

Columbia University

THE ITALIAN ACADEMY
FOR
ADVANCED STUDIES
IN AMERICA

Annual Report
2008-2009

THE MISSION OF THE ITALIAN ACADEMY

*Founded in 1991 on the basis of an agreement
between Columbia University and the Republic of Italy,
the Academy sponsors advanced research in all areas
relating to Italian history, science and society;
presents distinguished examples of Italian culture and art;
and promotes academic, cultural and scientific
exchange at the highest level.*

ABOUT THE ACADEMY

At the core of the Italian Academy's work lies its Fellowship Program. Fellowships are open to senior scholars at the post-doctoral level and above who wish to devote a semester or a full academic year to genuinely innovative work in any field relating to culture, cultural memory, and the relations between culture, the sciences, and the social sciences. Fellows are chosen by a jury of experts in the relevant fields. The most advanced part of the Fellowship Program is the Academy's ongoing Project in Art and Neuroscience, in which scholars in both the humanities and the sciences work together in assessing the significance of the latest developments in genetics and the neurosciences for the humanities – and vice-versa.

The Academy also serves as the chief reference point in the United States for all links between the worlds of higher education in Italy and the U.S. Thanks to its prestige and its location in New York, the Academy has become a critical site for meetings between distinguished members of the Italian and American business and political communities. Its theater, library, and other public spaces offer important locations for a variety of conferences, concerts, films, and exhibitions.

Funding for the Academy came from an endowment established at Columbia in 1991 by the Republic of Italy; since then, a variety of foundations and private donors have provided other endowments and gifts.

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New York 2009

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*Edited by Abigail Asher
Set in Optima nova types and designed by Jerry Kelly*

GOVERNANCE OF THE ACADEMY

The Presidents of the Academy are the Presidents of the Republic of Italy and of Columbia University. The Director is the Head of the Academy. The Chairman of the Board is the Provost of Columbia University. The Board of Guarantors is comprised of 12 distinguished representatives of cultural, academic, and business life; six are selected by Columbia University and another six by the Republic of Italy. The Board advises the Director on the management of the Academy.

Presidents

HONORARY PRESIDENT OF THE ACADEMY

Giorgio Napolitano, *President of the Republic of Italy*

PRESIDENT OF THE ACADEMY

Lee C. Bollinger, *President of Columbia University*

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF GUARANTORS

Alan Brinkley, *Provost of Columbia University*

DIRECTOR OF THE ACADEMY

David Freedberg, *Pierre Matisse Professor of the History of Art, Columbia University*

BOARD OF GUARANTORS

Appointed by Columbia University

Daniele Bodini

Ambassador to the United Nations for the Republic of San Marino

Jonathan Cole

Provost and Dean of Faculties Emeritus, John Mitchell Mason Professor of the University, Columbia University

Jane Ginsburg

Morton L. Janklow Professor of Literary and Artistic Property Law, Columbia University

Ira Katznelson

Ruggles Professor of Political Science and History, Columbia University

Edward Mendelson

Lionel Trilling Professor in the Humanities, Columbia University

Nicholas J. Turro

William P. Schweitzer Professor of Chemistry and Professor of Chemical Engineering and of Environmental Engineering and Materials Science, Columbia University

Appointed by the Republic of Italy

Giovanni Castellaneta

Ambassador of Italy to the USA

Roberto de Mattei

Consigliere di Amministrazione del Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche

Renato Miracco

Director, Italian Cultural Institute, New York

Stefano Parisi

CEO and General Manager, FASTWEB

Giovanni Puglisi

Rettore, Libera Università di Lingue e Comunicazione (IULM) e Presidente della Commissione Italiana Nazionale UNESCO

Salvatore Rebecchini

Componente, Autorita' Garante della Concorrenza e del Mercato

SENIOR FELLOWS

Qais al-Awqati

Robert F. Loeb Professor of Medicine and Professor of Physiology and Cellular Biophysics, Columbia University

Enrico Arbarello

Ordinario di Geometria, Università "La Sapienza," Roma

Richard Axel

Nobel Laureate and University Professor, Columbia University

Teodolinda Barolini

Da Ponte Professor of Italian, Columbia University

Lina Bolzoni

Ordinario di Letteratura Italiana e Direttore del Centro di Elaborazione Informatica di Testi e Immagini nella Tradizione Letteraria, Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa

Victoria de Grazia

James R. Barker Professor of Contemporary Civilization, Columbia University

Paolo Galluzzi

Direttore dell'Istituto e Museo di Storia della Scienza, Firenze

Carlo Ginzburg

Ordinario di Storia delle Culture Europee, Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa

Anthony Grafton

Henry Putnam University Professor of History, Princeton University

Denis Hollier

Professor of French, New York University

Eric Kandel

Nobel Laureate and Kavli Professor of Brain Science in Neuroscience, Columbia University

Francesco Pellizzi

Editor of "Res" Journal and Research Associate, Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University

Edmund S. Phelps

Nobel Laureate and McVickar Professor of Political Economy, Columbia University

Renzo Piano

Renzo Piano Building Workshop, Genoa and Paris

Giacomo Rizzolatti

Direttore del Dipartimento di Neuroscienze ed Ordinario di Fisiologia, Università di Parma

Maria Rita Saulle

Giudice della Corte Costituzionale e Professore di Diritto Internazionale, Università "La Sapienza," Roma

Salvatore Settis

Direttore della Scuola Normale Superiore ed Ordinario di Storia dell'Arte, Pisa

Horst L. Störmer

Nobel Laureate and I. I. Rabi Professor of Physics, Columbia University

Nadia Urbinati

Nell and Herbert M. Singer Professor of Contemporary Civilization, Columbia University

STAFF

David Freedberg, DIRECTOR

(on sabbatical, 2008/9 academic year)

Pierre Matisse Professor of the History of Art, Columbia University

Achille Varzi

Academic Director

Professor of Philosophy, Columbia University

Barbara Faedda Ph.D.

Acting Director

Allison Jeffrey

Assistant Director in Charge of Events

Abigail Asher

Communications and Development Director

Ellen Baird

Administrative Coordinator

Karen Bechara Mitri

Graphic Designer

Will Buford

Business Manager

Nick Buonincontri

Operations Coordinator

Rick Whitaker

Theatre and Music Director

Work-Study Staff:

Massimo Alpian, Stephen Blair, Elise Caldarola, Miguel Castro, Louisa Chan, Nathan Chang, Weijia Liu, Adrienne Reitano, Alena Tansey, and Gary Zhang

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

In the course of this past year I was on sabbatical leave in Italy, as Rudolf-Wittkower Visiting Professor at the Bibliotheca Hertziana (Max-Planck-Institut) Rome, and in Germany as Rector's Guest at the Wissenschaftskolleg (Institute for Advanced Study) in Berlin. My time in Europe enabled me not only to compare the ways in which our own Academy functions and works, but also to gauge, at first hand, the prestige our Fellowship Program and our cultural activities more generally have acquired abroad. While our resources do not match those of the large research institutes either in the United States or Europe, I think it is safe to say that the intellectual and research standards we have achieved at Columbia match those of our peers. We have a much lower staff-to-Fellows ratio than many richer competitors—a tribute to the hardworking efficiency of our devoted staff. At the same time, given the growing number of applications we receive from top-level candidates in every field, it is clear that we could do much more if we were to be able to make a significant increase to our endowment.

While I was in Italy I made use of the opportunity to meet frequently with our Italian guarantors, to whom I remain grateful for their consistent and deep involvement in the Academy. These are relatively difficult times in Italy, as they are in most countries, but interest in the intellectual and scientific project embodied in the mission of the Academy remains undimmed. While I was in Germany (and for shorter periods in the Netherlands and Britain), I devoted some time to considering the research needs of young Italian post-doctoral researchers in comparison with those from other European countries. In every instance, the usefulness of an institution such as ours as a haven in which to pursue untrammelled research, aided by a modest grant, in the years prior to embarking on a full-time teaching position, is clear. Our concentration on youthful candidates with a mix of more experienced Fellows has had good results in terms of the exchange between energy, experience, and innovation. As well as offering the opportunity to pursue research under optimal conditions, it is clear that the Fellowship experience at the Italian Academy is a liberating and energizing one.

I am most grateful to Achille Varzi, Professor of Philosophy at Columbia University, for once more taking on the Academic Directorship in my absence, and for the following account, compiled along with Dr. Barbara Faedda, Acting Director, of the year's activities at the Academy.

The Fellowship Program

As in every year since its inception, our Fellowship Program has been the main focus of our activities. In 2008–9 we had a record number of eighteen Fellows: eight for the entire academic year, plus five during the Fall term and five during the Spring term, giving a total of thirteen Fellows in residence each semester. As a glance at their reports in the present Annual Report reveals, this was an outstanding group, including historians and specialists from various fields in the humanities, along with physicists, neuroscientists, and social scientists. The interdisciplinary composition of the group was unprecedented, but rather than presenting a hindrance to mutual communication and collaboration among the Fellows, it proved once again to be an invaluable source of stimulus and intellectual exchange, adding extra value both to the overall cultural atmosphere at the Academy and to the quality of each project. This has become the hallmark of our Fellowship Program.

As time progresses during the Fellows' period of residence, our weekly seminars become more and more lively, and it is truly enlightening to perceive the constructive force that regularly ensues from genuine engagement across traditional disciplinary boundaries. As a matter of fact, during the Spring semester we decided to hold additional meetings to continue our discussions, since the official time allotted to the seminars proved insufficient on many an occasion. This meant extra work for everybody, including our staff, but I can hardly think of a better indicator of the success of the Program.

Let me add that, in addition to its interdisciplinary composition, this year's group of Fellows was also very diverse in terms of relative age, geographic provenance, and academic experience. In this respect, too, our Program is rather unique among those that offer post-doctoral research opportunities. But it is a challenge that we think worth taking on, and it is to our Fellows' credit that they have shown the benefits to vastly outdo the risks when it comes to crossing such boundaries as well.

Of course, none of this would be possible if the Academy were acting in isolation. The vigor of intellectual and cultural life at Columbia and the integration of our activities with the rest of the University, including specific collaborations on some of our Fellows' projects, is a major key to the success of our Program. Our Fellows regularly attend lectures and seminars on campus just as colleagues from various Columbia departments and institutes regularly join our weekly seminars as guests of the speaker of the week, in a spirit of collegiality that is itself invaluable. In fact, this is also true of the growing number of collaborations that our Fellows have been establishing throughout the New York metropolitan area, buttressing scholarship in their respective fields while at the same time fostering the respect in which the Academy is held.

As in the past, our Fellowship Program has benefited greatly also from the financial support that we have received from several institutions. At Columbia, generous co-sponsorships were offered by the Center for Integrated Science and Engineering for Prof. Vittorio Pellegrini's Fellowship in the field of Nanotechnology, by the Business School for Prof. Marco Pagano's Fellowship in the field of Economics, and by the Physiology and Cellular Biophysics Department for Dr. Ferdinando Fiumara's two-term Fellowship in the field of Neuroscience. In addition, this year the Samuel H. Kress Foundation provided generous support for Dr. Walter Cupperi's two-term Fellowship in Art History. As in past years, the Alexander Bodini Foundation sponsored Fellowships in Adolescent Psychiatry (held this year by Dr. Antonio Mantovani) and in Culture and Religion (held this year by Prof. Michele Battini). We remain grateful for the generosity of the Foundation, which has just announced its support for a new Fellowship in Global Development and Finance from 2009–10 onwards.

Conferences and Other Events

As always, our rich program of events included a number of workshops and conferences, often organized in cooperation with other institutes and centers at Columbia and elsewhere.

The first major event of this kind was a conference titled *From Africa to the Balkans: New Perspectives on Colonialism and Material Culture in Fascist Italy*, which took place in October. This two-day conference was organized by two of our recent Fellows: Jennie Hirsh, now Assistant Pro-

fessor of Modern and Contemporary Art in the Department of Art History, Theory and Criticism at the Maryland Institute College of Art, and Lidia Santarelli, Assistant Professor and Faculty Fellow in the Center for European and Mediterranean Studies at New York University. Needless to say, this sort of collaboration bears witness to the lasting intellectual and scientific exchanges that we aim to promote through our Fellowship Program at the Academy, so we were especially delighted by the success of this event, which was co-sponsored by the two organizers' home departments (as well as by several other institutions including the Italian Cultural Institute of New York, the Program in Hellenic Studies at Columbia University, and the Arnold A. Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies, also at Columbia).

Later in the Fall, the Italian Academy hosted two seminars organized by Columbia Prof. Victoria de Grazia—co-sponsored by the European Institute at Columbia—on *Propaganda Cinema: the Marshall Plan Films and America's Cold War Image in the Mediterranean*. Our Fellow, Prof. Silvio Pons, was a speaker at the second seminar.

In November, on the occasion of the quincentenary of Andrea Palladio's birth, internationally renowned American and European scholars—including Prof. James Ackerman and Prof. Howard Burns—gathered at the Academy to present their most recent research on the architect's life, theory, and legacy in a conference titled *The Project of Andrea Palladio*. This event was co-sponsored by the Veneto Region and co-organized by Prof. Francesco Benelli, from the Department of Art History and Archeology at Columbia, together with Dr. Guido Beltramini, the Director of the Centro Internazionale di Studi di Architettura Andrea Palladio in Vicenza (and an incoming Fellow at the Academy).

The third major event of the Fall was a two-day international symposium on *Emergent Nanoscience*, held in December in collaboration with the Nanoscale Science and Engineering Center (NSEC) at Columbia and the Italian National Research Council (CNR). The symposium, which addressed topics in nanoscience and nanotechnology at the frontiers of research in Italy and at Columbia, was organized by Prof. Vittorio Pellegrini, one of our Fellows during the Fall semester, and Prof. James Yardley, Director of NSEC and also an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Senior Re-

search Scientist in the Department of Chemical Engineering.

For the "Italy at Columbia" Lecture Series, the Academy invited Professors Lynn Garafola (speaking on post-romantic ballet), David Rosand (on Leonardo, Dürer, Michelangelo, and their scholars), and Richard Howard (on Ronald Firbank and the powers of the preposterous) during the Fall semester. In Spring, we had Professors Francesco Benelli (on Donato Bramante), Paolo Valesio (on "Death in Venice"), and Kenneth Frampton (on Giuseppe Terragni and Italian Rationalism).

In December, Prof. Valesio also presented a reading and roundtable on *Poetry in Italy, Poetry in America*, co-sponsored by the *Italian Poetry Review* (which is housed in the Academy).

Our Concert Series continued to host the most interesting contemporary and classical music in New York City. In the Fall, The Grand Tour Orchestra performed the North American premiere of Jommelli's *Miserere*, and of Galuppi's *Motet sub coelo sereno* and *Salve Regina*. In the Spring, our program titled "Three Sopranos" brought Lucy Shelton, Lisa Bielawa, and Sarah Wolfson, presenting works by Berio, Scelsi, Allegri, Perocco, Bettendorf, and Beeferman.

Moreover, the musical part of our events program was enriched in January with a theatrical concert—introduced by scholar Harvey Sachs—entitled *Toscanini: Nel mio cuore troppo di assoluto* and presented by The Ensemble for the Romantic Century; as well as the documentary film *Toscanini in His Own Words*, introduced by Walfredo Toscanini and Dr. Sachs. February brought the conference *Instruments of Passion*, organized by Columbia's Prof. Lydia Goehr and co-sponsored by The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Freie Universität of Berlin, and by Columbia's Departments of Art History, Music, Philosophy, and School of the Arts. In April the Academy presented the Opera *Alcide al Bivio* by Metastasio and Hasse, performed by Opera Repo and co-sponsored by Columbia Collegium Musicum.

The Italian Academy re-confirmed its interest in the visual arts with two exhibitions. The first was *Mastros*, a selection of photos of traditional handwork by Daniela Zedda, introduced with a lecture by Prof. M. Gabriella Da Re on the arts and crafts of Sardinia (and sponsored by the Region of Sardinia); the second was a painting show, *Out of Sync*, by Giorgio Brogi.

Two more events were hosted by the Academy in the Fall: a one-day conference for the centenary of Luigi Barzini, Jr., the famed Italian journalist, organized by the Consulate General of Italy in New York, the Italian Cultural Institute, and the Fondazione Rizzoli Corriere della Sera; and a workshop on emergency management held on November 20 to commemorate the tragic 1908 earthquake on the strait of Messina, also organized by the Consulate General of Italy in New York.

In January, Prof. Ira Katznelson gave the lecture *The Liberal Alternative: Jews in the United States during the Decades of Italian Fascism*, as part of the events marking International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

In March, the Academy's Teatro was filled for the two-day conference *Mathematical Creations and Recreations*, organized by the Festival della Matematica in Rome under the patronage of the President of the Republic of Italy, the Province of Rome, and the Fondazione Musica per Roma in collaboration with the Italian Cultural Institute in New York (which also hosted part of the event). The driving force behind this truly exceptional gathering was Piergiorgio Odifreddi, Professor of Mathematical Logic at the University of Turin and a former Fellow of the Academy (Spring 2006), who brought together a most distinguished group of speakers including, among others, the 1979 Nobel Laureate for Physics Sheldon Glashow, the 1994 Nobel Laureate for Economic Sciences John Nash, and the 2002 Nobel Laureate for Economic Sciences Daniel Kahneman.

This event was followed in April by a three-day conference entitled *A World on the Move: Emigration and Immigration in Europe and the Americas*. The keynote speaker at this conference was the Former French Minister of Justice and of Cultural Affairs—and current Member of the European Parliament—Jacques Toubon, who spoke on “European Immigration Policies through the Lens of History.” The conference was co-sponsored by Columbia's Herbert H. Lehman Center for American History, the Interuniversity Center for European-American History and Politics, and the Columbia University Seminar on the City.

In June, the Academy was home to a conference, sponsored by the University Seminar on Behavioral & Cognitive Neuroscience, on agency and joint attention. Columbia Prof. Herbert Terrace organized the event, which drew distinguished researchers such as Prof. Alison Gopnik of UC

Berkeley and Dr. Wolfgang Prinz, director of the Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences in Germany.

Throughout the year, the Academy continued to host the lectures and seminar series organized by the Center for the Ancient Mediterranean (headed by Prof. William Harris and housed in the Academy), and the meetings of Columbia's Seminar in Modern Italian Studies.

As always, a number of other remarkable events were also held at the Academy under the auspices of other departments, centers, and institutes of Columbia. Among the most exceptional were the following: in November, the conference organized by Columbia's Committee on Global Thought on *Helping Infant Economies to Grow: Promoting Innovation and Learning in Developing Countries*, with Joseph Stiglitz of Columbia and Robert Solow of MIT; also in November, a meeting of Columbia's World Leaders Forum, addressed by Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey, on *Turkey's Role in Shaping the Future*; in February, a conference organized by Columbia's Earth Institute, with Jeffrey D. Sachs, Special Advisor to the UN Secretary-General, and Pedro Sanchez, Director of the Tropical Agriculture Program; also in February, a conference organized by the Center on Capitalism and Society under the Direction of Nobel Laureate Edmund Phelps and including addresses by George Soros, Christine Lagarde, French Minister of Economics, Industry and Employment, and Lucas Papademos, Vice President of the European Central Bank. The latter event was sponsored by Assonime, and included a number of distinguished speakers from Italian universities.

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Once again I would like to express my gratitude for the devoted service and consistent courtesy and collegiality of our staff: Barbara Faedda, Acting Director; Allison Jeffrey, Assistant Director; Abigail Asher, Communications and Development Officer; Rick Whitaker, Concerts and Theatre Manager; and Ellen Baird, my Administrative Coordinator. We congratulate Ellen on her MA from Teachers College, which has enabled her to take on the additional role of English tutor to our foreign Fellows (a service for which all Fellows express an overwhelmingly positive opinion). In addition, Will Buford moved from his previous position at the Academy to take on the role of Business Manager, while Nick Buon-

incontri came on board as Operations Coordinator. As always, the Academy could not function without the devotion of our work-study staff; I'm very grateful to them all, for their inventiveness, initiative and dedication to the mission of the Academy.

As in the past, the support and suggestions of our Board of Guarantors have been both useful and encouraging. Our newly revived Board of Senior Fellows has yielded much sage advice and many important proposals. I thank you all. Above all I wish to express my own gratitude and that of the entire Academy and its Board to Alan Brinkley, Allen Nevins Professor of History and outgoing Provost of Columbia University. During the five years of his tenure, he has been the Academy's strongest supporter, ever ready to advise and offer wise and good counsel. He has been a true friend of the Academy and of Italy. His leadership has been gentle but decisive and always in the best interests of our mission. We wish him well as he returns to the teaching role for which he is rightly famous. All of us are proud to have worked under his aegis.

DAVID FREEDBERG
Director

FELLOWS 2008-2009

Erminia Ardissino

Vittorio Enrico Avvedimento

Jérémie Barthas

Michele Battini

Alexander Bodini Research Fellow in Culture and Religion

Bianca Calabresi

Walter Cupperi

Co-sponsored by the Samuel H. Kress Foundation

Ferdinando Fiumara

Co-sponsored by the Physiology & Cellular Biophysics Department, Columbia University

Marco Formisano

Stefano Gattei

Mauro Grondona

Rita Lucarelli

Antonio Mantovani

Alexander Bodini Research Fellow in Psychiatry

Marco Pagano

Co-sponsored by the Business School, Columbia University

Vittorio Pellegrini

Co-sponsored by the Center for Integrated Science & Engineering, Columbia University

Silvio Pons

Dominique Reill

Riccardo Viale

Visiting Senior Fellow

Megan Williams

FELLOWS' SEMINARS

At the weekly luncheon seminars, each Fellow in turn presents a working paper for critique and discussion with the entire group.

Fall 2008

Goals and Methodology: From Bond to Border: The Transformation of the Adriatic in the Nineteenth Century (DOMINIQUE KIRCHNER REILL)

Shining Light on Electrons in Low Dimensions (VITTORIO PELLEGRINI)

Between Men and Gods: Demons in Ancient Egypt (RITA LUCARELLI)

The Anti-Judaic Tradition and the Birth of an Anti-Jewish Anti-Capitalism (MICHELE BATTINI)

The Book of War: The Making of the Roman Art of War 400 BCE–1617 (I) (MARCO FORMISANO)

The Diplomat's Dog: The Natural World of Papal Nuncio Girolamo Rorario and how his Quod animalia (1544) Framed Enlightenment-Era Debates on Animal Rationality (MEGAN K. WILLIAMS)

On Some Italian Busts of Charles V of Habsburg (WALTER CUPPERI)

Perpetuation of Memory Storage: A Novel Mechanism in the Long-Term Maintenance of Synaptic Plasticity and Behavior (I) (FERDINANDO FIUMARA)

Alexander Pekelis: The Law, The State, and The Individual (MAURO GRONDONA)

Communism and Anti-Communism in Italy, 1945–1989 (SILVIO PONS)

On the Intellectual Origins of the Abolition des Privilèges: The Machiavellian Criticism of Liberality (JÉRÉMIE BARTHAS)

The Application of Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation in Adults with Severe Tourette Syndrome (ANTONIO MANTOVANI)

Spring 2009

Borderlands: A System for a Multi-National Europe (DOMINIQUE KIRCHNER REILL)

Kepler's Method (STEFANO GATTEI)

The Book of War: The Making of the Roman Art of War 400 BCE–1617 (II) (MARCO FORMISANO)

Genes and Human Diseases (VITTORIO ENRICO AVVEDIMENTO)

Credit Ratings Failures: Causes and Policy Options (MARCO PAGANO)

Perpetuation of Memory Storage: A Novel Mechanism in the Long-Term Maintenance of Synaptic Plasticity and Behavior (II) (FERDINANDO FIUMARA)

History and Developments during the Later Phases of Pharaonic History and the Greco-Roman Period (RITA LUCARELLI)

Cognitive Styles in Academic and Industrial Research (RICCARDO VIALE)

Images, Nature, and Ethics (ERMINIA ARDISSINO)

Randomized Sham-Controlled Trial of Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation in Treatment-Resistant Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (ANTONIO MANTOVANI)

The Piacevoli Notti of Giambattista Casali: Diplomats, Fairy Tales, and Families in Cinquecento Italy (MEGAN WILLIAMS)

Circulation, Replication, and Imitation of Italian Sculpture in the Netherlands: the Patronage of Antoine Perrenot de Granvelle, and a New Attribution (WALTER CUPPERI)

"You sow, Ile read": Letters and Literacies in Early Modern Samplers (BIANCA F.-C. CALABRESI)

PUBLIC EVENTS

SEPT 25–OCT 9: EXHIBITION

Photography: "Mastros" by Daniela Zedda

Lecture by Prof. M. Gabriella Da Re (Università di Cagliari)

SEPT 29–NOV 25: ITALY AT COLUMBIA LECTURE SERIES

SEPT 29: Lynn Garafola, "The Post-Romantic Ballet: Spectacle, Virtuosity, and the Italian Ballerina"

OCT 20: David Rosand, "Figuring the Renaissance: Leonardo, Dürer, Michelangelo, and their Scholars"

NOV 25: Richard Howard, "Ronald Firbank and the Powers of Frivolity"

OCT 1–DEC 3: CONCERT SERIES

The Grand Tour Orchestra

OCT 1: Haydn and Jommelli; with Christine Brandes, soprano;

Stephanie Houtzeel, mezzo-soprano

NOV 5: Telemann and Galuppi; with Sari Gruber, soprano; Charles Brink, flute; Claire Jolivet, violin; Loretta O'Sullivan, cello

DEC 3: Stamitz and Boccherini; with Eric Hoeprich, clarinet

OCT 16–17: CONFERENCE

From Africa to the Balkans: New Perspectives on Colonialism and Material Culture in Fascist Italy

Organized by Lidia Santarelli (NYU) and Jennie Hirsh (Maryland Institute College of Art)

OCT 23–NOV 20: EXHIBITION

Paintings and Videos: "Out of Sync" by Giorgio Brogi

Curated by Gianni Romano

OCT 30, NOV 6: SEMINAR / FILMS

Cold War in the Mediterranean / Marshall Plan Films

Speakers: Victoria de Grazia (Columbia) and Silvio Pons (Italian Academy Fellow)

NOV 14: CONFERENCE

The Project of Andrea Palladio

With James Ackerman (Harvard), Howard Burns (Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa), and others

DEC 3: READINGS AND TALK

Italian Poetry Review 2008: Poetry in Italy, Poetry in America

Presentation of new issue of the Review, with Susan Stewart, Mark Strand, and others

DEC 4–5: SYMPOSIUM

Emergent Nanoscience

Organized by Vittorio Pellegrini (Italian Academy Fellow; INFN-CNR NEST) and James Yardley (Columbia)

DEC 18: CONFERENCE

Luigi Barzini Jr. 1908–2008: The Italians, Yesterday and Today: Journalism between Two Worlds

With Gay Talese and Beppe Severgnini

JAN 21–22: TOSCANINI MINI-FESTIVAL

Theatrical Concert with the Escher String Quartet;

Documentary preview presented by Walfredo Toscanini and Harvey Sachs; Organized by the Ensemble for the Romantic Century

JAN 29: SYMPOSIUM

Anti-Semitism at Home and Abroad

Speakers: Ira Katznelson (Columbia) and Claudio Lomnitz (Columbia)

JAN 30: LECTURE

Demons in Ancient Egypt during the Late Dynastic and Greco-Roman Periods

Speaker: Rita Lucarelli (Italian Academy Fellow)

Organized by the Center for the Ancient Mediterranean

FEB 7: CONFERENCE AND CONCERT

Instruments of Passion

Organized by Lydia Goehr (Columbia)

MAR 10–11: MATH FESTIVAL

Mathematical Creations and Recreations

Featuring Nobel laureates Sheldon Glashow, Daniel Kahneman, and John Nash, as well as Claudio Bartocci, Brian Greene, Harold Kuhn, Benoît Mandelbrot, and Piergiorgio Odifreddi

And, at the Italian Cultural Institute: Thomas Banchoff, Claudio Bartocci, Piergiorgio Odifreddi, and Achille Varzi

Organized and presented by the Festival della Matematica, Rome (Musica per Roma Fondazione)

MAR 4–MAY 6: CONCERT SERIES

Three Sopranos: Lucy Shelton, Lisa Bielawa, Sarah Wolfson

Three takes on Berio's 1966 *Sequenza III*, and programs of other Italian contemporary music

MAR 12–APR 16: ITALY AT COLUMBIA LECTURE SERIES

MAR 12: Francesco Benelli, "Donato Bramante"

APR 7: Paolo Valesio, "Visconti's *Death in Venice*" (with screening)

APR 16: Kenneth Frampton, "Giuseppe Terragni and Italian Rationalism 1918–1938"

APR 4–5: OPERA AT THE ACADEMY

Alcide al bivio

Columbia Collegium Musicum and new campus company, OperaRepo, staging Hasse's and Metastasio's opera titled *Hercules at the Crossroads*

THURS–SAT, APRIL 23–25: CONFERENCE

A World on the Move: Immigration and Emigration in Europe and the Americas

Organized by Kenneth T. Jackson (Columbia) and Maurizio Vaudagna (Università del Piemonte Orientale)

FELLOWS' REPORTS

Erminia Ardissino

The project I presented, *The Emergence of Modernity in Seventeenth Century Italian Literature*, draws from many fields to show the relevance of underestimated aspects of XVIIth century writings and matches them with major works. Despite concern that it was too ambitious a project, the ideal conditions at the Italian Academy allowed me to accomplish the work the way I had envisaged it. I spent the first two months reading, thinking, and confronting my approach to American criticism of English and comparative literature of the same period. Eventually, I realized that I had better focus my attention on the first half of the century, leaving aside the last chapter on hydraulics and landscape for a possible future article which addresses works of the second half of the century, and focusing other chapters on the writings of the first four decades of the century.

The center of my research is now ethics and persuasion in the period, as it has become evident to me that the literature of the early XVIIth century was deeply involved in responding to the need for a moral imagery more suitable for modern Italy, characterized by the end of courtly culture and the emergence of new professions. University teaching in ethics, still based on Aristotelian principles, was not responsive to the needs of the new times; nor could it adhere to the overly strict moral indications given by the reformed Catholic Church. Literature was the very center of a new moral imagery, involving old suggestions such as Stoicism and Epicureanism, reinforcing principles of natural law, and forging new moral perspectives in search of models which could become effective in a modern society.

Three chapters are almost finished:

1. *Body and Medicine*, on the influence of anatomical discoveries and images in Italian literature of the period, considering works such as Marino's *Adone*, Tassoni's *Secchia rapita*, and the correspondence of the Lincei, Benedetto Castelli, and Galileo.

2. *Images, Nature, and Ethics*, on the use of images in devotional books and in preaching, underlining how natural images were used as a medium for helping to transmit and memorize moral values, and to

spread new knowledge.

3. *Passions, Speech, and Music*, which matches the analysis of a treatise by the Jesuit Carlo Reggio, *Orator Christianus* (1612), poems for music and musical theories in order to discuss the importance given to emotions in the period, not only as a means of persuasion, but also as a new awareness of subjectivity and individuality, which finds in the human voice its means of expression.

Three more chapters (*Private Violence and Public Virtue*, *The Other Mediterranean*, and *The Role of the "Letterato"*), remain to be done in order to offer a suitable description of the culture and literature of this period, so involved in literary experimentalism and new forms of communication.

In addition to this project, I was also able to work more extensively on Galileo's writing, on which I gave two lectures, one at the University of Rochester (March 26th) and another one at the University of Chicago (May 4th). Furthermore I was able to write an essay on Dante's *Comedy* entitled "*Ciascuna cosa qual ell'è diventa. Ovidio in Paradiso*," which I delivered at the 44th Conference on Medieval Studies at Kalamazoo.

If I had not been here, I would never have been able to accomplish so much. The Italian Academy offers the best conditions for doing research: rich libraries on the premises; colleagues with whom it is possible to share and discuss work, hypotheses, and dilemmas; a stimulating intellectual environment with significant events and weekly seminars, where one can learn different approaches and methods; the facilities necessary to create networks with colleagues working in your field in American universities; office and living facilities; the calm which helps concentration; and a few artistic events which help creativity.

Erminia Ardisino returns to her position as ricercatore confermato in Italian literature at the Università di Torino, Facoltà di Scienze della Formazione.

Vittorio Enrico Avvedimento

Over the last four years, I have been studying the mechanism of epigenetic modifications—modifications of DNA that alter the expression of genes in different cells. All the cells of the body contain the same DNA, but they express different genes in different organs (thyroid, skin, liver, heart, and neurons) and in several human diseases, including cancer

and degenerative diseases. In this context, I have asked 2 questions:

1. How can the information packed in DNA be retrieved, unwound, and transformed into RNA (transcription), and once the transfer is completed, how can it be packed back?
2. What directs and targets the epigenetic modification of DNA (DNA methylation) that silences the genes?

Results:

To approach these complex issues in a satisfactory way, we must convert them into a series of simple questions that can be addressed by experiments. These experiments include negative and positive controls and produce results that can be disproven or verified to dispel or accept the hypothesis.

1. Specifically, I have set up experiments to demonstrate the presence of RNA molecules in the chromatin loops that direct the initiation of transcription (the process that converts the information of DNA into RNA). These RNAs should work as zippers that maintain and join distant chromosomal sites. Under these conditions, distant regions in the linear DNA can be brought together and their information linearly expressed. These RNAs, on the basis of their sequence complementarity to DNA, may serve as memory cards that are used to stimulate or repress the expression of genes. To obtain evidence for the presence of RNA-DNA hybrids in transcription chromatin loops, known as R-loops, I have used selective molecular tweezers and scissors (enzymes) that (1) on the one hand recognize and cleave hybrid molecules of DNA-RNA (RNase H), or single strand DNA (mung bean nuclease), or (2) on the other hand "ligate" together DNA ends. The initial results indicate that such R-Loops do exist in transcriptionally active chromatin.

In any case, this experiment, although preliminary, represents a type of "proof of concept" of the hypothesis that a specific RNA is present in an organized chromatin loop. It remains to be seen how general this finding is.

These experiments were performed at Columbia's Institute of Cancer Research and Institute for Cancer Genetics. The directors of both, Max Gottesman and Riccardo Dalla-Favera, have been extremely supportive.

2. In collaboration with a rheumatologist in Italy, I completed a re-

view (published in the May 9 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine) of the pathogenesis of a deadly autoimmune disease, systemic sclerosis. This illness is the consequence of a conspicuous unrestrained oxidative stress on the cells of connective tissue (skin and vessels) and translates in practical terms the basic epigenetic questions I am approaching in isolated cells *in vitro*. The DNA in the cells of these patients is heavily damaged and methylated; in few generations these cells age and stop growing.

3. During this period, I had the chance to give seminars at several East Coast universities. On such an occasion, at Temple University in Philadelphia, I learned that some of our data on methylation and damage published in PLoS Genetics in 2007 has since been independently confirmed and validated by two independent teams. This strongly supports the notion that epigenetic changes (methylation and silencing) are caused by faithful DNA repair on damaged sites.

The long-term effects on the specific area on which I am working cannot be evaluated or anticipated at present. Nevertheless, thanks to the Fellows and the people organizing the work at the Academy, this experience was and still is unique in terms of science, humanities, and humanity. It was also full of surprises. I am a biomedical scientist, tightly bound to “reductionistic” and descriptive experiments. The contact with researchers in different fields, mainly the humanities, philosophy, logic and art, has brought new insights and has partly modified the general perspective of my work. For example, I am now more puzzled than ever by this idea: is it the path and the method, or the specific result, that we seek? Are we striving for the truth, or do we love to learn the route to several truths? In my case, this is relevant, because many models are possible, but evolution fixed just one, exactly like the results of the experiment I am conducting.

One important consequence of this experience is that several scientific issues or questions that I once approached separately—each one equipped with separate set of validation protocols or proofs—are now coming together in a general evolutionary vision. Again, the puzzle emerges: Is this due to the specific “wiring” and “wishful thinking” of the brain/mind of a senior scientist, or is it a more accurate description of the world?

Vittorio Enrico Avvedimento returns to his position as professore ordinario di patologia generale at the medical school (facoltà di medicina e chirurgia) of the Università Federico II (Napoli).

Jérémie Barthas

For many years, my research has dealt with the relationship between public finance and politics, in history and in theory, during the modern period (15th-18th century), particularly in Italy. I have focused on the specific cases of Niccolò Machiavelli’s political thinking and the Florentine finances of his time. The interpretation of Machiavelli’s statement “money is not the sinew of war” was the topic of my Ph.D. research at the European University Institute of Florence.

In a logical continuation of this work, I formulated a series of projects in order to develop and extend my understanding, from a synchronic and diachronic perspective.

The synchronic approach aimed at consolidating the empirical basis of my work, which focuses on the early modern Florentine situation, a particularly stimulating case because of the richness of the archival sources on a moment of crisis which offer fertile ground for historical and theoretical reflections on politics and society.

The diachronic approach pursues a twofold goal: first, to investigate the elements of the fertility of the Florentine case in the *longue durée* of the European *Ancien Régime* and second (working on different scale of analysis) to attempt an epistemological reflection concerning the stakes of a sociological and political investigation which takes public finance as its focal point.

The idea of “cultural transmission,” which is a focus of the Italian Academy’s Fellowship Program, offered me the opportunity to begin work on my new project regarding the transmission of Italian financial culture to France from the 15th to the 18th century.

One aspect of this project takes as its point of departure a passage from Antoine de Montchrestien’s *Traité de l’oeconomie politique* (1615), in which the author warns the young monarch of the danger represented by the influential social caste of financiers, this “gang of bloodsuckers of your people.” Montchrestien draws attention to the Italian experience, which may enable the reader to understand not only how dangerous

the artifices of the financiers are, but also to find a remedy against them, and ultimately to adopt a higher perspective on the construction of the state and society as a whole. This very first author to have entitled a treatise “on political economy” was convinced that the Italian experience was of tremendous scientific importance and that an important phenomenon of cultural transmission was at stake.

Another aspect appeared as I finished the editing of my piece for the *Cambridge Companion to Machiavelli*, edited by John Najemy, and while pursuing my research for a forthcoming article on Machiavelli’s critique of “liberality” as related to a critique of the financial system. In my piece for the *Cambridge Companion* (entitled “Machiavelli in Political Thought from the Age of Revolutions to the Present”), I mention a seminal article by Alain Guéry, the most innovative historian of French finance, as an authority for sustaining an argument positing the Machiavellian criticism of liberality at the intellectual origins of the *abolition des privilèges*. Guéry indicated that Machiavelli’s critique of liberality led political thinkers of the *Ancien Régime* to examine power from a financial and fiscal perspective. Following this suggestion, and thanks to the electronic resources offered at Columbia University, I have found historical evidence that further documents and confirms the argument, and I am attempting to build new understanding on this basis.

As I proceed in refining this new research, the main accomplishment of my Fellowship semester will end up being the rewriting of my Ph.D. After almost two months at the Italian Academy, I was able to present to the editor a new manuscript, reduced by about one third (from 700 to 500 pages), with a completely revised first chapter and a fresh chapter built after the reorganization of material from previous ones. In December, the scientific commission of the Ecole Française de Rome accepted it for publication in its prestigious collection.

While in New York, I was invited to attend a conference on Machiavelli held at Yale in mid-October. It was a great opportunity for me to meet most of today’s American Machiavelli specialists and to strengthen several collaborations. I am particularly indebted to David Quint at Yale and John Najemy at Cornell, who read, commented on and carefully edited my English for forthcoming pieces. The last of these, written while I was at the Academy, is the entry “Machiavelli,” for the forthcom-

ing *Encyclopedia of Political Science* (SAGE publishers).

I wish to say in conclusion how grateful I am to the staff of the Italian Academy and to its director and how happy I was to meet the other fellow-scholars and to have come into contact with the wide range of their research fields. I only wish I had had more time (and fewer deadlines) to have enjoyed further the uniqueness of the situation in New York at the end of 2008.

Jérémy Barthes takes up a new position as a fellow of the Fondazione Luigi Firpo – Centro di studi sul pensiero politico in Turin.

Michele Battini

I was appointed the Alexander Bodini Research Fellow in Culture and Religion at the Italian Academy in Fall 2008. The title of my research project was: “Social Anti-Semitism in the Counter-Enlightenment.” My research started from the assumption that anti-Semitism is above all a tradition, deeply rooted in the culture of Christian Europe. More precisely, anti-Semitism presented itself, in the course of modern history, not only as a byproduct of or an answer to a period of social unrest, economic crisis and immigration. It has also been a cultural tradition transmitted through the centuries. The studies which connect anti-Semitism to objective causes, or occasional ones of economic as well as psychological nature, may help to comprehend the context in which such prejudice could flourish, but fail to grasp its non-linear development in Christian and post-Christian Europe. The traditional nature of the phenomenon, rather, suggests the need to reflect on the necessity that, in certain moments of European history, cultures and societies threatened by change and modernity have had to re-consider their roots. The need for tradition, in the time of passage and crisis between the 19th and the 20th centuries, is key in appropriately evaluating the function and nature of recurrent Judeo-phobia.

In the immense international literature in this field, two major analytic trends prevail. The first one concentrates on the Christian roots of political anti-Semitism of the 19th and the 20th centuries. The second is a reflection on human diversity in terms of biological determinism and of hierarchical representation of races and civilizations, implying the passage to forms of operational racism: anti-Semitism as a “species” of po-

litical racism. The intent of my project is to verify the existence of a different cultural tradition, not founded solely on Christian theology or on bio-political categories. I assume that such a diverse tradition of anti-Semitism is based on a refusal of Jews and Judaism, considered as incarnations of Western capitalism: a form of prejudice that is relatively distant from traditional stereotypes and closer to the ideological anti-capitalistic feelings of many workers' movements of the later 19th century. In a comparative perspective, I studied how the "Jewish question" was tackled by the varied European socialist movements up to the Great War, to reconstruct the historical path that led such a different tradition into the 1930s and 40s.

On October 16, I participated in a roundtable discussion on the Italian political and cultural situation along with Bernard Manin, Nadia Urbinati, Steven Lukes, Alexander Stille and Stephen Holmes, sponsored by and held at the International Institute for European Studies at Columbia University, directed by Victoria de Grazia.

On November 6 and 9, I had working sessions with two prominent scholars of modern Italian history: Marta Petrusiewicz of Hunter College and CUNY's Graduate Center, and Ruth Ben-Ghiat of New York University. These two scholars, together with Tony Judt, had served on the panel for a discussion of my book, *The Missing Italian Nuremberg: Cultural Amnesia and Postwar Politics*, in February 2008 at NYU's Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimò. I also had profitable scholarly interactions with Andrew Arato and Jean Cohen at the New School for Social Research in New York and with Anson Rabinbach at Princeton University. And I attended with great interest cultural events that were useful for my research, such as the exhibition of the manuscripts of the Jewish writer Irène Némirovsky at the Museum of Jewish Heritage at Battery Place and the exhibition on the Jewish Theater in Russia and the USSR at the Jewish Museum.

I prepared my research paper and discussed it with Columbia professors Mark Mazower (History) and Ira Katznelson (Political Science). On September 15, I presented it at the seminar and the discussion was introduced by Prof. Nadia Urbinati (International Affairs). In my lecture I reconstructed the polemic against the law of the emancipation of the European Jews, presenting the sources of the French Catholic Counter-Enlightenment writers (Louis de Bonald, Lamennais, and von Haller). I

showed that the Counter-Enlightenment arguments were taken up by anti-democratic and socialist writers such as Fourier, Toussenel, and Auguste Chirac. In 1885, Edouard Drumont—a Catholic writer who was linked to socialist groups—tried to construct a new anti-Jewish paradigm based on anti-capitalism. My research enabled me to discuss and verify the ideas advanced by Hannah Arendt in an unpublished work, recently discovered by J. Kohn and R. H. Feldman ("Anti-Semitism," in H. Arendt, *The Jewish Writings*, Schocken Books). A version of the paper will appear shortly in *Constellation: An International Journal of Critical and Democratic Theory*. My research at Columbia's Butler Library will, above all, contribute to my next book, *On Tyranny: The Bad and the Good Use of Utopia*. *Michele Battini returns to his position as professore ordinario in storia contemporanea at the Università di Pisa.*

Bianca F.-C. Calabresi

My semester at the Academy was taken up primarily with researching and writing sections of my next book, *The Female Narcissus: Renaissance Women's Writing Technologies*. The project examines the ways in which written texts, and the idea of literacy itself, served in the early modern period as vehicles through which female identity was conceived. In it, I ask what counts as women's writing in the period, and what happens to our understanding of women's writing if we look in different places—at different objects—than have been usually considered under this rubric.

In particular, I explore the increasing number of female writers and artists in sixteenth-century Europe whose works advertise their makers as creators of, specifically, the material aspects of texts. That is, from painted inscriptions to lettered samplers to printed colophons, a wide range of graphic technologies promote Renaissance women's identities not only as authors and publishers, portraitists, and calligraphers, but as women who make letters manually. In some cases, these works function as a demonstration of alphabetical literacy, in others as a manifestation of corporeal and pedagogical self-mastery, in yet others as proof of participation in the changing markets of textual production. In all cases, however, these self-presentations recreate visual and verbal distinctions as much as they produce new amalgams of word and image. A de facto *ut pictura poesis* results, in which the literary and artistic theories of

Alberti, Bembo, and Puttenham, among others, confront the difference of gendered production. Throughout, I consider what constitutes female “literacy” in a period in which national vernaculars and letters are becoming standardized, in which women’s work in text and textile is being resituated and redefined, and where female pedagogy is itself changing hands.

At the beginning of the semester, I returned to a chapter on Sophonisba Anguissola’s writing hands in her self-portraiture, further exploring not only the repeated intersection of visual and verbal media in these works but the necessarily trans-European focus of this study: Anguissola’s own image of gendered literacy is significantly transmuted as her Italian drawings become Dutch prints, her epistles circulate and are transcribed, and she herself travels from Italian states to Spanish courts. During the middle months, I wrote most of my second chapter, on the Venetian courtesan Veronica Franco’s use of emerging art historical discourses in her letters and poems. Thanks to further research undertaken this spring, I developed the focus of the chapter to include a discussion of Franco’s use of “imprese” both as a trope for her own work and in response to the actual imprese and the reception they created for her printed works. I also charted the last section of the chapter which will take up Franco’s third publication, a Venetian collection of memorial sonnets that makes her one of the few female anthologists of the sixteenth century. Discussed extensively in her letters, but available only in one copy, this little-known and under-analyzed work further extends our understanding of what constitutes women’s literary work in the period. In the final month of the fellowship, I was also able to consolidate the fourth chapter of the book, in which I chart the production and exchange of manuscript letterforms among a group of Protestant Huguenot trans-European refugees including Marie Presot and her daughter Esther Inglis as well as Anna Vischers Roemers, both of whom use the printed texts of Georgette de Montenay as departures for their own calligraphic work. If Anguissola represents one model for the display and transfer of women’s writing hands, this Protestant connection offers another, one which moves smoothly between the media of print and manuscript, using the recreation or overwriting of printed letters by hand as a display of simultaneous graphic skill, female lineage, and reli-

gious devotion. The book now consists tentatively of five chapters and an introduction, most of which were re-imagined or (in the case of the final chapter) entirely conceived during this Spring semester.

During my Fellowship, I spoke at the Columbia Shakespeare Seminar and at a UC Berkeley event, “Italy in the Drama of Europe: A Conference in Honor of Louise George Clubb.” In addition to my presentation at the Fellows seminar, in which I was able to discuss the shape of the book as a whole with three leading scholars in the NY area, as well as to respond to the intelligent and constructive questions of this year’s extraordinary group of fellows, I appreciated a number of resources made possible by the Italian Academy. In particular, it was valuable to have at hand the very useful collection of works in the expanding Academy library, where I was able to compare facsimiles of early printed editions of Trissino’s *Sophonisba* without leaving the building, and to have access to a breadth of Italian intellectual and cultural events in New York, thanks to the Academy’s affiliations and timely communications.

Bianca Calabresi returns to her position as Assistant Professor of Literature at Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Walter Cupperi

My project at the Italian Academy considered the status of Italian portrait sculpture made for the Habsburg dynasty and circulated in their Netherlandish courts during the reign of Charles V and Philip II (1530-1556). More specifically, my research focused on the replicas made from Italian busts, reliefs, and medals in the Low Countries, and explored the possibility of considering such serial production with respect to broader social and cultural phenomena connected to the imperial rank of the court, as well as in terms of models for the sculptors working outside of the court.

My fellowship enabled me to complete two articles and discuss them within the seminars of the Italian Academy and the Howard Hibbard Forum at Columbia’s Art History Department. In my first article, I considered two different busts of Emperor Charles V of Habsburg and their autographed replicas. All of them were made by sculptors officially appointed as court artists. I argued that the iconography and the commission of these replicas can be explained within a broader network of diplomatic and social relations that invested the ruler’s busts with a spe-

cial social significance connected to their conformity with an authorized model.

For my second article, I examined and re-attributed an Italian medal portraying the painter Anthonis Mor. This medal constitutes an important link between the visual culture of the Habsburg court in Brussels and the Italianate production of the Northern Low Countries. In this paper, I also tested the possibility of using a particular kind of replicated medal, the hybrid medal, as evidence for the circulation and reception of Italian Renaissance medals in the Netherlands.

A third article, concerning the re-attribution of the drawing “s. It. 16.27” from the Pierpont Morgan Library and its possible connection with the Italian sculptor Leone Leoni, is still in progress.

My stay in New York also gave me the opportunity to assess the dating of two later replicas of portraits made by Leone Leoni for Charles V: a hone stone relief preserved at the Metropolitan Museum, which turned out to be a nineteenth-century copy, and a bust of the same Emperor exhibited at the National Gallery in Washington, D.C. Thanks to the technical analyses made together with the Conservation Department in Washington, the dating of the latter bust will soon be verified through comparison with other similar copies traced back in Spain. Such investigations made it possible to explore the reception of the Italian Habsburg portraits over the centuries and to highlight the different collecting trends that conditioned the making of new replicas.

My visits to the Hispanic Society of America, the American Numismatic Society, and the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore also bore interesting results for future research. I was able to identify several medals whose localization has been unknown for decades and to study quite a few Renaissance medals and cameos preserved in New York and Washington, D.C. The conclusions drawn from such investigations will contribute to the revision of my Ph.D. dissertation, *Milanese Medals under Spanish Rule (1535-1600)*, for publication. In the Spring I began a collaboration with the Walters Museum and investigated a piece in their sculpture collection, a bust portraying an unidentified commander that I believe to be French.

The rich resources of Columbia's Avery Library also enabled me to conclude a paper on the reception of Roman Late-Republican sculpture

in Verona and Brescia at the beginning of the fourteenth century. This paper was presented at the Università Cattolica di Brescia in February 2009.

Finally, my fellowship at the Italian Academy gave me the opportunity to plan a long-term project on Roman Renaissance sculpture and to start group research on the topic together with American, Swiss, and German colleagues. The first phase of this project was a colloquium organized at the University of Roma Tre in December 2008.

Through the academic year I enjoyed continuous scientific exchange with scholars such as Francesco Benelli, Jonathan Brown, James David Draper, Miguel Falomir, Alison Luchs, Clemente Marconi, Fernando Marías, Alexander Nagel, Louise Rice, David Rosand, Stephen Scher, Pamela Smith, Joaneath Spicer, and Christopher Wood. Events such as the exhibition *Cast in Bronze: French Sculpture from Renaissance to Revolution* at the Metropolitan Museum, and the exhibition *Andrea Riccio: Renaissance Master of Bronze* at the Frick Collection (and its related conference) also offered outstanding occasions for on-site discussions with prominent specialists in the field.

The intellectual community of the Italian Academy provided an extremely vivid environment for cultural exchange and very challenging experiences of methodological debate. I am particularly thankful to fellows Bianca Finzi-Contini Calabresi, Dominique Reill, and Megan Williams, as well as to the staff of the Italian Academy, for crucially facilitating my interaction with the academic world of New York. Last, but not least, I wish to warmly thank the Kress Foundation (especially Mr. Max Marmor and Mr. Wyman Meers) for co-sponsoring my research and following its developments with enthusiastic support.

Walter Cupperi will be at the Scuola Normale Superiore in Pisa with a Telecom Italia Grant to revise his dissertation on Milanese Renaissance medals.

Ferdinando Fiumara

The research project I have developed at the Italian Academy and in the laboratory of Eric Kandel at the Department of Neuroscience at Columbia University aimed at clarifying certain aspects of novel biological mechanisms recently proposed as underlying the long-term perpetuation of synaptic plasticity, one of the neural substrates of learning and memory.

In particular, I focused my investigation on two proteins called *cytoplasmic polyadenylation element binding protein* (CPEB) and an atypical *protein kinase C* (aPKC), studying their role and interaction in the maintenance of long-term plasticity at synapses of *Aplysia*, a model organism for neurobiological research. In recent years, these two proteins have been shown to have prominent roles in the long-term perpetuation of learning-related synaptic plasticity and behavioral memories. One of the more interesting features of these proteins is that they have some quite unusual structural and functional properties which make them act as molecular switches that—once turned on—sustain the persistence over time of synaptic plasticity and memories.

Specifically, I have worked on two main research lines. First, I have studied the post-transcriptional regulation of *Aplysia* CPEB (apCPEB) expression levels in synaptic plasticity. Second, I have explored the potential interaction between apCPEB and the atypical PKC of *Aplysia* (ap-aPKC, and its truncated form ap-aPKM) in regulating local protein synthesis at synapses. The experiments that I performed during my stay at the Italian Academy elucidated several aspects of these two problems.

First, I have identified a specific *Aplysia* micro-RNA as a regulator of apCPEB levels in sensory neurons. I have found that one of the microRNAs recently identified in *Aplysia* is a negative regulator of apCPEB synthesis. This inhibition can be relieved during synaptic plasticity by a reduction of the miRNA levels induced by serotonin, i.e. the neuromodulator that triggers synaptic plasticity in this system. This allows more copies of the apCPEB mRNA to be translated, thus contributing to the increase in apCPEB that is required for the stabilization of learning-related synaptic plasticity once the serotonin stimulation is over.

Second, I have identified a specific ubiquitin ligase that interacts with apCPEB and may regulate its degradation by attaching ubiquitin to it. In fact, apCPEB and this ubiquitin ligase seem to be co-localized in sensory neurons, and these two proteins can be co-immunoprecipitated, which means they are likely to interact with each other at the molecular level. I am now completing these experiments to determine conclusively that the specific ubiquitin ligase that I am studying is a physiological regulator of apCPEB degradation during synaptic plasticity.

Third, in studying the potential relationship between apCPEB and ap-

aPKC in regulating synaptic plasticity, I have first tried to determine whether apCPEB can regulate the expression levels of the aPKC protein. apCPEB regulates the synthesis of other proteins by binding their mRNAs and promoting their polyadenylation. CPEB binds to the mRNA by recognizing a short sequence called *cytoplasmic polyadenylation element* (CPE) that is located in a particular non-coding region of the target mRNA called *3' untranslated region* (3'-UTR). I have cloned and sequenced the 3'-UTR of ap-aPKC, and found that this region contains 11 putative CPE elements. Moreover, these CPE elements are arranged in a particular way suggesting the presence of alternative polyadenylation sites. This means that the CPEB-mediated polyadenylation of ap-aPKC can occur at different sites, and this might have important physiological consequences that I am now in the position to explore.

Fourth, in studying the potential apCPEB/ap-aPKC relationship, I have also considered the possibility that ap-aPKC might regulate the function of the apCPEB protein by phosphorylating it. I have collected several pieces of evidence that point to a potential aPKC-dependent phosphorylation of apCPEB. In particular, I have found that apCPEB is phosphorylated in sensory neurons in a PKC-dependent manner, that it contains several predicted PKC phosphorylation sites, and is efficiently phosphorylated *in vitro* by recombinant mammalian PKC-zeta, as well as *Aplysia* aPKC/M. Based on these findings, I am now identifying the specific amino acids of CPEB that undergo aPKC-dependent phosphorylation and exploring their physiological relevance by generating mutant apCPEB proteins in which these sites are functionally deleted (i.e., cannot be phosphorylated).

Taken together, the results of these experiments identify two key regulators of apCPEB post-transcriptional regulation and highlight the existence of a possible activation loop between apCPEB and aPKC, two key regulators of long-term synaptic plasticity and memory.

The fellowship that I received from the Italian Academy—with co-sponsorship from Columbia's Physiology & Cellular Biophysics Department—provided invaluable support to my research, and the uniquely rich intellectual environment of the Italian Academy offered me an exceptional opportunity to further develop my long-standing interest in the intersection of neuroscience and the humanities.

Ferdinando Fiumara returns to his position as ricercatore at the Università di Torino.

Marco Formisano

During the two semesters I spent at the Italian Academy I was able to pursue my study of the emergence of the literary genre “the art of war” during Antiquity and its development and transformation in the late ancient period and in the Renaissance. The main argument is that the very core of the discourse of war has been shaped—surprisingly enough—by the literary approach, and not, as one might expect, by issues related to the development of technology. More specifically, my book concentrates on four epochs. I begin with what is in fact the latest phase chronologically—the Renaissance—in order to explore the characteristics of the genre *arte della guerra* (the Italian label was diffused all over Europe) in its richest and most accomplished form, and to provide a basis for considering its earlier phases and development. I also argue that the Renaissance represents the culminating moment in the reception of the ancient discourse on war, which subsequently entered a phase of crisis with new technological developments (e.g., gunpowder and firearms) and new modes of conceptualizing war and tactics. Here I discuss the formation of the first military school in Siegen in 1617, by the House of Orange, and its cultural background. I focus then on the Italian tradition of the genre, mainly on Machiavelli, della Rovere and Patrizi (Chapter 1). I then move back in time to the earliest surviving textual examples of this discourse in ancient Greece immediately after the Peloponnesian War (early 4th century BCE), mainly the surviving work of Aineias Tacticus called *Poliorketika* (“How to survive under siege”) which can be considered the first book on war in the Western tradition (Chapter 2). Moreover, I discuss the dichotomy between theory and action in war on the basis of certain Greek and Roman literary texts such as Polybius, Sallust, Cicero, Ovid, and Musonius Rufus. In this part I focus not on the military treatises but on the broader context of Latin literary culture, picking out examples of the difficult relationship between writing and action and theory and practice within the Roman cultural system (Chapter 3). The last part will focus on Vegetius’ *Epitoma rei militaris* (4th–5th centuries CE) which I argue was the first accomplished example of the “art of war” genre of the kind which was formalized during the Renaissance; here I aim to shed light on the late antique cultural and liter-

ary context in which this text arose, a period often neglected in academic research in the fields both of literature and the history of knowledge (Chapter 4). A final coda is dedicated to the outcome of the ancient and early modern tradition of the art of war in the work of Carl von Clausewitz, who is generally defined as the one who radically changed the way of writing on war.

At the Italian Academy, I was able to concentrate in particular on two parts of my work. In the first, I deal with the ambiguous relationship between military history and literary texts. This is a discipline which had long suffered from many prejudices for a number of reasons but which, starting a few decades ago, was given new life under the label of New Military History. As part of this trend, studies of ancient warfare have also begun to analyze the social, political, artistic, and religious aspects of the phenomenon, viewing war in a much broader cultural context than the traditional historical reconstruction of the technical issues of battles did. It is my argument that, within studies of this kind, a satisfactory *literary* approach has not yet been developed. Indeed, writing on war presents an important common feature: authors of military tracts from Antiquity until at least the 19th century, and modern scholars as well, participate in the same tradition and share the same cognitive limits. On the one hand, authors from the past - mostly historiographers, rhetoricians, and poets - provide us with an historically “distorted” description of war and do not allow us to approach reality, that is, war “as it really was.” On the other hand, there are scholars who, on a methodological level, engage in a sort of dialectic, more unconscious than conscious, with their own status as non-soldier. Second, I had the chance to offer an analysis of the work of the Greek strategist Aineias Tacticus (4th century BCE), whom I consider one of the first authors of the genre we might call “the art of war” and who enacts a range of interesting “strategies of authorization” in his text. While analyzing and discussing this text, I have been able to approach the fascinating question of authorship related to the transmission of technical and scientific knowledge and its relation to literary texts.

During my stay I was also able to complete several previously commissioned articles and reviews, and I was invited to give two lectures at Fordham University on Cicero and on the *Passio Perpetuae*. The Italian Academy and Columbia University’s rich and diversified scholarly com-

munity and its wonderful libraries and resources offered invaluable support to my work. I was able not only to discuss my research intensively with Professor Achille Varzi and my colleague fellows during the Wednesday Seminars, but also to interact with Columbia faculty members, notably Professors Gareth Williams and Katharina Volk from the Classics Department, and Professors William Harris and Pamela Smith from the Department of History. Finally, this long stay in New York City gave me the opportunity to better appreciate the American university system and to make contact with colleagues and scholars affiliated with other universities and institutions.

Marco Formisano returns to his position as Wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter at the Cooperative Research Center (SFB) "Transformations of Antiquity" at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.

Stefano Gattei

During the semester I spent at the Academy I completed a couple of projects I had started before my arrival in New York and began working on two new ones; all but one are on the history of science, especially focusing on the scientific revolution of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

The first two comprise an article on the engraved frontispiece of Johannes Kepler's *Tabulae Rudolphinae* (1627) and the annotated edition of Kepler's *Strena seu De nive sexangula* (1611). Although I had already started my research on the frontispiece in September 2008, it was only once I was in New York that I had the opportunity to work on it full-time, thus producing a shorter article for the Italian journal *Nuncius* (forthcoming) and a much longer and detailed version, to which I am going to add the first English translation of the Latin poem "Idyllion" by Kepler's friend Johann Baptist Hebenstreit, describing the same frontispiece. This longer version I plan to submit in the next few weeks.

The second project is the annotated edition of a little book by Kepler "on the six-cornered snowflake." The book comprises a substantial introduction dealing with the context of Kepler's work and the history of observations of the geometry of snow crystals; a historical-critical edition of the Latin text (that is, the attempted reconstruction of the original text produced by collating all extant copies—including one held at Columbia University—presenting three different statuses of the *editio*

princeps); the Italian translation; an extensive set of notes expounding on Kepler's text and explaining the meaning of the various passages, as well as highlighting the links and references to other works by Kepler himself or other contemporary scholars; and finally, a mathematical appendix reconstructing the history of "Kepler's conjecture." The "conjecture" deals with the close-packing of spheres in three dimensions and was first advanced in Kepler's little book; it was eventually proved correct in 1997 with the help of a 3-gigabyte computer program.

To these first two works, completed while at the Academy, I added a short article on "Galileo 'filosofo'," which was requested as a contribution to the volume accompanying the international exhibition on Galileo and the history of art (*Il cannocchiale e il pennello: nuova scienza e nuova arte nell'età di Galileo*) that will open in Pisa in May 2009.

In writing all three of these works, I greatly benefited from the discussions both with the other Fellows and with a few people I got to know while in New York. For my work on the frontispiece, for instance, I was invited to give papers at Harvard University, Columbia University (at the Philosophy and History of Science Seminar), and Princeton University. On all these occasions I received positive feedback and help from various people, and I would like here to mention Professors Mario Biagioli, Owen Gingerich, Eileen Reeves, and George Saliba in particular. The Columbia University libraries proved to be crucial for the development and completion of the above-mentioned works.

As noted, I also began working on two new projects while at the Academy. The first is an introductory, philosophical book—*Karl Popper's Logic of Scientific Discovery: A Reader's Guide*—under contract with Continuum Press, New York. (Also, while in New York, I was contacted by Treccani to write a short article on Thomas Kuhn's criticism of Karl Popper.) The second project is the topic of the research proposal I submitted for my Fellowship. This has just gotten started: the aim is to provide a detailed study of one of the most significant books in the history of mathematics, Kepler's *Nova stereometria doliorum vinariorum* (1615). Although only briefly mentioned and never thoroughly discussed in the standard histories of the discipline, this work contains important elements and techniques that proved crucial for the later development of calculus. Given its scope, such a project could not have been complet-

ed in a few months. Nevertheless, the work done so far and the exchanges I have had with other American scholars greatly helped me both to frame and widen my historical research, as well as to expand the original idea along new and very promising directions.

A good part of my time at the Academy was also devoted to applications for possible jobs, both in Italy and abroad. Luckily, one of them was successful and I was appointed Assistant Professor at the IMT Institute for Advanced Studies in Lucca. Apart from this and my own work, however, the months spent here at Columbia proved to be important in many other respects. The rich and challenging intellectual life of New York allowed me to attend talks and conferences on a wide variety of issues.

The Italian Academy and its staff provided the most pleasant and stimulating setting for my research, enabling me to pursue it in the best possible way. Our weekly seminars, in particular, proved to be exceptional in that they allowed each of us to confront an audience of scholars from a wide range of specialties and with different expertises, whose often unexpected and searching questions forced each of us to look at, present, and revise his/her own paper in interesting ways. Discussions such as these often went far beyond the seminar itself, developing into fruitful exchanges that led, in one case, to a project for future collaboration.

Stefano Gattei takes up a new position as Assistant Professor at the IMT Institute for Advanced Studies, Lucca.

Mauro Grondona

As a Fellow during the Fall Term, my work on Alexander Pekelis was mainly focused upon the collection of records on (and by) him that I discovered existed here in the United States.

Alexander Pekelis was born in Odessa in 1902. In 1920 he escaped the Russian Revolution, moving first to Germany (Leipzig), then, in 1921, to Austria (Vienna), and finally, in 1924, to Italy (Florence and Rome, 1924–1938). His graduate thesis was published in 1928 under the title *Il diritto come volontà costante* (“The Law as a Constant Will”). In the early 1930s he was appointed as *Libero Docente* (professorship, non-tenured) of Philosophy of Law at the University of Rome, where he taught until 1938.

In 1938, because of the Anti-Semitic Laws, he fled Italy, and in 1941,

after three years spent in Paris as an attorney, he came to the United States as a refugee. In 1941, his first year in New York City, he was appointed professor of Sociology at the New School for Social Research, and graduated in law from Columbia School of Law. In 1945 he was appointed Chief Consultant to the Commission on Law and Social Action of the America Jewish Congress. On December 28, 1946 he died in an airplane accident near Shannon Airport in Ireland.

Pekelis was the author of one book and several main essays: *Il diritto come volontà costante*, Padua: Cedam, 1930; *Saggio sui rapporti tra diritto e morale*, Padua: Cedam, 1932; *Azione*, in *Nuovo Digesto Italiano*, Turin: UTET, 1937; *Law and Social Action – Select Essays of Alexander H. Pekelis*, edited by Milton R. Konvitz, Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1950.

My research project aims to analyze the idea and the doctrine of Law and State stressed by Pekelis throughout two different periods of his life: his Italian scholarly years (1930–1938), and his American scholarly years (1941–1946). The main areas to which Pekelis most contributed are: (1) the role of the State as the main source of the law (positive law); (b) the relations (if any) between law and morality; and (c) the meaning (both strictly legal and socio-political) of the legal and formal act of starting a civil process.

In my work I try to understand if and how his concept of Law and State evolved over time and the possible causes of these changes. I also try to read, from an historical perspective, the role of Pekelis as a legal philosopher, both in Italy and in the US.

According to his beloved friend William Maslow (writing in an unpublished manuscript), “What impressed one most on meeting Alex Pekelis was his tremendous vitality, his vast learning, his unconventional mode of thought, and the warmth of his personality. His was a mind that was torrential, from which gushed ideas, acute, seminal profound, in an exhaustible stream.” My work on Pekelis is intended as a moral tribute not only to his legal mind, but also to his moral mind.

(Pekelis’s wife, Carla, wrote a memorial book, *La mia versione dei fatti* [Palermo: Sellerio, 1996; *My Version of the Facts*, Evanston, IL: Marlboro Press and Northwestern University Press, 2005]).

The term I spent at the Italian Academy has proved extremely fruitful, and I am most grateful to this institution and its staff. I also want to warm-

ly thank the following institutions for having helped me by providing access to unpublished materials of great interest: the Arthur W. Diamond Law Library (Columbia School of Law), the M. E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives (University at Albany, State University of New York), the Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives, the New School for Social Research Library, and the Yale University Library (Max Lerner Papers).

I wish to address my special appreciation and gratitude to Ms. Simona Pekelis, daughter of the late Alexander, for having provided me with a number of her father's personal letters and documents that will be extremely useful to me in better understanding Alexander Pekelis as a man.

Mauro Grondona returns to his position as docente a contratto in the Facoltà di Giurisprudenza at the Università di Genova.

Rita Lucarelli

During this academic year I completed my research on demonology in Ancient Egypt, which I started at the University of Bonn (Germany) in 2007.

In the first semester of my stay at the Italian Academy (Fall 2008) I continued to collect sources on demons in ancient Egypt (consisting of textual and iconographical compositions on magical papyri, temples, and tomb walls, in addition to a variety of magical objects) in particular those produced during the Late and Greco-Roman periods (ca. 750 BCE–395 CE).

Since the religion of ancient Egypt in the later phases of Pharaonic history and under the Greco-Roman rule is characterized by phenomena such as syncretism, introduction of foreign cults, and the increasing use of magical practices, my research brought me to construct a comparative framework where Egyptian demons could be compared with similar supernatural beings mentioned in the religious sources of the Ancient Near East, Greece, and of the ancient Mediterranean world at large.

The concept of demons as “intermediary beings” between men and gods can also be found in other ancient religions and, in particular, in the Greek religion. Moreover, a comparison with demonic and supernatural beings in the Mesopotamian religion has proved that pre-Chris-

tian and Near Eastern religions commonly conceived of demons as ambiguous beings which are not ethically characterized, but who can be benevolent or malevolent towards humankind according to the particular context of their appearance; that is, during daily life, in temple rituals, or in the netherworld. Thanks to my stay at the Italian Academy, I was able to share and discuss this particular section of my work with the vast network of scholars of History of Religion and Theology at Columbia University. In addition I benefitted greatly from the rich bibliographical resources in the humanities at the University libraries.

Among the ancient Egyptian sources, I have been focusing on the magical and ritual texts on the walls of the Greco-Roman temples in Egypt and, in particular, those inscribed in the so-called “Osirian chapels” of the Temple of Hathor at Dendera. These are re-adapted versions of older magical texts, some of them originally appearing on the papyri of the Book of the Dead—the magical scrolls which were buried with a mummy and which served to help protect the deceased from dangers and encounters with malevolent beings during his journey in the netherworld. A philological and iconographical comparison of the temple texts with the earlier sources shows how the guardian-demons of the netherworld were transformed, in the later periods, into genii of the temple by stressing their original protective function at doors and gates. The upgrading from potentially malevolent demon to benevolent genie is a particularly typical phenomenon of the later periods, when demons started to be divinized while a number of gods were more often characterized as the masters of demons.

In the second semester (Spring 2009) I proceeded to write the results of my research, which will take the form of a monograph on demonology in Ancient Egypt. Meanwhile, I have prepared a couple of articles on the same topic for academic journals and have presented conference papers at Columbia (at the Center for the Ancient Mediterranean), in Boston, and Buenos Aires.

I wish to express my gratitude to Prof. William Harris of the Center for the Ancient Mediterranean, housed at the Academy, for his kind invitation to give a talk, and to Prof. Achille Varzi for leading the weekly seminars and stimulating my interest into the other Fellows' research. A number of other scholars working outside the Italian Academy have helped

shape my research through fertile and vivacious discussions of my work; my special gratitude goes to Prof. Roger Bagnall, Prof. Anne Macy Roth, Dr. Ogden Goelet (New York University), Prof. Marc van de Mieroop, Prof. Gareth Williams (Columbia), Prof. Elizabeth Castelli (Barnard College), Dr. Francesco Pellizzi (Harvard) and Prof. David Frankfurter (University of New Hampshire).

Rita Lucarelli returns to her position as professore a contratto of Egyptology at the Università di Verona and is starting work as Wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin at the University of Bonn (Rheinischen Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität, Germany).

Antonio Mantovani

My goal in academic psychiatry is to translate the neurophysiology and neuroimaging correlates of Obsessive Compulsive Spectrum Disorders into targeted treatments using focal noninvasive brain stimulation.

During my stay at the Italian Academy (as Alexander Bodini Research Fellow in Psychiatry) I completed my work on the application of Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS) in the study and treatment of Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD), which has been recently accepted for publication in the International Journal of Neuropsychopharmacology, and started a pilot randomized sham controlled, double-blind feasibility study to assess the therapeutic benefits and safety of TMS delivered to the Supplementary Motor Area (SMA) for Tourette Syndrome (TS).

Following the preliminary results obtained while working in the laboratory of Dr. Simone Rossi, Director of the Brain Stimulation and Evoked Potentials Lab at Siena University, where I performed somatosensory evoked potential (SEP) studies of deficient inhibition in Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD), I tested the hypothesis that deficient inhibitory activity in OCD might be corrected through the application of inhibitory low frequency TMS (1 Hz). I designed, performed, and published the first study of SMA TMS in the treatment of OCD and TS finding evidence of therapeutic benefit in an open pilot. I also found neurophysiological correlates of effective treatment in the form of normalized TMS measures of motor cortex excitability in responders. Subsequently, I reported clinical benefit in two more cases of comorbid OCD and TS.

To follow up these pilot data and test the efficacy of a longer course

of TMS applied to the SMA of OCD patients during my first semester at the Italian Academy, I concluded a randomized sham-controlled trial in collaboration with Dr. Sarah H. Lisanby, Director of the Division of Brain Stimulation and Therapeutic Modulation at Columbia University.

Twenty-one patients were randomly assigned to four weeks of active or sham 1 Hz TMS. Statistical analyses revealed significantly better improvement in OCD with active compared with sham TMS. The response rate was 67% with active TMS and 22% with sham. At four weeks, patients receiving active TMS showed a 25% improvement, compared with 12% with sham. After 8 weeks in the open-label cross-over, OCD symptoms improved from 28.2 ± 5.8 to 14.5 ± 3.6 . Improvements were sustained at a three month follow up. The active group showed significant reductions in depression and anxiety as well. In patients randomized to active TMS, cortical excitability measures on the right hemisphere increased significantly over time. At the end of four weeks of TMS the abnormal hemispheric laterality found in the group randomized to active TMS normalized. Active TMS significantly increased cortical silent period (CSP) on the left hemisphere and significantly decreased intracortical facilitation (ICF) on the right hemisphere. These results are consistent with our previous open trials, which reported similar improvement of OCD after TMS to the SMA. In all studies, clinical improvements were associated with normalization in baseline cortical hyperexcitability.

The recruitment for the second study I have been working on while at the Italian Academy in collaboration with Yale University, concerning the application of TMS in adults with severe Tourette Syndrome, commenced in the Fall 2008, after we accomplished two important developments. First, the Yale site acquired and installed an instrument called *Brainsight™ TMS*, which brings the power of frameless stereotaxy outside the operating room to assist in the positioning of the TMS coil over the precise location of an individual's brain, a technique called Image-Guided TMS. Since the Columbia site already had *Brainsight™ TMS*, we were then able to incorporate frameless stereotaxy into the protocol at both sites. It has been reported that structural MRI neuronavigation enhances the therapeutic efficacy of TMS, thereby reducing sample size requirements for trials and improving our ability to test the aims. Second, we acquired identical looking and sounding active and sham coils

for both sites. These coils allow our TMS operators, patients, and raters to be blinded. In many studies, the TMS operator is not blinded because the sham coil looks or sounds different from the active coil. We implemented a system by which the coils are identified only by the serial number, and a staff member not otherwise involved in the trial attaches the correct coil prior to study staff entering the room. Since adequate blinding is key to the success of clinical trials with TMS, it was critical to ensure that our sham procedures were state-of-the-art and identical across the two sites prior to launching the trial.

In the past seven months, approximately 20 individuals with TS have been screened and ten have been enrolled and randomized (five at each site). At this rate, we expect to complete the data collection by the end of January 2011.

This is the first TMS controlled study to test the theory that restoring inhibitory control in SMA over motor-limbic circuits will improve TS symptoms. The results of this study on the impact of TMS on brain excitability measures and clinical symptoms of TS patients will contribute to our understanding of the neural circuits underlying TS and will form the basis of future clinical trials to determine if TMS can be of clinical benefit in the treatment of this disabling condition.

Antonio Mantovani takes up a new position as ricercatore in the Dipartimento di Neuroscienze at the Università di Siena.

Marco Pagano

During my stay at the Italian Academy (which was supported in part by Columbia's Business School), I pursued several projects, chiefly the completion of six chapters of a book on Liquidity and securities trading with Thierry Foucault (HEC Paris) and Ailsa Röell (Columbia University). The book provides a comprehensive treatment of market microstructure, which is the area of finance that studies market liquidity (how the organization of security trading affects price formation and trading costs) and price discovery (the process by which transaction prices track "fundamentals").

I have also devoted a considerable part of my time to several research projects on the effects of regulation on financial market performance, three of them related to the current financial crisis:

1) In the paper "Credit Ratings Failures: Causes and Policy Options"

(joint with Paolo Volpin, London Business School) I examined the role of credit rating agencies in the subprime crisis at the outset of the ongoing financial turmoil. The focus of the paper is on two aspects that contributed to the boom and bust of the market for asset-backed securities: rating inflation and coarse information disclosure. The paper discusses how regulation can be designed to mitigate these problems in the future. The suggestion is that regulators should require rating agencies to be paid by investors rather than by issuers (or at least constrain the way they are paid by issuers) and force greater disclosure of information about the underlying pool of securities.

2) In the paper "Securitization, Transparency and Liquidity" (also joint with Paolo Volpin, LBS), I present a model of securitization where issuers of structured bonds (such as Collateralized Debt Obligations, or CDOs) choose coarse and opaque ratings to enhance the liquidity of their primary market, at the cost of reducing secondary market liquidity. We show that the degree of ratings transparency chosen by issuers falls short of the socially optimal one whenever secondary market illiquidity has a social cost in excess of its private one. This may be the case if, for instance, a secondary market freeze were to trigger a cumulative process of defaults and premature liquidation of assets in the economy. Thus, the degree of ratings transparency that is optimal for society exceeds that chosen by issuers of structured bonds, which creates a rationale for regulation.

We also analyze the effects of two forms of the ex-post public liquidity provision: an intervention targeted at distressed bondholders in the case of a market freeze, and one intended to support the CDO secondary market price. The former is ex-post efficient but reduces the issuers' ex-ante incentives to opt for transparent ratings, because it lowers the costs of secondary market illiquidity associated with low transparency. This has the undesirable consequence of expanding the parameter region where low transparency and market freeze occur. An intervention aimed at supporting the CDO secondary market price is even more misguided, however; the liquidity injected by the government simply attracts more informed trading and provides no relief to distressed bondholders who seek liquidity.

3) I have started a new paper entitled "Seeking Alpha: Excess Risk Tak-

ing and Competition for Managerial Talent,” together with Viral Acharya (NYU-Stern) and Paolo Volpin (LBS), where we focus on excess risk-taking by financial institutions, which is widely regarded as another key factor of the crisis. Banks and securities companies are being blamed for generously rewarding managers who undertake investments with high average returns but large “tail risks,” that is, catastrophic risks that rarely materialize. In this paper, we present a model that highlights the role of competition for managers in their risk-taking behavior. We model managerial talent as “alpha,” that is, having the ability to generate high returns without incurring high risks; lacking it, managers can generate high returns only by taking correspondingly high risks. However, risk emerges only in the long run. So talent can be identified only if managers who chose risky projects remain for a sufficiently long period with their employers.

We show that if firms compete aggressively, managers have the incentive to choose risky projects, get a high salary, and then leave before the long-term risks that they have incurred materialize. Therefore, competition for managers generates inefficiently large risk taking. We plan to bring this analysis to bear on the current policy proposals and interventions aimed at capping the salaries of top managers in the financial sector.

4) Together with Jeff Gordon and Curtis Milhaupt (Columbia Law School) and Paolo Volpin (LBS), I have started a cross-country research project on the effects of takeover regulation on merger and acquisition (M&A) activity. The project aims to single out the pieces of regulation that act as a brake on M&A activity. To this purpose, we constructed a data set via questionnaires sent to law firms. We have just reached the stage where the first exploratory analysis can be carried out.

Finally, during my fellowship I held five seminars (at Columbia University, New York University, the University of Utah, Indiana University, and the Federal Reserve Board of New York) and spoke at two conferences (the Third Conference of the Jackson Hole Finance Group and the conference on “Liquidity Risks: Impact on International Financial Markets” at the George Weiss Center for International Financial Research, Wharton School).

Marco Pagano returns to his position as professore ordinario at the Università Federico II di Napoli; he is also president of the Einaudi Institute for Economics and Finance.

Vittorio Pellegrini

During the semester spent at the Italian Academy—with co-sponsorship from Columbia’s Center for Integrated Science & Engineering—I focused my research activity on the physics of strongly correlated electrons confined in two dimensional crystals in collaboration with colleagues at the Nanoscience Center at Columbia University, and in particular with Prof. Aron Pinczuk and his group. The central theme of my research at the Italian Academy has been the search for emergent electronic states of matter and for experimental signatures of their emergent properties dictated by quantum-mechanical interactions. The experimental activity centered on two-dimensional electrons confined in artificial semiconductor heterostructures of great perfection, and in graphene—a single atomic layer of graphite that consists of a single layer of carbon atoms that are arranged in a honeycomb lattice. These systems are a contemporary materials base for explorations of collective phenomena.

The concept of emergence is pervasive in modern science and it also represents a wide area of research for philosophers. An emergent state is a radically novel coherent structure of a collection of “particles” whose properties cannot be reduced to the sum of the properties of the constituent particles. A superconductor, a superfluid, or a fractional quantum Hall liquid are intriguing examples of emergent states in physics.

Remarkably, other Italian Academy scholars addressed additional examples of emergent phenomena during this semester: the arising of memory in an individual from the constituent molecular events in neurons, reason in animals, the establishment of legal order in a community of people or within a state, or the creation of the concept of nation out of an ensemble of people sharing some common characteristics. The weekly seminars on Wednesday offered me the opportunity to exchange ideas about emergence and to highlight general concepts beyond the specific applications in my field of research. I enjoyed the stimulating interdisciplinary cultural atmosphere at the Italian Academy based on interaction with the other scholars. This environment pushed me to step back and re-think—on a more general basis—concepts and ideas that often remain confined to the specific technical domains and applications of my field of research (and this, too, is yet another example of emergence).

The specific experimental activities I carried out during this semester addressed two different, but related, problems: 1) correlated phases and quantum phase transitions of electrons confined in AlGaAs/GaAs modulation-doped double quantum wells in the quantum Hall regime and 2) the structure of electron Landau levels in graphite and graphene probed by magneto-phonon resonances. The experimental research activity centered on the application of inelastic light scattering techniques pioneered by Prof. Pinczuk to study the electronic inter-Landau-level spin excitations of quantum Hall bilayers and to probe the phonon excitations in graphite and graphene systems under the application of quantizing magnetic fields. In this latter case, in particular, we studied the Landau levels of graphite and single layer graphene through measurements of the magneto-phonon resonance effect, in which there is coupling between inter-Landau level magneto-exciton with the long wavelength optical phonon (G band) of graphene. We found that in graphite the G band displays a rich line shape evolution as the magnetic field is finely tuned between 0 and 14 Tesla. These observations indicate that the G band is resonantly coupled to the magneto-excitons in these magnetic fields. In the interpretation, we postulate that the anti-crossing of the phonon band with the inter-Landau level transitions results in a mode-splitting at specific values of the magnetic field. The evolution of the energy and spectral weight of the two coupled modes indicates that the phonon is a probe of the unique structure of Landau levels in graphene-related materials. In an as-prepared graphene single layer, the observed changes were much smaller for fields reaching as high as 12 Tesla.

During these experiments, one of my students in Pisa, Sarah Goler, spent one month at Columbia, supported by the Scuola Normale Superiore and the Nanoscience Center at Columbia. She was involved in the data analysis of the Raman spectra as a function of the magnetic field. The research on quantum Hall bilayers in semiconductor heterostructures, on the other hand, represented a continuation of a previous collaboration with Prof. Pinczuk. The work performed during this semester has been described in a manuscript published in *Physical Review Letters* (B. Karmakar, V. Pellegrini, et al., *Physical Review Letters* 102, 036902 (2009)) and in another manuscript that is currently being written. The inelastic

light scattering experiments have probed the evolution of spin excitations between two correlated phases of the electron double layers driven by the interplay between inter- and intra-layer electron interaction. The data have provided evidence for the occurrence of a first-order quantum phase transition between these two phases at temperatures as low as 50mK and for the role of the spin degree of freedom. This work was also presented at invited colloquia at Purdue and at Princeton during my stay at the Italian Academy, and it was selected for an invited presentation at the 2009 March meeting of the American Physical Society.

Vittorio Pellegrini returns to his position as primo ricercatore at the Institute of Condensed Matter Physics (INFM) of the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche.

Silvio Pons

During my semester at the Italian Academy I carried out a research project on "Communism and Anti-Communism in Italy, 1970s-1980s." My work has been focused on how historians have connected Italy's post-war domestic context with the influence of the Cold War. In fact, the interaction between national and international aspects of Italian republican history is poorly developed in historiography. Paradigms established during the Cold War era still prevail, either stressing Italy's complete dependence on the Cold War order or exclusively focusing on national narratives. My main purpose has been to contribute to the forging of a new historical paradigm, emerging in several recent studies. On the one hand, emphasis has been put on the relative autonomy of the main national political forces from the great powers in defining their domestic strategic choices, though to differing degrees in different moments. On the other hand, there is evidence that the Cold War had a strong and long lasting political and cultural impact on Italy, in spite of a public discourse that often questioned blind international loyalties in the "long post-war era." My aim is to understand how the two statements can be combined in a historical analysis. The opposition between Communism and Anti-Communism in Italian political culture seems to me one of the central issues to be investigated, since such polarity lasted for decades even after Cold War loyalties began to decline in the 1970s and 1980s.

Therefore, I focused my interests specifically on the two last decades of the Cold War. My research has been concentrated on two case studies:

The experience of “national solidarity” and its international constraints (1976-1979); and the Italian Left and the Second Cold War (1979-1985).

By the 1970s, the development of détente and of European integration had largely modified the Cold War framework, especially in Western Europe. A severe economic, social, and political crisis affected Italy, but there was also a chance to modernize its “special democracy”—a political system based on the lack of any alternative to govern the country. Nevertheless, the persistence of the polarity between Communism/Anti-Communism was central in Italy, despite changes in the country and in the international system. To a significant extent, the traditional image of the enemy persisted on both sides regardless of the changing attitudes of major political forces. The old twofold legitimacy established at the origin of the Republic—the constitutional one based on Anti-Fascism and the political one based on Anti-Communism—was maintained. The interaction between the national and the international context created both change and continuity, eventually proving how difficult any detachment was from traditional Cold War identities.

In the last decade before 1989, the outbreak of the so-called Second Cold War would contribute to restoring the opposition between the two blocs in the Italian political system—despite the fact that Atlanticist loyalties had obviously changed and that Soviet loyalties had almost disappeared. Such opposition could hardly be said to follow the division between conservatives and Social Democrats that was typical of the main European countries. It was an Italian peculiarity. Anti-Communism maintained its compactness as a basic structure of the Italian political system even when the Cold War was coming to its end, while the Communists still conceived of themselves as an antagonist political bloc despite changes in their political culture. In my view, the enduring frailty of civic culture in Italian society may be connected to the persistent legacies of Communism and Anti-Communism.

This reflection must obviously be developed in further research. However, the period I spent at the Italian Academy was extremely fruitful and important in enriching my views and in improving my understanding of the topic. Besides enabling me to undertake a good deal of research, my experience has meant much more than concentrating merely on a single topic. Access to the libraries of Columbia University

proved crucial to expanding my knowledge on wider themes, namely on the project of a history of international communism. Furthermore, exchanges with the intellectual and scholarly community of the Italian Academy and of Columbia University were a very significant experience; I am grateful in particular to Prof. Victoria de Grazia, to Prof. Mark Mazower, and to Dr. Molly Tambor. Participation in the weekly seminars at the Italian Academy and in a number of events was extremely stimulating and challenging. During the semester, in particular, I was a speaker in the series “Propaganda Cinema: The Marshall Plan Films and America’s Cold War Image in the Mediterranean,” held at the Italian Academy, and in the international conference “Cold War in the Mediterranean: Connecting the Fronts” at Columbia’s European Institute.

Silvio Pons returns to his position as professore ordinario di Storia dell’Europa orientale at the Università Tor Vergata di Roma. He is the Director of the Gramsci Institute Foundation, Rome.

Dominique Kirchner Reill

I was a fellow at the Italian Academy for two semesters during the 2008-2009 academic year. I came hoping to finish the revisions of my manuscript with the working title “Nationalists against the Nation.” This study examines a group of local activists living in mid-nineteenth-century Venice, Trieste, and Dalmatia (part of current-day Croatia) who pushed for the formation of a multi-national Adriatic state system along the lines of Belgium and Switzerland. These multi-national activists regarded their project as realist, not utopian, arguing that in a trade-oriented maritime world where Italian, German, and Slavic dialects were used interchangeably and residents adhered to either Catholic, Christian Orthodox, Jewish, or Protestant faiths, no one language or national identity could be promoted without provoking intolerance and bloodshed.

Though my plan was to complete revision of the manuscript, what I succeeded in achieving was much more.

First, I have finished all the new writing I calculated would be necessary for the manuscript (though I have decided I still need a new title, as yet unknown). I also submitted an article for publication (which is now under review), applied for and won two outside grants for further research, and submitted two paper proposals and a panel proposal

(which have also been accepted). I also participated heavily in the new European Institute at Columbia University headed by Professor Victoria de Grazia (where I sat on panels and participated in workshops). I was also a member of the bi-weekly Remarque Seminar for the study of Europe held at New York University. I also served on the selection committee for Columbia University's Institute for Social Economic Research and Policy Mellon grant. Academically, this year could not have been more productive, and this is thanks completely to the peace and support I received from the Academy, its staff, and its fellows. To work in such an intellectually rich environment like Columbia University and New York City, while still being protected from bureaucratic and teaching responsibilities, is a luxury I'm sure I will rarely enjoy again. And I thoroughly enjoyed it. I plan to submit my finished manuscript to publishers at the end of this summer.

My time at the Italian Academy was also particularly rewarding for the opportunities of working and interacting with the other fellows. I had daily brainstorming sessions with Silvio Pons during the Fall semester and with Marco Formisano in the Spring semester. Bianca Calabresi pushed me to think about my work in more theoretical and complicated ways. Jérémie Barthas' passion and integrity for details pushed me to revise with even greater care. And finally, Erminia Ardisino's thought-provoking work on memory strategies gave me much food for thought. Undoubtedly, my work would not have progressed as well without these colleagues' example. And I'm sincerely grateful to all of the fellows and to Academic Director Achille Varzi, in particular, for teaching me so much in so short a time.

Dominique Reill returns to her position as Assistant Professor of History at the University of Miami in Florida.

Riccardo Viale

At the Academy I did research, explored future initiatives, and made fruitful contacts.

My research focused mainly on the different cognitive styles between academic and industrial researchers. The paper I presented here offered a theoretical model of the obstacles to academy-industry collaboration, obstacles born from different values and norms in the re-

searchers' background knowledge and from the hypothesis of the different consequences of such knowledge on processes of thinking, problem-solving, reasoning, and decision-making. These hypotheses will be tested in an empirical study that will be conducted this year among researchers in Turin at the University, the Polytechnic in Turin, the FIAT Research Centre, and the Telecom Research Centre.

I prepared a paper on this work to be presented at the VII Triple Helix Conference in Glasgow, and a chapter for the book *Capitalizing Knowledge*, to be published by Elgar. I also prepared papers (on industrial and academic researchers' different epistemologies and types of cognition) for the Madeira Conference on Knowledge Engineering and for the Campinas V Model Based Reasoning Conference later this year.

During the last part of the Fellowship I also began to work on my next book for Mondadori, *L'iceberg della conoscenza*, which deals with a representation of knowledge and rationality detached from intentionality and the explicitness model. Lastly, I completed my paper on brain-driven social scientist mind-reading for the upcoming International Conference on Cognitive Science in Campinas. It deals with the impact of mirror neurons theory on the methodology of the social sciences and is a follow-up of the paper presented at the 2008 European Science Foundation Workshop called Mirror Neurons and Social Cognition.

I also laid the groundwork for future initiatives, including an important collaboration with Richard Nelson (father of evolutionary economics and former professor at Columbia). Together with several colleagues at Manchester University, we will pursue a theoretical and empirical study of the different identities of the sciences.

Nelson also offered his collaboration in conducting an empirical test on cognitive and social styles of research among Columbia scholars. Help for this study also came from Orin Herskowitz, executive director of Columbia's Science and Technology Ventures, who will ask the university for permission to e-mail the questionnaire to all Columbia faculties. Strong interest in supporting my study in New York came from Troy Duster (Department of Sociology, NYU).

I succeeded in promoting the Robert Merton Conference on Science, Technology, and Society. During my stay, I found the study of science and technology somewhat marginalized at Columbia: the only area covered

is management of innovation. Therefore, I proposed to Jonathan Cole (former Provost of Columbia) and Richard Nelson that we do an annual conference on science, technology, and society that will deal with emergent topics. The first conference will be in October 2010, and the likely topic will be “the economic return of the university.”

Another project that I proposed to the Columbia faculty is the study of decision making styles in public administration. Since there is nothing in the bibliography about cognitive analysis in this area, I proposed to Eric Johnson (Director of the Centre on Decision Sciences) that we collaborate to explore the differences between private and public management.

During my stay, I also met with Henry Etzkowitz (New Castle University) about writing a proposal for a new academic journal, *Triple Helix Quarterly*, and the statute for the Triple Helix Association.

Lastly, I met with Richard Nelson and Roy Radner (Stern Business School, NYU) to discuss the program of the Herbert Simon Society, of which we are founding members, and how establish it in the US. The project will call on representatives of the various fields linked to Simon’s scientific work in economics (behavioral, institutional, and evolutionary economics; organization theory, macroeconomics) to write a joint textbook on economics as an alternative to main-stream text books.

I made many academic contacts inside and outside the university. At Columbia, I spoke with Thomas Bailey (director of Economy and Education at Teachers College) and deepened my teaching of metacognitive abilities to manage economic decisions. With Nicholas Lemann (Dean of the School of Journalism) I discussed a possible collaboration with Fondazione Rosselli to study the current crisis of traditional media. With Smita Srinivas (director of Technological Change Lab) I proposed conducting a joint research project with the Fondazione Rosselli on innovation in third world countries. With Robert Shapiro (director of ISERP) I explored the possibility of conducting the Robert Merton Conferences. Akeel Bilgrami (director of the Heyman Centre for the Humanities) and I agreed to promote joint seminars in New York and Paris on the impact of the neurocognitive sciences on moral values. Orin Herskowitz and I agreed that his center would collaborate on technology transfer initiatives that are supported by the Cotec Foundation and by major Italian companies.

At NYU, I discussed bounded rationality with Roy Radner; with Steven Lukes (Sociology) I explored the role of brain research on moral reasoning models; with Andy Schotter (Center for Experimental Social Sciences) I talked about the impact of mirror neuron theory on models of economic action; with Michael Strevens (Philosophy) I talked about causal cognition and its role in causal explanatory models in science; with Troy Duster (director of the Institute of the History of the Production of Knowledge) I talked about the critique of reductionist models of social behaviour based on genetics.

I also had an interesting meeting with Alvin Goldman (Rutgers) about the relations of social epistemology with science policy.

Riccardo Viale returns to his position as professore ordinario at the Università di Milano-Bicocca and docente at the Scuola Superiore della Pubblica Amministrazione di Roma. He is president of the Fondazione Rosselli.

Megan Williams

It has been an exceptional privilege these past two semesters to be a part of the Italian Academy. My research project, entitled “Early Modern Diplomatic Networks in the Transmission of Culture,” benefited tremendously from the Academy’s stimulating intellectual community and weekly interdisciplinary seminars, its supportive and dedicated staff, the generous time and space for research it afforded, and from its location at the heart of—and access to the incredibly rich resources of—Columbia University and the city of New York.

My work has focused on borders and barriers to the free circulation of diplomats across Europe and the Mediterranean in the early modern era, during a period in which European statesmen and jurists were reconceptualizing diplomacy and what we now call international law to fit new forms of international community and a growing demand for information about that community. The early sixteenth century was consequently a dynamic, rapidly changing, and tumultuous time for diplomats, although histories of diplomacy have often failed to convey that dynamism. The study of diplomacy and international legal history has until recently been deeply invested in a conservative, state-centric view of politics which viewed diplomats chiefly as individual agents acting bilaterally on behalf of their native states. Over the past few years, howev-

er, Italian historians working in the archives of the peninsula's fifteenth-century princely states have been prominent in advocating a broader and more socially-integrated conception of Renaissance diplomacy. Building on their insights, my exploration of diplomatic mobility offered a multi-lateral, "inter-state" perspective on early modern diplomacy, in which I have argued that diplomats' personal and, especially, kinship networks served as vital resources in overcoming new challenges to their mobility.

Kinship networks played such a prominent role in so many aspects of early modern life that Renaissance history has sometimes been described as family history. Drawing on a rich anthropological, sociological, and historical literature on kinship and kin-based social networks, my project at the Academy has argued that diplomats could be far more effective in their diplomacy and far more influential in the transmission of culture when understood as members of broad and far-reaching family networks. Such networks significantly influenced the ways in which early modern diplomats approached and executed their missions, and profoundly affected how they were perceived and treated. Moreover, the scope of those interlocking familial, ecclesiastical, diplomatic, and mercantile networks which I trace helps to illuminate elements of shared culture and cultural transmission across the Italian peninsula and the northern Adriatic, and between Central Europe, Italy, and the Levant.

Where diplomats could not travel securely, in the era before modern communications technologies, diplomacy could not easily function. Diplomats' kinship networks were particularly valuable in enhancing their mobility between courts. Whereas many studies of early modern diplomacy focus on the diplomat's activities once he had reached his host-court, my work has asserted the fundamental place of travel in early modern diplomatic practice and the importance of diplomats' families in helping them overcome the challenges of insecure transit.

Over the course of my fellowship at the Academy, I pursued these interlocking questions of diplomatic mobility and diplomatic kinship networks in the revision of my dissertation manuscript and in a series of related articles. In a paper presented to Academy colleagues, for example, I explored the importance of family networks to the diplomacy of Bolognese and Roman patrician Giambattista Casali (c.1494–1536), Eng-

lish ambassador to Venice and Hungary, and protagonist of Giovanfrancesco Straparola's best-selling 1551/1553 collection of *novelle*, *Le Piacevoli notti*—a work which allegedly inspired writers as canonical as Shakespeare, Molière, and Cervantes.

Not only was I able to further explore the construction and development of these and other historical networks, but I also was able to build wonderful new, interdisciplinary, and I hope lasting connections with my colleagues at the Academy and at other institutions in the United States and abroad. As the year draws to a close, I am truly grateful to all my fellow-scholars and friends at the Academy and most especially to the Academy directors and staff for having made this past year such a rich, fruitful, and fulfilling experience.

Megan Williams takes up a position as Assistant Professor in Early Modern History at the University of Groningen.

