



JOHN FANTE: THIRTY YEARS AFTER

December 11-12, 2025, Ca' Foscari University of Venice



Ca' Foscari
University
of Venice

Department of Linguistics
and Comparative Cultural Studies

With the collaboration of

il dio di mio padre
**John
Fante
festival**

This conference is part of the PRIN (Research Projects of National Relevant Interest): "Literary California 1884-2022: Spaces of Exception, Spaces of Disaster," funded by the Italian Ministry of Education (MIUR) in the context of the plan Next-GenerationEU – PNRR, Fondo per il Programma Nazionale di Ricerca e Progetti di Rilevante Interesse Nazionale (PRIN) – CUP N.H53D23007010006.

Thursday December 11

Aula Tesa 1, Ca' Foscari Zattere (CFZ) – Dorsoduro
1392, Fondamenta Zattere, Venice

16.00-18.30 **Registration**

16.15-16.30 Opening remarks: **Damian Fante**

16.30-17.45 **Roundtable: *John Fante: A New Critical Gathering***

Chair: **Enrico Mariani**

Brando Bonsanti (Roma Tre University), *A New (Anti) Hero: Ambition, Irony and Failure in John Fante's *The Road to Los Angeles**

Giovanna Di Lello (Independent scholar), *John Fante: Voices of a Transclass*

Sostene M. Zangari (Independent scholar), *Goods vs Gods: John Fante's Literary Journey to Regain Paradise*

Giuseppe Chiavaroli (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia), *John Fante as Screenwriter: Realization and Recognition in the Shadow of Writing*

18.00-18.45 **Book Presentation**

Chair: **Elisa Bordin**

Italian Americans on the Page (SUNY Press, 2025).

Edited by **Ryan Calabretta-Sajder** (University of Arkansas) and **Alan Gravano** (Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions)

Respondents: **William Boelhower** (Louisiana State University) and **Enrico Mariani** (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)

Friday December 12

Aula Baratto, Ca' Foscari - Dorsoduro, 3246, Venice

8.45-9.00 **Registration**

9.00-9.15 **Welcome Remarks**

9.15-10.30 **Keynote Lecture**

Stephen Cooper (California State University, Long Beach), *My Other Life of John Fante*

Moderator: **Elisa Bordin**

10.30-11.00 Coffee break (Sala Archivio)

11.00-12.30 **PANEL 1**

The Edges of Fante: New Critical Readings

Chair: **Ryan Calabretta-Sajder**

Meagan Rose Meylor (California State University, Northridge), *Fante's Fallout: Literary Atmosphere and Environmental Injustice in *Ask the Dust**

Enrico Mariani (Ca' Foscari University of Venice), *'Mary Osaka is not Japanese. She is American': John Fante's Asian Connections*

Edvalda Torres Paes Guizzardi (Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais), *'A Lover of Man and Beasts Alike': Animal Agency and Posthuman Disruption in John Fante's *My Dog Stupid**

Andrea Acqualagna (University of Bergamo), *Debunking the Myth of the Garden in John Fante's *The Brotherhood of the Grape**

12.30-14.00 Lunch break

14.00-15.30 **PANEL 2**

California, Italy: New Italian American Readings

Chair: **Clorinda Donato**

Ryan Calabretta-Sajder (University of Arkansas), *Reimagining the Maternal: Feminist and Gendered Readings of the Mother Figure in John Fante's *Dago Red**

Alan Gravano (Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions), *My Father's God & Italian American Identity Via Religion and Cultural Heritage*

Mariangela Paone (University of Sussex), *Beyond Bandini: Gender, Genre, and the Politics of Italian-American Life Writing*

Francesco Chianese (Independent scholar), *Italian, American, or Italian American Los Angeles? A Comparative Reading of John Fante, Andrea De Carlo and Chiara Barzini*

15.30-16.00 Coffee break (Sala Archivio)

16.00-17.30 **PANEL 3**

Outside Fante's Pages

Chair: **Enrico Mariani**

Nicoletta Peluffo (New York University), *Reading and Interpreting John Fante through Paratextual Elements*

Nicola Paladin (D'Annunzio University of Chieti-Pescara), *Between Discovery and Revival: The Role of Maria Martone in the Italian Reception of John Fante*

Stefano Luconi (University of Padua), *John and Nicola Fante in the Political Arena*

Clorinda Donato (California State University, Long Beach), *Making Fante French: *Mon chien, Stupide**

17.30-18.45 Keynote Lecture: **Fred Gardaphé** (CUNY), *What's So Funny about Fante: Humor and Irony in the Writings of John Fante*

Moderator: **Elisa Bordin**