



Stony Brook University



Florence University of the Arts  
The American University of Florence

Stony Brook University and Florence University of the Arts - The American University of Florence are pleased to announce the 12th Annual Conference, which will take place in Florence on Friday, December 1, and Saturday, December 2, 2023.

The international conference is titled:

**Gardens of Culture: Italo Calvino's Memos for the New Millennium.**

2023 will mark the 100th birthday of Italo Calvino (1923-1985).

In commemoration of his birth, Florence University of the Arts - The American University of Florence will explore his personal, artistic, and cultural heritage, taking an interdisciplinary approach. Italo Calvino's perspectives toward literature and the role of intellectuals would seem to owe a lot to the writer's early connections to nature as a cultivated realm of study and learned pleasures. Profiles of a devoted gardener as well as that of a playful child come to mind when exploring Calvino's attitudes toward his own books, the books of others, and toward cultures as territories to be observed, understood, enjoyed, cared for, and nurtured so as to bear fruit.

Our imaginary world has been shaped by Calvino's unforgettable characters, who interact with nature in surprising ways: Marcovaldo, in search of nature within the treacherous contemporary city; the Baron in the Trees, with his free-spirited and revolutionary ecological battle; Pin, whose secret place in the woods is where spiders make their nests; Palomar's quest for scientific standards through a compulsive observation of nature.

While focusing on Calvino's literary heritage, and namely addressing *Six Memos for the Next Millennium* (lightness, quickness, exactitude, visibility, multiplicity and consistency), "Gardens of Culture" will encourage participants to reflect on the multifaceted aspects of the word "culture" – from the Latin verb *colere* "to till, to cultivate" – in cultivating human beings and the natural spaces that host them.

The Conference addresses fields and disciplines such as Architecture, Art, Art History, Cinema, Communication, Ecology, Environmental Sustainability, Food, Geography, History, Hospitality, Literature, Sociology, Politics, Photography, and Urban Planning and Development.

Suggested topics include but are not limited to:

- The visual impact of Calvino's creative worlds on contemporary cultural production
- The literary heritage of "Six Memos for the Next Millennium"
- Allegories of nature in Calvino's writings
- The "difficult idyll" between city and nature in the work of Calvino
- Green architecture in Calvino's writings
- Playfulness in Calvino's work
- The role of Calvino's work in literary education for all ages
- Calvino as a source of inspiration for artists

- Calvino's visual sources of inspiration
- The international reception of Calvino's work.

### **ABSTRACT SUBMISSION**

One-page abstract (not exceeding 300 words) and short curriculum vitae.

The above material must be submitted in the English language to [conferences@fua.it](mailto:conferences@fua.it) no later than Monday, August 28th, 2023.

All proposals will be examined by the Conference Scientific Committee, which will notify selected candidates by Monday, September 11th, 2023.

Conference presentations will be conducted in English for a maximum of 20 minutes.  
The selected papers will be published in an online volume of the conference proceedings.

### **CONFERENCE VENUE**

Florence University of the Arts - The American University of Florence  
Corso dei Tintori, 21  
Florence, Italy 50122