**CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS**

**AT THE MIGRANTI FILM FESTIVAL**

**JUNE 10-11-12, 2017**

The packed program of the Migranti Film Festival includes many opportunities for meeting, debate and discussion. In particular, a number of conferences and debates will be held on the Saturday and Sunday of the festival.

The program kicks off on **Saturday June 10** at 10.30 am in the Aula Magna with the conference “***We Are Migrants: Experiences of Italian Migration and New International Migration in Italy – Putting Down Roots and Changing Identities***” which will compare various experiences of internal Italian migration with the new migratory flows we are seeing today.

Introduced by *Roberto Burdese*, the honorary president of Slow Food Italy, the speakers will include representatives from the *Sansostese Calabresi* *Community* in Bra, who will tell the story of the community’s by-now historical migration from the town of Sansosti, in the Calabrian province of Cosenza. It began in the middle of the 20th century, with over 2,000 residents from the southern Italian town eventually ending up in Bra.

The next to speak will be *Ciro Falanga*, owner of Bocconciro Mozzarella Campana, an entrepreneur who has brought authentic Campanian mozzarella to the Alba and Bra area, becoming a reference point for those migrants in search of the flavors of home and also introducing the cheese to the Piedmontese.

From Italian migration within Italy, the discussion will move on to Chinese emigration to Italy, which has had a significant impact on some of the towns in the Po Valley where Chinese artisans and workers have replaced locals in the traditional stoneworking industry. We’ll hear from *Pietro Schwarz*, intercultural animator with the Consorzio Monviso Solidale, and a *representative from the Chinese community in Barge*.

## Also from the Alpine valleys around Cuneo comes the story of *Keita Haruna*, *Camara Goumba* and *Niase Henry,* African asylum seekers now living in Entracque and working for *Paolo Salsotto*, president of the Parco Alpi Marittime, on ecological and environmental preservation activities.

## *Davide Colleoni*, coordinator of the organic social agricultural business "Maramao" in Canelli (AT), will talk about his experience of employing and training migrants and asylum seekers in farming. Lastly, from Florence, we will hear the inspiring story of *Hicham Ben 'Mbarek*, an entrepreneur of Moroccan origin and owner of the clothing and leather brand Benheart, who arrived in Italy by makeshift means and has now transformed his life, becoming a successful fashion designer and even creating jobs for Italians.

## In the afternoon, at 2.30 pm in the Aula Magna, the subject will be “*Anti-Gypsyism and Rom Migrations: Results of the European MIGROM Research.”*

*Andrea Pieroni*, professor of Food Biodiversity Sciences and Ethnobotany at the University of Gastronomic Sciences, will introduce the speakers, *Suzana Jovanovic*, a MIGROM researcher at the University of Verona; *Eva Rizzin*, also a MIGROM researcher at the University of Verona; *Stefania Pontrandolfo*, an anthropology researcher at the University of Verona; and *Leonardo Piasere*, an anthropology professor at the University of Verona.

During the conference, results will be presented from the research study "The immigration of Romanian Roma to Western Europe: causes, effects and future engagement strategies – MigRom," funded by the European Commission as part of the 7th Framework Programme, "Dealing with diversity and cohesion: the case of the Roma in the European Union" section (Grant Agreement 319901). The Italian team carried out research with various Roma and Rudari communities who had migrated from Romania to Italy and also looked at local policies and the attitudes of Italians towards the Roma people and the Romanian Roma in particular.

The conference will present the project in its various forms and some significant results on the impact that anti-gypsyism in Italian society and certain exclusionary local policies have had on the migrations of Romanian Roma people. Most of all it will seek to highlight the point of view of the Roma migrants the researchers met during the research and to give voice to their experiences, motivations, aspirations and plans, presenting some extracts from interviews in the Romani language.

The last conference of the day will be at 6 pm in the Church of San Vittore, “***Italians and Non-Italians in Prison: The Function of the Sentence, Social Re-Integration, Comprehension and the Sicomoro Project,****”* with *Giacinto Siciliano*, the director of the Opera prison in Milan; *Marcella Reni*, the president of the Prison Fellowship Italia Onlus; *Alberto Giasanti*, professor of Sociology of Cultural Processes at the University of Milano-Bicocca; and *Marta Giorgi*, an assistant on the project to regenerate social value in the Lodi area and coordinator of the play *Giochi di Luci e Ombre.*

The following day, *“****Political Cuisine: Hospitality, Conviviality, Diplomacy,****”*will be the title of the round table held on **Sunday June 11** at10.30 am in the Aula Magna. It will be moderated by *Nicola Perullo*, professor of Esthetics at the University of Gastronomic Sciences, and is part of the "Cucina politica" PRIN 2017-2020. In addition to Professor Perullo, the other speakers include *Francesco Mangiapane*, a semiologist at the University of Palermo; *Sumaya Abdel Qader*, a Milan city councilor; *Abderrahmane  Amajou*, the coordinator of Slow Food’s “Migrants” thematic area; and *Francesca Peirotti*, an activist and member of the Association Habitat et Citoyenneté in Nice.

The theme of the round table takes as its starting point a consideration of eating as a fundamental transformative act, able to reconfigure the life of individuals and entire communities, and cinema as an extraordinary language because it allows food to emerge from the banality of everyday life, telling stories of encounters between people of different cultural, religious and social backgrounds. Around the table, politics is made in its highest sense, as a relationship and production of continuous correspondences between different living beings. The cinema helps us greatly to develop this awareness: To look at a community with an external gaze means revealing the bias in the way of eating in a given group, while at the same time declaring the need for openness and gustatory empathy to understand the other. If democracy is a constant effort to understand the other, cuisine is intrinsically political because it constantly places us in front of differences to be understood, thus allowing the construction of a diplomacy of convivial relations as a model of universal inclusive hospitality.

“***Educating a New Culture: The Culture of Reception****”* will be heldat 12 pm in the Aula Magna,a dialog between the **Italian Minister for Education, Universities and Research,** *Valeria Fedeli*, and UNISG president *Carlo Petrini.*

Then at 2.30 pm in the Aula Magna there will be a debate entitled “***Understanding Immigration ‘Piano, Piano’****”* introduced by *Simone Cinotto*, professor of Contemporary History at the University of Gastronomic Sciences. The speakers include*Don Fredo Olivero* of the Migrant Pastoral Office in Turin;*Michela Borio* and *Patrizia Rickler*, authors of "Piano piano" and "Piano piano 2," texts for teaching literacy to non-Italian adults with a low education level;Marie Jeanne *Balagizi* of the Associazione Donne dell’Africa Sub-Sahariana/second generation from Turin; and*Suad Omar* ***Sheikh Esahaq***, cultural mediator and Turin city councilor.

They will talk about the stories and experiences of people who, like them, have worked in the field of migrant literacy, education and reception, through various activities ranging from teaching Italian as a foreign language to promoting an understanding of other cultures to encouraging interaction and reciprocal exchange.

The relationships and correlations between recent migratory phenomena and climate change are among the most debated subjects of our time, and they will be further explored at 4 pm in the Aula Magna as part of the debate **“*New Migratory Flows: Climate Migrants, Water Wars, Low-Cost Labor.”***

Introduced and moderated by *Michele Antonio Fino*, professor of Law at the University of Gastronomic Sciences, the debaters include *Nico Lotta*, the president of VIS (Volontariato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo); *Elisabetta Cipollone*, the coordinator of the project “Un pozzo per Andrea” in Ethiopia; *Luca Mercalli*, a meteorologist, climatologist and chair of the Italian Meteorological Society; *Christian Elia*, a journalist, Q Code Magazine editor and director of the Emergency study center; and *Carlo Petrini*, the president of the University of Gastronomic Sciences.