



XV INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

PICTURES AND LANDSCAPES OF TUSCANY IN EUROPEAN LITERATURE AND ART

**FRIDAY 24 – SATURDAY 25 - (SUNDAY 26)
SEPTEMBER 2021**

**Biblioteca Comunale “A. Betti” (Former Anglican Church)
Viale E. Whipple
55022 BAGNI DI LUCCA – VILLA (LU)**

After its postponement due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we are delighted to announce that in September 2021 we are planning to hold the XV International Conference of the “Michel de Montaigne” Cultural Foundation, which will be organised in collaboration with a group of scholars from the University of Pisa, the Istituto Storico Lucchese and the Bagni di Lucca municipality.

CONFERENCE TOPIC

In our age, characterised as it is by ongoing, amazing and even disquieting changes all over the world, creating a space for reflection on the protagonists, social agents and pivotal points of the cultural dialogue and identity issues which underlie European tradition can help us to focus on the distinguishing features and evolutions of a deep-rooted heritage. By replacing the idea of a sheerly economic, self-interested globalisation with Bourdieu’s notion of ‘cultural capital’ and its transmission or ‘constructive’ circulation – in an embodied or objectified state –, we aim at bringing back to light a rich network of intellectual and artistic exchanges in a national as well as international perspective.

Our conference project looks to contributions dealing with how places, contexts and landscapes have been memorably described across the centuries in literary works and the visual or audiovisual arts, such as paintings, prints and illustrations, sculpture and landscape architecture, photography, filmmaking and media technologies, digital and video art. More specifically, our interest will be focused on a *corpus* of images, textual traces and examples of historical and artistic testimony relating to Tuscany’s natural and human landscapes. Tuscan landscapes have been famously evoked, reproduced and re-invented

from disparate points of view (mimetic/fictional, synchronic/diachronic, philological/fancifully hybridised) by Italian and European writers, intellectuals and artists, who have thus left a lasting mark throughout history and on our collective imaginary. Therefore, attention should be paid to the aspects and elements of sceneries infused with semantic and communicative power (both within and beyond our national borders), mythopoeic overtones (*genius loci*, folklore and legends, iconography, symbolic meanings) and references to cultural subtexts (the *habitus* and social arena, value systems and the epistemic order, *status indexes*).

We will welcome proposals linked to the representation of Tuscany from the perspective of authors, works and different kinds of aesthetic experiments informing European literature and art. Topics of interest may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Pictures of Tuscany in European literature: historical records and testimony, memories, various kinds of transposition or metamorphosis (factual, allegorical, laudatory, censorious ...)
- Tuscany and/in the multiple forms of (audio)visual art and communication throughout the centuries: paintings, prints, illustrations; photography and sculpture; filmmaking and mass media; multi- and cross-mediality; digital and video art
- Tuscan landscapes: natural and urban sceneries; cartographies and landscape architecture; localism and regionalism; Tuscany as the ‘Garden of Europe’
- ‘Damn Tuscans!’: cultural traditions, identity traits, habits and customs of Tuscan people; Tuscan ‘temper’, irony and wit; ethnic heritage and mixtures
- The invaluable legacy of Tuscany: its language, dialect and idioms; its artistic heritage, cultural centres and museums; its great historical figures (politicians, thinkers, men of letters, artists, scientists ...)
- ‘Alter-ations’ and ‘de-localisations’ of Tuscany: impressions, accounts and assessments by Italian and European travellers.

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- ◇ **SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE:** Marcello Cherubini, Roberta Ferrari, Laura Giovannelli
- ◇ **ORGANISING COMMITTEE:** Marcello Cherubini, Angela Amadei and other staff members of the Montaigne Foundation
- ◇ **IN COLLABORATION WITH:** Comune di Bagni di Lucca, Istituto Storico Lucchese (Sede Centrale)
- ◇ **SPONSORED BY:** Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Lucca

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