

28th AISNA Biennial Conference

“Facing West: Thinking, Living, Outliving the American West”

September 11-13, 2025

CONFERENCE VENUE:

Università degli Studi di Bergamo, Piazza Rosate, 2 (Bergamo)

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Thursday, September 11, 2025

8:30 - 9:15 a.m. | Registration (Piazza Rosate)

9:15 a.m. | Welcome Address (Rosate Room 2)

- **Raul Calzoni**, Head of the Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures and Cultures of the University of Bergamo
- **Leonardo Buonomo** (AISNA President) and **AISNA Board**
- **Anna De Biasio**, **Valeria Gennero**, **Andrea Pitozzi**, and **Stefano Rosso**, Local Organizing Committee

10:00 a.m. | Plenary Lecture 1 (Rosate Room 2)

Speaker: **Kathleen Brosnan** (University of Oklahoma, USA), **Visual Wests: Erasure and Reclamation**
Chair: **Lorenzo Costaguta** (University of Bristol, UK)

11:15 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. | Parallel Panel Session 1

(Rosate Room 1) **Panel 3: The American West in the Nineteenth Century: New Interpretations**

Coordinators:

- **Lorenzo Costaguta** (University of Bristol)

Serena Mocci (University of Bologna)

The Female Frontier: Eliza W. Farnham and the Superiority of Women in Gold Rush California (1849-1856)

Jean Pfaelzer (University of Delaware)

“Nobody ever tell it what white man do to Inyan. That’s history. I Seen it Myself.” T’tc~tsa (Wailaki).

Matteo M. Rossi (University of Turin)

Governing Movement: U.S. Political Economy and the Systematic Colonization of the West

Marco Sioli (University of Milan La Statale)

“Our National Parks”: Rethinking John Muir’s American West

(Rosate Room 4) **Panel 4: American Requiem: *Cowboy Carter* and Black Feminist Imaginings of the South-West**

Coordinators:

- **Gianna Fusco** (University of L'Aquila)
- **Giuseppe Polise** (University of L'Aquila)

Jade Abston (UCLA)

"Genres are a funny little concept": *Cowboy Carter* as a Black Pop Feminist Western epic

Erica De Sutter Summerville (Los Angeles Valley College)

Unpacking Whiteness in Country Music: *Cowboy Carter* as a Challenge to Genre Gatekeeping and Racial Exclusion

Giuseppe Polise (University of L'Aquila)

Cowboy Carter and the Rodeo Chitlin Circuit: On YAYA's New Geographies and Belongings of the Sonic South-West

Asia N. Potts (Northeastern University)

For Legacy, if it's the Last Thing I Do: Beyoncé's *Cowboy Carter* and How Black Women told the Story of a Nation

(Rosate Seminar Room 4th floor) **Panel 7: Discourses of Well-Being in the American West**

Coordinators:

- **Valeria Gennero** (University of Bergamo)
- **Stefano Rosso** (University of Bergamo)

Marina Dossena (University of Bergamo)

Entertainment for All in the (Supposedly) Wild West

Andrea Pitozzi (University of Bergamo)

Gleams of Healing: Subject and Community in Willy Vlautin's Fiction

Valeria Gennero (University of Bergamo)

Virtue, Leisure and Well-being: Catharine Beecher and "The Ladies' Society for Promoting Education in the West"

Stefano Rosso (University of Bergamo)

Ambiguities of Well-Being Issues in American Dime Novels

(Rosate Room 3) **Panel 14: Not Properly a Western: Old and New Contaminations**

Coordinators:

- **Enrico Mariani** (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)
- **Antonio Di Vilio** (University of Naples L'Orientale)

William Handley (University of Southern California)

'Are We Doomed?' The Ecology of Democracy in *Angels in America*

Antonio Di Vilio (University of Naples L'Orientale)

Riding the Wave: Intersections of Western and Surf Narratives in Popular Culture

Giulio Segato (University of Urbino Carlo Bo)

The John Wayne Syndrome. The Vietnam Westerns of the 1960s and 1970s

Enrico Mariani (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)

Old Frontier, New Business: Frontiersmen and Tycoons in Upton Sinclair's *Oil!*

(Rosate Room 2) **Panel 20: Videogame Wests: Playing (at) the Frontier**

Coordinators:

- **Michael Fuchs** (University of Innsbruck)
- **Stefan Rabitsch** (University of Oslo)

Michael Fuchs (University of Innsbruck)

Digging Our Own Graves: Extinction, Excavation, and the Death Drive of the West in the *Red Dead Redemption* Games

Sarah Wagstaffe (University of Lancaster)

Trading One Myth for Another: Conflicting Nostalgias and American Identity in the *Fallout* Franchise

Shane O'Byrne (University of Groningen)

Returning West in Speculative Westerns: *Borderlands'* Reconstruction of the Classic Within a Hybrid Genre

1:00 – 2:15 pm | Lunch Break (Rosate courtyard)

2:15 – 4:00 p.m. | Panel Session 2

(Rosate Seminar Room 4th floor) **Panel 6: Beyond the Frontier: Disability and/in the West(ern)**

Coordinators:

- **Chiara Battisti** (University of Verona)
- **Beatrice Melodia Festa** (University of Verona)

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Deconstructing the Frontier: Westworld, Disability, and the Posthuman West

Beatrice Melodia Festa (University of Verona)

Pathology and Power: A Narrative Medicine Perspective on Diabetes Care in *Killers of the Flower Moon*.

Anna Tengattini (Complutense University of Madrid)

Gardencourt as a "counter" Frontier: Disability and Masculinity in Henry James's *The Portrait of a Lady*

(Rosate Room 2) **Panel 8: A Fragmented State? Erasure and Reclamation in California's Past and Present**

Coordinators:

- **Vincenzo Bavaro** (University of Naples L'Orientale)
- **Elisa Bordin** (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)

Nicolangelo Becce (Roma Tre University)

“I was stunned to discover that we as a Nation had interned our fellow citizens of Japanese lineage during WWII”: Exploring Contemporary Representations of the Japanese American Incarceration

Martina Lombardo (University of Rome, La Sapienza)

“More years at war with Indians than as a nation”. The Retelling of the Colonization of California Through Indigenous Voices in Tommy Orange’s *Wandering Stars*

Elisa Bordin (Ca’ Foscari University of Venice)

“Yeah, Los Angeles, Mexico”: Mexican Repatriation and Urban Politics in *Home Is the Hunter* by John Fante and Carey McWilliams

(Rosate Room 1) **Panel 11: In and Out of the American West: Presences and Absences on the Frontier (Real and Imagined) in Transatlantic Perspective**

Coordinators:

- **Valerio De Angelis** (University of Macerata)
- **Daniele Fiorentino** (Roma Tre University)

Alessandro Huber (Roma Tre University)

The Frontier from the Italian Outpost in America

Emanuele Monaco (University of Bologna)

Unseen Frontiers: Constructing a Queer History of the American West

Agnese Marino (Roma Tre University)

Rewriting the Wild: The Imagined Abruzzo of Maud Howe Elliott

Andrea Acqualagna (University of Bergamo)

Not Another Western Story: (Anti)Heroes and Imaginative Frontiers in John Fante’s *Ask the Dust*

Elisa Pesce (University of Glasgow)

“Seeds Must Be Among the Greatest Travelers of All”: Marginalized Perspectives on Encyclopedic Practices and the American Frontier in Leslie Marmon Silko’s *Gardens in the Dunes*

(Rosate Room 4) **Panel 23: The West as (in) the West Bank? Jewish-American Perspectives on the Paradigm of the Promised Land**

Coordinators:

- **Fiorenzo Iuliano** (University of Cagliari)
- **Alice Balestrino** (Roma Tre University)

Simona Porro (University of Florence)

The Promised Land as a ‘work in progress’ in Anzia Yezierska’s *Hungry Hearts*

Andrea Carosso (University of Turin)

Far West to Near East: Native American and Palestinian Narratives of Imaginary Nationhood

Emanuel Rota (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign)

Frontier, Exodus, and Diaspora: Reimagining Jewish Identity in Michael Chabon and the Boyarins

Francesca de Lucia (Minzu University of China)

“The West What?”: Jewish American Identity through Israel and Palestine in *The Counterlife* by Philip Roth

(Rosate Room 3) **Panel 13: Long Arcs and Sweeping Vistas: 21st-Century Small-Screen Depictions of the West**

Coordinators:

- **Susan Maher** (University of Minnesota Duluth)
- **John D. Schwetman** (University of Minnesota Duluth)

Brigitte Georgi-Findlay (TU Dresden)

“Because It’s Lawful Don’t Make It Right”: Western Detective Work in *Longmire*

John D. Schwetman (University of Minnesota Duluth)

Prairie Apocalypse: Jericho’s Post-Urban Fantasies and Dystopian Alternative Histories

Drucilla Mims Wall (University of Missouri-St. Louis)

Retro-Futurism Meets Ecocriticism in *Fallout*: A Post-Apocalyptic Western

Susan Naramore Maher (University of Minnesota Duluth)

Unsettling the Post-Western Landscape: *Dark Winds* and Native American Hollywood

4:00 - 5:15 p.m. | Plenary Lecture 2 (Rosate Room 2)

Neil Campbell (University of Derby, UK), **Errant Wests: Unsettling the Western Archive**

Chair: **Andrea Carosso** (University of Turin)

5:30 – 6.30 p.m. | Round Table on European and Transnational Western (Rosate Room 2)

Coordinators: **Marek Paryż** (University of Warsaw and REWEST) and **David Río** (UPV/EHU, University of the Basque Country and REWEST)

Participants:

Elisa Bordin (Ca’ Foscari University of Venice), **Neil Campbell** (University of Derby, UK, and REWEST), **Angel Chaparro Saiz** (UPV/EHU, University of the Basque Country and REWEST), **Jesús A. Gonzalez** (Universidad de Cantabria and REWEST), **Amaia Ibarraan Bigalondo** (University of the Basque Country and REWEST), **Giorgio Mariani** (University of Rome, La Sapienza), **Stefan Rabitsch** (University of Oslo), **Stefano Rosso** (University of Bergamo and REWEST).

6.30 – 8.00 p.m. | Book presentations - AISNA Graduate Forum (Rosate Room 2)

Friday, September 12, 2025

9:30 a.m. | Plenary Lecture 3 (Rosate Room 2)

Speaker: **Audrey Goodman** (Georgia State University, USA), **“Everywhere is West”: Land Art’s New Coordinates**

Chair: **Leonardo Buonomo** (University of Trieste, AISNA President)

10:45 - 12:30 | Panel Session 3

(Rosate Room 1) **Panel 1.1: (An)Other Western Story. Beyond Genres, Genders, Nations**

Coordinators:

- **Amaia Ibarraran Bigalondo** (University of the Basque Country)
- **Stefan Rabitsch** (University of Oslo)

Jesús A. González (Universidad de Cantabria)

Global Impact of a Regional Myth: Transnational Post-Westerns

David Rio (UPV/EHU, University of the Basque Country)

Jon Bilbao’s *Western Saga*: A Hybrid and Transnational Realm

Angel Chaparro Saiz (UPV/EHU, University of the Basque Country)

The American West in Contemporary Spanish Literature for Children: Two Recent Examples

Marek Paryż (University of Warsaw)

Uses of the Western in Polish Film

Amaia Ibarraran Bigalondo (UPV/EHU, University of the Basque Country)

What is a feminist Western? A Spanish example: Carla Berrocal’s *Yerma*

(Rosate Room 2) **Panel 12.1: The Italians in the American West**

Coordinators:

- **Matteo Pretelli** (University of Naples L’Orientale)
- **Mark Pedri** (Independent Scholar)

Chair: **Alice Ciulla** (Roma Tre University)

Matteo Pretelli (University of Naples L’Orientale)

The Evolving Identities of the Trentini in Sweetwater County, Wyoming

Mark Pedri (Independent Scholar)

Reconnecting Roots: Documenting Later Generational Italian American Experiences in the American West

Alice Gussoni (University of Padua)

Going West and South: Sicilian Early Migration to California and Louisiana

Stefano Luconi (University of Padua)

Struck by the Mafia Prejudice: The Plight of San Francisco’s Mayor Joseph L. Alioto

(Rosate Room 3) **Panel 16: Remediating the West**

Coordinators:

- **Elena Lamberti** (University of Bologna)
- **Mattia Arioli** (University of Bologna)

Karen Roybal (Colorado College)

Dar la Luz: Post-Remediation in Kali Fajardo-Anstine's *Woman of Light*

Lisa Marchi (University of Trento)

Still Lives, Ashes, and Extinct Birds: Jennifer Elise Foerster and Zaina Alsous Reshaping Fantasies of the American West and the 'Promised Land'

Angelo Arminio (University of Bergamo)

The East and/is the West: A 'Western' narrative of the American War on Terror

Anna Ferrari (University of Rome, La Sapienza)

Vietnam Versus the West in Ocean Vuong's *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous*

(Rosate Seminar Room – 4th floor) **Panel 17: The Speculative Turn of the Frontier Myth**

Coordinators:

- **Valentina Romanzi** (University of Turin)
- **Stefano Franceschini** (Roma Tre University)

Carlotta Ferrando (University of Rome, La Sapienza)

The Land Is Hospitable and So Are We: Rethinking the Frontier Myth and Envisioning Post-Apocalyptic Futurity in *Severance* (2018) by Ling Ma

Stefano Franceschini (Roma Tre University)

"Moving the goalposts may be our best trick": Richard Powers' *Playground* and the new American Frontier

Robert Moscaliuc (University of Turin)

No Country for Rugged Men: Rewriting the Frontier Through Queer Resistance in Sarah Gailey's *Upright Women Wanted*

Salvatore Proietti (University of Calabria)

"A Crucially Important Reality": The Utopian Frontier of Ursula K. Le Guin's *Paradises Lost*

Valentina Romanzi (University of Turin)

The Watery Frontiers of Speculative Fiction

(Rosate Room 4) **Panel 18: Subverting the Frontier: Humor and Satire in the American West**

Coordinators:

- **Felicita Gelmini** (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)
- **Pia Masiero** (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)

Nancy S. Cook (University of Montana)

Blows Against the Empire: Machismo, Women Writers, Humor, and the Outback American West

Tuula Kolehmainen (University of Turku)

“Whenever You’re in Trouble, Jamie Foxx Will Show Up in a Sheriff’s Hat”: Vulnerability and Male Bonding in African American Comedians’ Portrayals of the American West

Gabriele Ferracci (University of Genoa)

The Protean Frontier: Western River Steamboats in the Sketches of Nineteenth-Century Frontier Humorists

Vincenzo Maggitti (Roma Tre University)

Cynical and Black-Humored Cinematic Gaze in *The Ballad of Buster Scruggs*

Felicita Gelmini (Ca’ Foscari University of Venice)

A Girl, a Rooster and a Texas Ranger Walk into a Bar: Humor in Charles Portis’s *True Grit*

(Rosate Meeting Room 3rd floor) **Panel 21: Visit Native America! Gaming, Tourism, and Tribal Sovereignty in the 21st Century American West**

Coordinators:

- **Brian Hosmer** (Oklahoma State University)
- **Paul C. Rosier** (Villanova University)

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Visit (Native) Oklahoma! Gaming, Tourism, and Tribal Nationhood in the 21st Century

Paul C. Rosier (Villanova University)

The New Buffalo: The Political Economy of Indigenous Gaming in the American West

Susan Bernardin (Oregon State University)

In the Mean/Time: Calamities and Reclamations in Beth Piatote’s *Antíkoni*

12:30 – 2:00 p.m. | Lunch Break (Rosate courtyard)

2:15 - 4:00 p.m. | Panel Session 4

(Rosate Room 4) **Panel 19.1: (Un)Narrating the West: Literature, Politics, and the Frontier Unconscious**

Coordinators:

- **Marco Petrelli** (University of Pisa)
- **Virginia Pignagnoli** (Autonomous University of Barcelona)

Paolo Simonetti (University of Rome, La Sapienza)

Lonesome Don: Trump and the Myth of the Frontier in Post-Truth Fiction

Ali Dehdarirad (University of Rome, La Sapienza)

“The Frontier Ends and Disconnection Begins”: A Conceptual and Linguistic Analysis of the Frontier Myth in Thomas Pynchon’s *Against the Day*

Merve Sarıkaya-Şen (Baskent University, Ankara, Turkey)

Kali Fajardo-Anstine’s *Woman of Light* (2022): (Re)Imagining the American West

Marco Petrelli (University of Pisa) and **Virginia Pignagnoli** (Autonomous University of Barcelona)

The Political Unnarration of the West from *Huckleberry Finn* to *James*

(Rosate Room 2) **Panel 15: Reimagining Indigenous Identity: American Indians in Hollywood's Western, Post-Western, Neo-Western, and Anti-Western Cinematic Eras**

Coordinators:

- **Linda Sue Warner** (Apache College)
- **Jeremy Braithwaite** (Apache College)

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Savage, Sidekick, or Spectacle? Indigenous Representations in Early Hollywood Westerns

Linda Sue Warner (Apache College)

Decolonizing the Western: Indigenous Identity in Contemporary Anti-Westerns

Cristiana Pagliarusco (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)

Perhaps the Frontier Ends Here: Reimagining the West Through Joy Harjo's Poetry

(Rosate Room 1) **Panel 5: Avant-garde Poets of the San Francisco Bay Area: Their Lives, Works, and Film Portraits**

Coordinators:

- **Tadeusz Pióro** (University of Warsaw)
- **Daniela Daniele** (University of Udine)

Tadeusz Pióro (University of Warsaw)

Autobiography and the Politics and Aesthetics of Language Writing

Antonella Francini (Syracuse University)

Native in a Strange Land: Wanda Coleman's *Jazz Sonnets*

Marina LaPalma Bellagente (Cuny Graduate Center/U. C. San Diego)

My California: The Page as Home

Daniela Daniele (University of Udine)

Ice Crossing: Lyn Hejinian and Her Friends in Leningrad in 1989

Caterina Ceneda (University of Udine)

Bill Berkson and the Artpark by Daniele Pomilio: the new subtitled version

(Rosate Seminar Room 4th floor) **Panel 2: American (Counter)Pastorals. Bucolic Dreaming and the Myth of the Frontier**

Coordinators:

- **Carla Francellini** (University of Siena)
- **Rachele Puddu** (University of Udine/University of Trieste)

Sabrina Vellucci (Roma Tre University)

"The present time is not pastoral": Robinson Jeffers's Cosmic Poetry

Cristina Consiglio (University of Bari)

A Pastoral Romance or even a Magical Pastoral: *In a Shallow Grave* (1976) by James Purdy

Rachele Puddu (University of Udine/University of Trieste)

From the Slum to the Garden and Back. Frontier Crossing in Philip Roth's *American Pastoral*

Carla Francellini (University of Siena)

Pastoral Modes and Visual Sceneries in Don DeLillo's *Underworld(s)*

Gian Maria Di Cristofaro (University of Siena)

The Machine in the Garden 2.0: Ecological Pastoralism in Richard Powers' *The Overstory*

(Rosate Room 3) **Panel 24: West of the Rest: Taylor Sheridan's Wests and the "Yellowstone effect"**

Coordinators:

- **Tereza Jiroutova Kynčlová** (Charles University, Prague)
- **Stefan Rabitsch** (University of Oslo)

Vanja Polić (University of Zagreb)

"I Heard a Thousand Stories, But None Could Describe This Place": Aesthetics, Theatricality and Mythopoeia of the Postwest(ern) in 1883

Tereza Jiroutova Kynčlová (Charles University, Prague)

Wind River: Ambivalent Genre (Under)Currents in Taylor Sheridan's Representation of Intersectional, Gender-Based Violence

Stefan Rabitsch (University of Oslo)

"The fantasy of the West is [Montana's] only resource of any value": The curated realism of Taylor Sheridan's *Yellowstone-verse*

(Rosate Meeting Room 3rd floor) **Panel 22: The West and Italy: A 20th Century Transnational Connection**

Coordinators:

- **Federico Chiaricati** (University of Parma)
- **Alice Ciulla** (Roma Tre University)

Chair: **Elisabetta Vezzosi** (University of Trieste)

Beatrice Toti (University of Parma)

Italy, Food, and the West in Carosello, 1957-1977

Federico Chiaricati (University of Parma)

The Italian Presence in California before and after WWII. The case of the Italian Chamber of Commerce in California

Alice Ciulla (Roma Tre University)

The American West as a Model: Silicon Valley and the Italian Technological Imaginary

4:15 p.m. | Greetings (Rosate Room 2)

- **Sergio Cavalieri**, Rector of the University of Bergamo

4:30 p.m. | AISNA Meeting (Rosate Room 2)

8:00 p.m. | Conference Dinner: Ristorante *Il Circolino Città Alta*, (Vicolo Sant'Agata, 19 – 24129, Bergamo, 5 minutes from the Conference venue)

Saturday, September 13, 2025

9:00 a.m. | Plenary Lecture 4 (Rosate Room 2)

Marco Mariano (University of Turin), **Go West, Go South. Westward Expansion and American Empire**

Chair: **Elisabetta Vezzosi** (University of Trieste)

10:15 - 12:00 a.m. | Panel Session 5

(Rosate Room 2) **Panel 25: Beyond *Lamerica*. Italian/Americans settling in California and the West**

Coordinators:

- **Carla Francellini** (University of Siena)
- **Elisabetta Marino** (University of Rome Tor Vergata)

Anthony J. Tamburri (John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, CUNY)

Full of Life: From John Fante's Written Page to Richard Quine's Silver Screen, from the Countryside to the City.

Francesco Chianese (University of Naples L'Orientale)

Living the Dream? Real Los Angeles versus Imaginary Los Angeles in the Fiction of John Fante, Andrea De Carlo, and Chiara Barzini

Tuba Akunal (Ege University, Izmir)

Arturo Bandini and the Border of Identity: Second-Generation Italian Americans in *Ask the Dust*

Marta Lucari (University of Rome Tor Vergata)

Letters of Liberation: Challenging Confinement and Identity in Dorothy Bryant's *Prisoners*

Elisabetta Marino (University of Rome Tor Vergata)

"Una Storia Segreta": Italians as Enemy Aliens

(Rosate Room 3) **Panel 1.2: (An)Other Western Story. Beyond Genres, Genders, Nations**

Coordinators:

- **Amaia Ibarra Bigalondo** (University of the Basque Country)
- **Stefan Rabitsch** (University of Oslo)

Kelly Dennis (University of Connecticut)

Epistemological Canyons; or, How to Lose a Woman in 50 years

Cristina Di Maio (University of Turin)

Exploring the Southwest through Backseat Games in Valeria Luiselli's *Lost Children Archive*

Daphne Orlandi (University of Catania)

Freedom was a Test: Violence and Control in Black Women's Western Narratives

Catarina Moura Reis Almeida (University of Lisbon)

The American Dream in the Age of Social Media in *Ingrid Goes West* (2017)

(Rosate Room 4) **Panel 9: The Frontier as Infrastructure**

Coordinators:

- **Mena Mitrano** (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)
- **Marina Morbiducci** (University of Rome, La Sapienza)

Francesco Di Perna (Roma Tre University)

A Boundless Journey: Symbolism and Visuality in Sylvia Plath's *Mary Ventura and the Ninth Kingdom*

Livia Bellardini (Independent Scholar)

(Re)describing the Road as a Material and Metaphorical Infrastructure: Adrienne Rich and the Poetic Tradition

Silvia Guselli (University of Rome, La Sapienza)

A Growing Sense of Sociability in the Late 18th Century Backcountry: A Study of the First Settlements in the Frontier

Alejandro Arizmendy Mèndez (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)

The Rubber Boom: The Amazon as the Last Frontier

(Salvecchio Room 2) **Panel 12.2: The Italians in the American West**

Coordinators:

- **Matteo Pretelli** (University of Naples L'Orientale)
- **Mark Pedri** (Independent Scholar)

Lucia Cristina Tirri (University of Salerno)

Going West, Going Deeper: Real and Imagined Italian-American Spaces in CALIFORNIA

Rosemary Serra (University of Trieste)

Integration Paths of Italian Immigrant Women in California: Roles, Representations and Social Expectations Compared Between Past and Present

Pietro Pinna (University of Turin)

Italian Entrepreneurs in California: Identity and Marketing in the Wine Industry (1930-1950s)

Tommaso Caiazza (Independent Researcher)

The "dago business": at the origin of Italian immigrants' monopoly over garbage collection in early Twentieth century San Francisco.

(Salvecchio Room 4) **Panel 19.2: (Un)Narrating the West: Literature, Politics, and the Frontier Unconscious**

Coordinators:

- **Marco Petrelli** (University of Pisa)
- **Virginia Pignagnoli** (Autonomous University of Barcelona)

Giacomo Traina (University of Trieste)

"I Gave You Power": The Speaker-As-A-Gun as an American (Rap) Trope

Mikel Barea (University of the Basque Country)

Challenging the West: Political Unconscious in Don DeLillo's *Falling Man*

Francesca Scaccia (University of Rome Tor Vergata)

Adventures of American Identity: Mark Twain's Multiple West(s)

Giovanni Battista Bronzini (University for Foreigners of Perugia)
Un-American: A History of Americanism in Words

Steffen Wöll (Leipzig University)
Democratic Frontiers, Nazi Natives, and Postwar Masculinities: Western Novels and German Identities

12:00 | Closing Remarks (Rosate Room 2)

3:00 p.m. | Social Trips

a) Accademia Carrara (walking distance 30 minutes)

b) Walk to Abbazia di Astino (only in case of good weather, 6 kms round trip, elevation 500 feet, 2-3 hours)

Scientific Committee

AISNA Board

Local Organizing Committee: Anna De Biasio, Valeria Gennero, Andrea Pitozzi, and Stefano Rosso

Sponsored by

AISNA – Associazione Italiana di Studi Nord-Americani

Dipartimento di Lingue, Letterature e Culture Straniere (Università degli Studi di Bergamo)

With the collaboration of

REWEST (Research Group in Western American Literature and Culture, University of the Basque Country)