comes out on **July 18, 2023**. To submit your items, please fill out a form by visiting <https://aicw.ca/submission/>. Deadline for all items: **Monday, June 26, 2023**.

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## Thank You / Credits

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**Licia Canton**, Past-President



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