Why have Swiss Italians always considered themselves Swiss not Italians?

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.
**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

**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, Cittá 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 Lepsch, (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**

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)


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**

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 Sganzini, (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)