

Graduate Symposium Johns Hopkins-Yale

Mutamenti

Overcoming Crises

October 27-28, 2023

The Italian Studies Department at Yale and the Italian Section at Johns Hopkins welcome submissions for the second edition of the graduate symposium to be held in person on October 27-28, 2023, at Yale University.

Grounded in a transnational framework of Italian Studies, the symposium fosters exchange between students, early career scholars, and established faculty, encouraging scholarship that spans a wide range of methodological concerns and interdisciplinary approaches. These include cultural studies, literary analysis, environmental humanities, history, art history, film and media studies, women, gender, and sexuality studies, studies of race and ethnicity, and classics.

Description

Today's world exists in a constant state of crisis and Italy, in Agambian terms, has frequently found itself in a "state of exception". Due to the precarious conditions of modernity, it is worth reevaluating how the humanities, in particular Italian Studies, respond to a crisis. The term crisis, from the Greek *krino* (to separate or to judge), encompasses a broad range of actions and events, such as trauma, loss, economic collapse, disease, ecological disaster, and war. What cultural practices are employed to overcome crises? What changes does adversity bring about in individuals and collectivities? What scars do they leave in their wake? And how do they persist in individual and collective memory?

In recent years, universities have organized a plethora of courses, panels, and conferences as a response to the exceptional precarity that defines our worlds. We propose going a step further in contemplating crises. In doing so, the following questions come to the fore: what is the role of the humanities in the face of crisis and how do we overcome the crisis in the humanities?

The conference *Mutamenti: Overcoming Crises* seeks papers from graduate students and recent PhDs (within three years of degree conferral). Some contributions might explore (but are certainly not limited to) the following lines of investigation:

1. Individual trauma and loss in visual arts, literature, and cinema
2. Narrating catastrophes and calamities
3. Reconstruction of collective identities after social upheavals
4. Resolving miscommunication in the age of new media
5. Climate emergency and environmental ruin
6. Historical changes: regimes, protests, and violence
7. Crisis at political and territorial borders
8. Intersectionality and identities
9. Scapegoats as problematic forms of conflict resolution
10. Humanities and Humanism in crisis

Professor Jane Tylus (Yale University) and Assistant Professor Simone Brioni (Stony Brook University) will each deliver a keynote address during the conference.

Proposal submission

All submissions must be sent via email in a single Word document entitled “Last Name JHU-Yale” to mutamenti.jhuyale@gmail.com no later than July 15, 2023, and include the following items: 1) an abstract (200 words max) 2) a short bio 3) your full name, email address, and affiliation. Please use “Symposium JHU-Yale” in the subject line.

Participation in this conference is free. No organizational registration is required.

Yale Committee: Zach Aguilar, Costanza Barchiesi, Giacomo Berchi, Nicholas Berrettini, Roberto Ferrini, Francesca Leonardi, Federica Parodi, Lydia Tuan.

Hopkins Committee: Tatiana Avesani, Marta Cerreti, Giulia Maria Cipriani, Cristina D’Errico, Martina Franzini, Silvia Raimondi, Samuel Zawacki.