



Italian Graduate Society of Rutgers University Conference on Italian Studies

## *Masks*

Masks have played a significant role in Italian cultural expressions throughout history. From the ancient Roman theater to the elaborate masquerades of the Renaissance, masks have served as powerful symbols, transforming identities and challenging established norms. The theme of masks provides an exciting opportunity to delve into a multitude of topics related to Italian Studies.

With this in mind, the Italian Graduate Society of Rutgers University is pleased to announce the Conference on Italian Studies, which will be held November 17 & 18, 2023 at Rutgers University. The conference aims to explore the multifaceted theme of "Masks" within the context of Italian culture, literature, art, history, and society. We invite scholars, researchers, and professionals from various disciplines to submit their original research and contribute to a vibrant exchange of ideas. We encourage contributors to explore the following areas, but are not limited to:

Masks in Italian Literature and Theatre:

- Representations of masks in Italian literary works.
- Pseudonyms and false identities in Italian literature.
- Symbolism and metaphor of masks in Italian drama and poetry.

### Masked Identities in Italian Art and Cinema:

- Depictions of masks in Italian visual arts, including painting and sculpture.
- The significance of masks in Italian art.
- Masks as tools for self-expression and disguise in contemporary Italian art.

### Masks and Cultural Traditions:

- The role of masks in Italian folk traditions and festivities.
- Rituals and ceremonies involving masks in different regions of Italy.
- The preservation and evolution of mask-related customs in modern Italian society.

### Masks and Politics:

- The use of masks as political statements in Italian history.
- The relationship between masks and political power in Italian society.
- Contemporary political movements and the symbolism of masks in Italy.

### Masks and Gender:

- Masks and the construction of gender identities in Italian culture.
- Concealed identities in relation to female/male roles in Italian literature.
- Exploring gender fluidity and queer identities.

We welcome proposals for individual papers, panel discussions, workshops, and creative presentations. Submissions should include an abstract of no more than 200 words, a brief biography, and contact information.

### Important Dates:

Abstract submission deadline: September 25, 2023

Notification of acceptance: October 9, 2023

Conference dates: November 17 & 18, 2023

Please submit your proposals via email to [italian.grad.society@gmail.com](mailto:italian.grad.society@gmail.com). For further information, please visit our conference [website](#). Feel free to contact us for any inquiries.

Sincerely,  
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