The Department of French and Italian
Presents:
Lorenzo Fabbri

THURSDAY, February 14, 2013 in the Herklotz Room DML G-24, 5:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

“Questioning the National;
Subalternity and Southern-ness from Dossi to Crialese”

In this talk, Lorenzo Fabbri looks at how the “Southern question” has been represented in Italian cultural history and tackles it as a crucial trope for the figuration of national identity. By looking at Carlo Dossi’s *I mattoidi* (1894) and Visconti’s *La terra trema* (1948), he argues that the South has been physically included in the nation while being symbolically excluded from it.

Fabbri identifies this treatment of Southern Italy as the internal “Other” that needs to be reclaimed as the very ground of “Italianità.” Italy *is* the answer to the Southern question.

But what happens to narratives of national identity – and to the geopolitics inscribed within them – when the South is imagined as a set of answers to be heard rather than a host of problems to be resolved? How does the discursive space of nationhood change once one re-orient frames of reference from the Southern question to the Southern answers?

Lorenzo Fabbri is a Mellon Fellow at Cornell Society for the Humanities, where he is completing a dissertation on cinema and biopolitics in fascist Italy. Lorenzo holds a doctorate in philosophy from Italy, and has published extensively in Italian Studies and Critical Theory, with his working appearing in *diacritics, California Italian Studies Journal, Radical Philosophy Review, Critical Inquiry*, and *Journal of Italian Cinema and Media Studies*. His first book, *The Domestication of Derrida*, was published with Continuum in 2008.

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