

# Chiasmi

The 15th Annual Harvard-Brown Graduate Student Conference in Italian Studies  
Brown University, April 5 - 6, 2024

## “Contested Bodies in Italian Studies”

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 fifteenth edition of *Chiasmi* – Graduate Students conference, to be held on **5-6 April 2024**, at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island.

### Call for Papers

Bodies, like the very field of Italian studies, are interdisciplinary texts. But what is a body? And what does it mean to the identity that it helps constitute? The conference *Contested Bodies in Italian Studies* seeks to expand on and problematize the conceptions of bodies as they apply to and construct our society, literature, and scholarship.

In 2023, bodies are more contested than ever: from migrant bodies lost to disasters in the Mediterranean to queer bodies erased from school curriculums, from Dante’s “corpi aerei” to Gianni Celati’s “corpo comico,” from Giorgio Agamben’s “bare life” to Silvia Federici’s “periphery of the skin,” this conference positions itself at a nexus of theory and praxis, scholarship and creative production, to examine what bodies have meant over time and what they might mean going forward. Furthermore, our inquiry will be encouraged by a keynote address by Somali-Italian author Ubah Cristina Ali Farah.

Taking into account the expansiveness of the body as a construction—including political bodies, embodied identities, disabled bodies, and even bodies of work—we invite graduate scholars working in all disciplines related to the Italian context to, paraphrasing a contention of Foucault, “trace the body with language and dissolve it with ideas” by joining us in conversation about the importance of our contested bodies and retrieve them from their perpetually disintegrating state.

We are accepting contributions from disciplines such as Cultural Studies, Performance Studies, Gender Studies, Race Studies, Art History, History, Literature, Philosophy, Environmental Humanities, and Media Studies as long as they have a connection with the realm of Italian culture.

- Presentations should not exceed **20 minutes** (approximately 8-10 pages of double-spaced text) and may be in Italian or English.
- Please send an abstract (no longer than 300 words) with 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](mailto:chiasmi@brown.edu). Please format subject line “[Last name] - Chiasmi 2024.”

**Submission deadline: January 31, 2024, 23:59 EST**