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Food as Delineator in *Dinner Rush*: A Semiotic of Identity and Generational Difference among 'Italians' in America

Anthony Julian Tamburri

Queens College/CUNY

Anthony.Tamburri@qc.cuny.edu

Like other films dealing with food, Bob Giraldi's *Dinner Rush* discusses food as both identity marker — in this case, for Italians in America — and indicator for shifts in generational dynamics among them, especially between father and son. *Dinner Rush* also deals with the identity of Italians in America as members of organized crime, this too a signifier for generational difference and, we might also say, food. This lecture examines new ways to consider identity beyond both traditional categories offered to date and, further still, transcending as well the generational lens of ethnic descent.

Anthony Julian Tamburri is Dean of the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute (Queens College, CUNY) and Distinguished Professor of European Languages and Literatures. He is co-founder and co-director of Bordighera Press, past president of the Italian American Studies Association and of the American Association of Teachers of Italian. Concentrating on cinema, literature, and semiotics, he has authored more than a dozen books, which include: *A Semiotic of Ethnicity: In (Re)cognition of the Italian/American Writer* (SUNY, 1998); *Italian/American Short Films & Videos: A Semiotic Reading* (Purdue, 2002); *Semiotics of Re-reading: Guido Gozzano, Aldo Palazzeschi, and Italo Calvino* (Fairleigh Dickinson, 2003); *Una semiotica dell'etnicità: nuove segnalature per la scrittura italiano/americana* (Cesati, 2007); *Re-viewing Italian Americana: Generalities and Specificities on Cinema* (Bordighera, 2011); *Re-reading Italian Americana: Specificities and Generalities on Literature and Criticism* (Fairleigh Dickinson, 2014); *Un biculturalismo negato: la letteratura "italiana" negli Stati Uniti* (Cesati, 2018); and *Scrittori Italiano[-]Americani: trattino sì trattino no* (MnM Edizioni, 2018). He is executive producer and host of Calandra Institute's TV program, *Italics*, produced in collaboration with CUNY TV. For more information see his website, www.anthonijuliantamburri.org.