Mondo Nuovo.

American Dream or Italian Dream?
Uprooting, Identity and Agency in the Italian Migratory Experience of the Sixties.

Monday, November 12th at 4:30pm
Voorhees Hall—Art History #104

Italian.rutgers.edu

Drawing from her recently published memoir, *Bitter Trades* (Legas, 2018), and through a meta-critical approach, Giovanna Miceli Jeffries (Rutgers 1983 Ph.D.) examines the immigration’s experience that peaked in the last century mid-sixties, initiated by a new generation of Italian immigrants and their children who came of age in the first and second half of the sixties. How issues of Italianess and the little yet explored problematics of immigration and education (including as related to Italian Studies), self perception and representation play in the subjects’ identity perception and construction in mediating the economic, aesthetic, political and intellectual thicket of foreignness.

Giovanna Miceli Jeffries was born in Ribera (AG), Sicily, where she grew up and finished high school. She is an Emerita from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and holds a Master and Ph.D. in Italian Language and Literature from Rutgers University. Concurrent to her academic work and teaching Italian at the university, for the past 25 years she has been the director of the Italian language program for adults and children at the Italian Workmen’s Club of Madison. In 2000, she co-founded WisItalia, a nonprofit statewide organization dedicated to promote the teaching of Italian in Wisconsin schools. She is the author of several books, of numerous articles and book-chapters on contemporary Italian literature, culture and pedagogy. Two stories from her memoir have appeared in journals. She is also co-translator of Clara Sereni’s novel *Casalinghitudine Keeping House. A Novel in Recipes* (SUNY Press, 2005).