

Conference call for papers

"Cultural Margins/Marginal Cultures"

Keynote Speaker: Prof. Timothy Brennan (University of Minnesota)

On behalf of the graduate students of the Department of Italian Studies at Brown University and the Italian Section of the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures at Harvard University, we are pleased to announce the first joint Graduate Student Conference for Italian Studies, to be held on 14-15 March, 2008 at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island.

This conference seeks to explore a variety of perspectives in Italian Studies which respond to the question of how a culture constructs and deconstructs its centers and margins.

What cultural conventions and practices define the notions of marginality and centrality? How are margins created? What are the dynamics of exchanges between cultural centers and cultural margins? For whom is a cultural experience marginal? How does marginality become central?

We welcome papers that investigate and assess issues related to marginal experiences in all historical periods. Proposals may address, but are not restricted to, the following topics:

- language, dialects, and minority languages
- migration and exile
- national identity and nationalism
- geographical and cartographic borders
- spatial and temporal limits
- colonial and postcolonial experiences
- gender and sexuality
- minority subjects and communities
- experiences of subalternity and cultural hierarchies
- conformity and defiance/deviance
- religious experiences of orthodoxy and heterodoxy
- artistic and literary canons and counter-canons

Presentations should not exceed 20 minutes (approximately 8-10 pages of double-spaced text) and may be in Italian or English.

Please send an anonymous abstract (no longer than **300 words**) and a cover sheet with the title of your paper, your name, affiliation, contact information (including telephone and e-mail address), and technical equipment needed, as Microsoft Word file attachment to chiasmi@brown.edu.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE EXTENDED: JANUARY 20, 2008