

California Italian Studies—Charter (July 23, 2007)

Mission Statement:

The *California Italian Studies* is an online, peer-review journal committed to publishing the finest, the most innovative, and the most potentially influential scholarly work being done in the field of Italian Studies today. *CIS* seeks contributions which meet one or more of the following criteria: interdisciplinarity; comparativity; criticality. Essays should be of interest to a broad spectrum of scholars in and outside of Italian Studies. Contributions that make the best and most creative use of the journal's digital format will be especially encouraged.

By *interdisciplinarity* we mean work which either combines within itself the practices of multiple disciplines, makes significant use of the tools of one discipline in the service of another; or relates to a cluster of other scholarly works representing the approaches of multiple disciplines to a single topic. Relevant disciplines include but are by no means limited to: History, History of Art and Architecture, Geography and Environmental Studies, Philosophy, Religious Studies, History of Science, Music, Literary Studies, Film and Media Studies, Theater and Performance Studies, Gender Studies, Political Science, Anthropology, Sociology, Migration and Diaspora Studies, Classical Studies, Linguistics, Rhetoric; and so on.

By *comparativity* we mean placing the study of the history, culture, society, artistic products, and languages of the Italian peninsula and of Italian diasporas in relation to other geographical, cultural, and linguistic formations—for instance in the areas of Mediterranean and European studies; the study of migration to and from Italy and of regional and dialect cultures; as well as colonial, post-colonial and transnational studies

By *criticality* we mean work which not only studies a given object but also engages in theoretical and/or methodological reflection on its own approach and on its implications within larger disciplinary and interdisciplinary contexts.

Organization and Procedures:

This journal will be published online, through the California Digital Library. The initial expectation is to publish one issue per calendar year, with the hope that quality of submissions will permit expansion to two per year at the discretion of the editorial board. One issue will contain a minimum of 6 and maximum of 12 essays, of flexible length. Solicitation of contents for each issue will be the responsibility of one editorial board member, referred to here as the “issue editor.” Of these, a certain number, typically 3-4 will focus on a shared problem or theme proposed by the issue editor and approved by the editorial board; this cluster will typically be introduced by a preface written by the issue editor or a person designated by her / him. The balance of items published in the issue should meet the overall criteria for publication in the issue. Some consideration may be given to presenting an adequately diverse range of topics, approaches, etc. in choosing

which essays will appear in which issues. A given issue may also contain a critical review of recent studies in an important sub-field of Italian Studies; it may also include the translation of an essay which is relevant and of high quality but not otherwise readily available to Italianists in the English-speaking community. Such review essays and translations may either form part of the special-topic cluster or not.

The editorial board will consist of 8 UC professors, distributed across different campuses, disciplines, and historical periods. All editorial functions and decisions concerning the journal, including carrying out the peer review process, the appointment of the “general editor” and the individual “issue editors”, the selection of themes and problems to be treated, and the nomination, appointment and reappointment of board members will be made by the editorial board. The editorial board will seek and accept advice on these matters from members of the Italian Studies MRG, the advisory board, and whoever else it deems appropriate. One of the members will be the “general editor” or “editor-in-chief,” responsible for the administration of the process of producing the journal (including: solicitation of submissions; distribution of materials to the board for review; correspondence with contributors; supervision of staff person and graduate assistant(s); calling and coordination of meetings; management of journal finances); however, the general editor will have no special say on the selection of contents. The general editor will serve for a two year term and, at the discretion of the editorial board, may be nominated for a second two-year term. The new general editor will be selected from existing board members who have some experience with the journal. Members will serve for a 4-year term, subject to renewal for a second term. No member shall serve more than two consecutive terms; 4 of the members of the first board will serve for a 2-year term so as to establish a replacement of half the board every two years. A minimum of 6 board members will read and report on each of the submissions, and the board will decide together on acceptance for publication. Submissions meeting basic scholarly and formatting standards will be submitted to the board as a whole by the issue or general editor. Each member will prepare a brief report on her/his reactions to the essay. Final decisions will be made by a discussion of the group requiring a minimum of six positive votes. When more items than needed have been approved, those with unanimous approval will be given first preference, while secondary preference will go to issue-appropriateness. Primary criteria for publication include: appropriateness to the journal’s mission (as well in specific cases to the focal theme or problem addressed by an issue), potential importance for the field of Italian Studies, and intrinsic interest and excellence. Members who are insufficiently participating for two years may be asked to leave the board and be replaced (insufficient participation consists of: failure to attend regularly scheduled meetings; failure to read and comment upon at least 3/4s of submissions; and / or failure to assume regularly responsibility as “issue editor”). It is the responsibility of the general editor to monitor participation and present to the board cases in which one of its members might be deemed to have met the criteria for dismissal. When deemed advisable in the joint judgment of the issue editor and the general editor, an outside reader may be requested to review a submission in his or her special field. The editorial board will nominate new members of the board, following the distribution guidelines, but may consult more widely for suggestions of appropriate names. Members of the editorial board will come from University of California campuses. Once the board

has been constituted, the group will nominate a number of distinguished Italianists in appropriate fields both from inside the UC system and outside to serve as an “advisory board”—all nominations must be approved by a minimum of 6 editorial board members.

It is anticipated that, in addition to the editorial board, general editor and rotating issue editors, the journal will require staff support. In addition, the journal will actively seek the participation of a graduate student or students in the production process. All members of the board shall participate in seeking appropriate persons and necessary funding to support these staffing needs, although final responsibility rests with the general editor.

The board is seeking essays that are not only high in quality but also able to interest readers from a variety of disciplines. Articles based on papers from the annual CICIS conference may be submitted but have no special claim on publication in CIS.

The editorial board of the journal will facilitate an on-line forum for discussions of and responses to articles and other items published in California Italian Studies through the creation of a link with the Italian Studies MRG website. This digital forum will not be part of the journal itself and the editorial board is not responsible for its content.

This charter may be amended by a unanimous vote of the full editorial board.