

Thursday, 29th October, 5.30 pm
Live on www.facebook.com/croceviasguardi

The Colour Lines. Identity, race and gender in post-colonial Italy.

Angelica Pesarini (NYU Florence) e Igiaba Scego (writer)

What does it mean to be Italian? Who is really Italian? In this talk Angelica Pesarini proposes to consider the historical and social implications that brought to the construction of an Italian modern identity, focalizing on the historical moments when the language of the “race” in relation to the idea of citizenship have appeared. The analysis of (post)colonial Italian stories and memories helps us to highlight the plasticity of the construction of national identities and to scratch static ideas about citizenship and Italianism.

Igiaba Scego, being a scholar and a writer, reflects about the presence of the topics of race and colonialism in the Italian literature, from books of the colonial times to those of Ennio Flaiano, written during the postwar period, but also to the modern examples like Francesca Melandri, Garane Garane and Gabriella Ghermandi. Her own works include serious reflections about the intricate connection between identity and race in contemporary Italy.

These contributions both underline the urgency to investigate the research and the collective thought about the inheritance of racial categories in the definition of the Italian identity.

Angelica Pesarini is Professor of Sociology at the New York University in Florence, where she teaches “Black Italy”, a course dedicated to the intersectional analysis of racial dynamics in Italy. Her research work focuses on negotiation of gender, race and identity in the colonial and postcolonial Italy and also on the racialization of the political discourse about migration. She has previously explored the relation between gender identity and economic activities in some gipsy communities in Rome and she has analyzed strategies of risk, survival and opportunities in the context of prostitution of underage boys, in Rome.

Igiaba Scego after her bachelor’s degree in Foreign Literature at the Sapienza University in Rome, she took a Phd in Pedagogy at Roma Tre University and she is interested in writing, journalism and research about the dialogue between different cultures, the cross-cultural dimension and migration. She works with many magazines that write about migrations and African cultures and literatures like *Latinoamerica*, *Carta*, *El Ghibli*, *Migra* and some newspapers like *la Repubblica*, *il manifesto*, *L’Unità* e *Internazionale*.

Info: FIERI c/o Collegio Carlo Alberto • Piazza Arbarello, 8 • 10122

Torino tel. 011 5160044 • fieri@fieri.it • <http://www.fieri.it>