

Napoli! The System, the Camorra and the Pizza

This research guide is designed to accompany the Visions and Voices series of film screenings and panel discussions about the conflicting images of Naples in contemporary Italian cinema.

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Events

[Napoli! The System, the Camorra and the Pizza: Screenings and Discussions](#)

Fri. Nov. 14 - Sun. Nov. 16

Norris Cinema Theatre
Frank Sinatra Hall

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Introduction

Napoli! The System, the Camorra and the Pizza: Breaking the Stereotypes is a series of film screenings and panel discussions organized by Alessandro Ago of the USC School of Cinematic Arts. The events explore the dynamic and contradictory visions of Naples, known for its pizza, organized crime, and cultural sophistication. The series uses Roberto Saviano's true-crime novel *Gomorrah*—and the film adaptation by Matteo Garrone—as a point of departure for thinking about the cinematic representations of Neapolitan crime, culture, and cuisine.

In cooperation with Ago, Ross Scimeca of the USC Libraries has selected the following resources to help you explore the history and meaning of Naples in the Italian imagination.

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The Cultural History of Naples

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About Naples

Naples is the third largest city in Italy. Famous for its picturesque views of hills, gardens, and funiculars, the city opens onto the Bay of Naples. It is just six miles west of Mount Vesuvius, the active volcano that buried the Roman cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum in 79 AD. Starting in Roman times, the city attracted artists, musicians, and writers from throughout Europe. Virgil, Saint Thomas Aquinas, Giambattista Vico, and Benedetto Croce all lived there. Founded in 1224 by the Holy Roman Emperor Friedrich II, the University of Naples is one of the oldest in Europe. During the Renaissance, Naples was home to the writers Boccaccio and Petrarch, along with the artist Giotto. Later, during the baroque period, the artists Caravaggio and Bernini called Naples home, along with the philosophers Bernardino Telesio, Giordano Bruno, and Tommaso Campanella.

The San Carlo Opera, founded in 1737, is second only to La Scala in Milan in its historical importance. Neapolitan folk music is known all over the world because of such singers as Enrico Caruso and Luciano Pavarotti. And, of course, Neapolitan food is loved and consumed almost everywhere. In his Italian Journeys, Goethe writes: "I want to study in Rome, but live in Naples."

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Neapolitan History

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Further Reading

Between Salt Water and Holy Water: A History of Southern Italy

By Tommaso Astarita

W.W. Norton, 2005

Doheny and Leavey Libraries DG826.A78 2005

History of the Kingdom of Naples

By Benedetto Croce

University of Chicago Press, 1970

Doheny Library DG846.C713 1970

Charles I of Anjou: Power, Kingship and State-Making in Thirteenth-Century Europe

By Jean Dunbabin

Longman, 1998

Doheny Library DG947.2.D86 1998

The Most Monstrous of Wars: The Napoleonic Guerrilla War in Southern Italy, 1806-1811

By Milton Finley

University of South Carolina Press, 1994

Doheny Library DG975.C16F54 1994

Antiquity Renewed: The Legacy of Pompeii and Herculaneum

By Victoria C. Gardner Coates

J. Paul Getty Museum, 2007

Doheny Library DG70.P7A73 2007

The Age of Robert Guiscard: Southern Italy and the Norman Conquest

By G.A. Loud

Longman, 2000

Doheny Library DG867.215.R64L68 2000

Cavour and Garibaldi, 1860: A Study in Political Conflict

By Denis Mark Smith

Cambridge University Press, 1985

Doheny Library DG554.M3 1985

Vico's Cultural History: The Production and Transmission of Ideas in Naples, 1685-1750

By Harold Samuel Stone

Brill, 1997

Philosophy Library DG848.15.S76 1997

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Books and Films about the Camorra

The Camorra

By Tom Behan
Routledge, 1996
Doheny Library HV8463.I8B44

Sacred Silence

By Antonio Capuano
Picture This! HomeVideo, 2000
Leavey Library Coming Soon

Gomorra

By Roberto Saviano; translated by Virginia Jewiss
Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007
Doheny Library HV6453.I83C42 2007

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