

**About Italian Switzerland**

In the valleys cut by the River Ticino and its tributaries and in the Alpine valleys of Mesolcina, Cembra, Pioschiero and Bragaia in Canton Graubünden, populations live which are Italian by culture and Swiss by nationality. The number of inhabitants is modest: 300,000 in Ticino and 10,000 in the Italian parts of Graubünden. Yet these territories of Italian Switzerland live under institutions governed by the Swiss federal system of participatory democracy. This southern-eastern part of Switzerland is one of the few areas, outside the borders of the Republic of Italy, whose constitution and legal system are exclusively Italian. For this reason alone this region offers a microcosm in which students of politics, culture, nationalism and identity can find a special field of investigation. There are many more.

**Sponsors**

Dipartimento dell'educazione e della cultura della Repubblica e Cantone Ticino; Pro Helvetia Fondazione svizzera per la cultura; Fondazione Tettamanti; Dipartimento federale degli affari esteri; John R. Taylor; Franklin College Switzerland; Harvard Business Services, Inc.; University of Pennsylvania School of Arts and Sciences; Promozone della cultura del Cantone del Grigioni; Swiss-American Historical Society; Associazione Internazionale per gli Studi di Lingua e Letteratura Italiana; The Center for Italian Studies.

**Location**

Logan 17  
249 South 36th Street  
University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia PA 19104

**An International Conference**

**Why Italian Switzerland?**

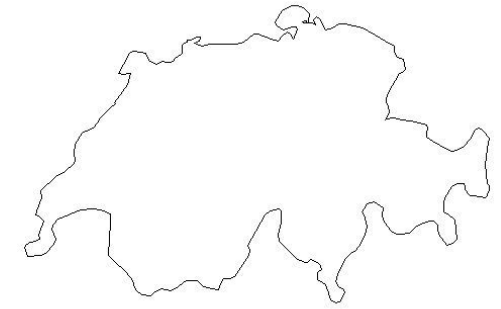


**25-27 April, 2008**  
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Philadelphia, PA

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*Associazione Internazionale  
per gli Studi di Lingua e  
Letteratura Italiana*



## *Why Italian Switzerland? Swiss Identity Italian Identity An International Conference*



**25-27 April, 2008**

**Logan 17  
249 South 36th Street  
University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, PA 19104**

**Why have Swiss Italians always considered themselves Swiss not Italians?  
Why is there an Italian Switzerland?**

Its territory lies south of the Alps. Its intellectual capital is Milan. Its residents feel “at home” in Northern Italy and many live across the border. They could easily have fused their identity with that of Como, Varese, or the Valtellina. Nor were the Italians unwilling to absorb these prosperous and familiar communities. Several times – from the Italian Jacobins in 1798 to Mussolini in the 1930s – the Italians offered their Swiss neighbours membership in their greater and more progressive states. On every occasion, Swiss Italians refused. As two of their leaders said in 1798, they wanted to remain “Free and Swiss” and they have.

**Sponsors:**

Dipartimento dell'educazione e della cultura della Repubblica e Cantone Ticino; Pro Helvetia Fondazione svizzera per la cultura; Fondazione Tettamanti; Dipartimento federale degli affari esteri; John R. Taylor; Franklin College Switzerland; Harvard Business Services, Inc.; University of Pennsylvania School of Arts and Sciences; Promozone della cultura del Cantone del Grigioni; Swiss-American Historical Society; Associazione Internazionale per gli Studi di Lingua e Letteratura Italiana; The Center for Italian Studies.

**Conference Administrator:**

**Christine Walsh**

**Telephone: 215-898-6654**

**Email: [chwalsh@ccat.sas.upenn.edu](mailto:chwalsh@ccat.sas.upenn.edu)**

# Friday, 25 April

## 5:00 p.m. *Opening Ceremony*

**Professor Ann Matter**, Associate Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences: welcome

**Professor Fabio Finotti**, The Director of the Center for Italian Studies

**His Excellency The Ambassador of the Swiss Confederation**

**His Excellency The Consul General of Italy in Philadelphia**

**Dr. Dottore Raoul Pescia**, Presidente del Comitato Centrale del Pro Ticino

## 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. *Reception*

7:30 p.m. *Dinner* (By invitation only)  
Terrace Room

### *Dinner Speaker:*

The Director of the Department of Health and Social Affairs of the Republic & Canton Ticino,  
Councilor of State Patrizia Pesenti



Church in Seriate  
Bergamo, Italy (1994-2004)  
Photo by Enrico Cano

# Saturday, 26 April

## 8:30 a.m. *First Session: Historical Identity*

### *Moderator:*

**Professor Jonathan Steinberg**, (University of Pennsylvania)

**Professor Georg Kreis**, (University of Basel)  
*Speaking Identity – the Case of Ticino and Switzerland*

**Professor Antonio Gili**, (Archivio Storico, Città di Lugano)  
*Italian Switzerland and/or Swiss Italian?*

**Dottoressa Chiara Orelli Vassere**, (Dizionario Storico della Svizzera)  
*The Dictionary of Swiss History*

**Professor Carlo Moos**, (Faculty of Letters & Philosophy, University of Zurich)  
*Fatto il Ticino, bisogna fare i Ticinesi. Alla ricerca di un'identità difficilmente reperibile.*

## 10:30 a.m. *Coffee*

## 11:00 a.m. *Second Session: Linguistic Identity*

### *Moderator:*

**Giampiero Casagrande**, (Casagrande Books, Lugano and Milan)

**Giovanni Orelli** (Poet, novelist)  
*The dialect of Val Bedretto*

**Professor Sara Steinert Borella**, (Franklin University, Switzerland)  
*Language, Dialect and Gender*

**Vincenzo Todisco**, (The Pedagogic High School of the Grigioni, and Novelist)

### *Commentator:*

**Professor Giulio Lepschy**, (Emeritus Professor, University of Reading, and Fellow of the British Academy)

**1:00 p.m.**     *Buffet Lunch* (By invitation only)

**2:00 p.m.**     *Third Session:  
Political Identity*

*Moderator:*

**Professor Julia Lynch**, (University of Pennsylvania)

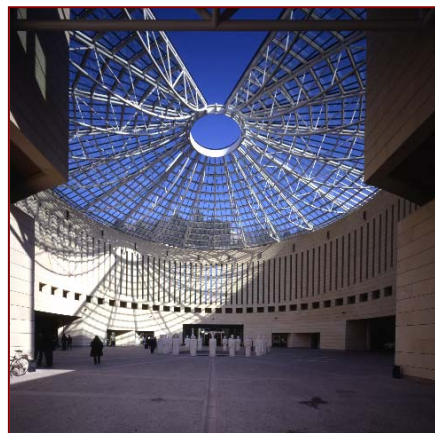
**Patrizia Pesenti**, (The Director of the Department of Health and Social Affairs of the Republic and Canton Ticino, Councilor of State)

**Senator Filippo Lombardi**, (Member of the Upper House of the Federal Swiss Parliament)

**Marco Cameroni**, (former Head of the Cultural Foreign Policy Center, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs; former General Consul of Switzerland in Milan)

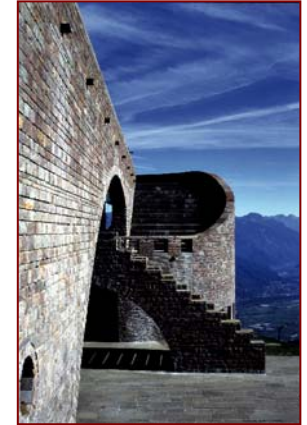
**Moreno Bernasconi**, (Journalist, *Corriere del Ticino*)

**4:00 p.m.**     *Afternoon Tea*



MART  
(Museum of Modern & Contemporary Art)  
Rovereto, Italy (1988-2002)  
Photo by Pino Musi

Chapel "Santa Maria degli Angeli"  
Mount Tamaro  
Switzerland (1990-1996)  
Photo by Enrico Cano



**4:30 p.m.**     *Fourth Session:  
Economic Identity*

*Moderator:*

**Professor Jonathan Steinberg**,  
(University of Pennsylvania)

**Professor Remigio Ratti**,

Professor of Economics and Institutions (The University of Italian Switzerland, Lugano)

*The Trajectory of Economic Development of Ticino*

**Signor Marco Netzer**, (Chairman, Ticino Chapter Swiss American Chamber of Commerce – AMCHAM; President and Partner, Banque Cramer & Cie SA Ginevra/Lugano)

*Economic Innovation and Technological Development in Ticino:  
The role of U.S. companies*

**Dr. Giorgio Ghiringhelli**, (Banca della Svizzera Italiana)  
*Ticino as Financial Center*

*Commentator:*

**Paolo Grassi**, (Senior Vice President and General Counsel, American International Underwriters)



Leeum Samsung Museum of Art  
Seoul, South Korea (1995-2004)  
Photo by Pietro Savorelli

# Sunday, 27 April

8.30 a.m. *Fifth Session:  
The Outsiders' View  
of the Italian Swiss*

**Moderator:**

**Professor Fabio Finotti**, (University of Pennsylvania)

**Stefano Prandi**, (University of Bern)

*A transalpine Athens?  
Switzerland as a political model in the Literature of the  
XVI-XVIII centuries*

**Piero Boitani**, (La Sapienza, Roma e USI Lugano)

*Diario luganese 2007-2008*

**Professor Steven C. Hughes**, (Loyola College in Maryland)

*Ticino as seen by a Risorgimentalist*

10:30 a.m. *Coffee*



San Carlino, Lugano, Switzerland  
(1999-2003 – dismantled)  
Photo by Pino Musi

11:00 a.m. *Sixth Session:  
Literary & Media Identity*

**Moderator:**

**Professor Fabio Finotti**, (University of Pennsylvania)

**Vincenzo Todisco**, (The Pedagogic High School of the Grigioni,  
and Novelist)

**Sara Steinert Borella**, (Franklin College Switzerland)

*Identità al femminile: Contemporary Women's Writing in Ticino*

**Lorenzo Sganzi**, (Radiotelevisione della Svizzera Italiana)

**Commentator:**

**Professor A. L. Lepschy**, (Dept. of Italian University College London)

1:00 p.m. *Buffet Lunch (By invitation only)*

2:00 p.m. *Seventh Session:  
Architectural & Artistic Identity*

**Moderator:**

**Professor David Brownlee**, (University of Pennsylvania)

**Professor Mario Botta**,

*History of Architecture in Ticino from Borromini to the Present*

4:30 p.m. *Coffee*

5:00 p.m. *Closing Remarks*

Representative of the Department of Education & Culture,  
Canton Ticino

**Professor Jonathan Steinberg**, (University of Pennsylvania)