



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MODENA E REGGIO EMILIA  
**DIPARTIMENTO DI SCIENZE DEL LINGUAGGIO E DELLA CULTURA**  
L.go S. Eufemia 19 – 41100 MODENA – tel. 059/2055932

Dipartimento di Scienze del Linguaggio e della Cultura  
Facoltà di Lettere e Filosofia  
Università di Modena e Reggio Emilia

Martedì 22 Novembre 2011

ore 15.00 – 17.30

Aula O, Via San Geminiano 3  
Sede della Facoltà di Giurisprudenza  
Modena

## **Hybrids, Differences, Visions. On the Study of Culture**

Alfonso Maurizio Iacono (Università di Pisa)  
Domenico Silvestri (Università di Napoli Federico II)

L'incontro presenta e discute il volume internazionale recentemente pubblicato (The Davies Group, Aurora, USA, 2011), curato da Claudio Baraldi, Andrea Borsari e Augusto Carli (al volume hanno inoltre contribuito: Alberto Mario Banti, Marina Bondi, Donal Carbaugh, Alessandro Duranti, Cesare Jacobazzi, Robert Lumley, Dietrich Harth, Werner Holly, Bernard McGuirk, Michele Nani, Ian Nederveen Pieterse, John O'Regan, Pier Giorgio Solinas, Michael Tomasello, Christoph Wulf). Alla discussione prenderanno parte i curatori e una parte dei contributori.



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Il volume documenta la ricerca e la discussione pluriennale promossa dal Dipartimento di scienze del linguaggio e della cultura intorno ai diversi indirizzi che lo studio della cultura ha assunto in ambito internazionale, in particolare in Germania, Stati Uniti e Regno Unito, oltre che in Italia. Il materiale che ne è risultato si presenta così organizzato:

*Introduction: On the Study of Culture*

Part I Andrea Borsari, *Culture, Philosophy, Anthropology*

Michael Tomasello, *Human Adaptation to Culture*

Christoph Wulf, *Historico-cultural Anthropology as Centre of the Sciences of Culture*

Pier Giorgio Solinas, *One Thing Leads to Another: Material Culture, Anthropology and Evolution*

Part II Claudio Baraldi, *Intercultural Studies*

Jan Nederveen Pieterse, *Global Multiculture: Cultures, Transnational Culture, Deep Culture*

Donal Carbaugh, *Situating Culture in Conversation: a Communication Theory of Culture*

John O'Regan, *Death, Identity, and Discourse: Cultural Research at the Margins of Experience*

Part III Augusto Carli, *Languages and Culture*

Marina Bondi, *Other Languages, other Cultures*

Alessandro Duranti, *Ethnopragmatics and Beyond: Intentionality and Agency Across Languages and Cultures*

Bernard McGuirk, *Cultural Studies at "the Limits of Truth"*

Werner Holly, *Social Styles in Multimodal Texts*

Part IV Michele Nani, *Historiography and "Culture"*

Dietrich Harth, *Imperial Cultures and Cultures of Imperialism. The Case of India*

Alberto Mario Banti, *Palimpsests, Deep Figures, Combinatorial Techniques: the Historical Study of Cultural Systems*



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## Robert Lumley, *“Visual Culture” and Cultural Studies: Form, Genre and History in the Films of Yervant Gianikian and Angela Ricci Lucchi*

### Book Description

The general aim of this book is to explore the various fields covered by the study of culture. It presents different approaches to the relationship among language, culture and society, and focuses on the importance of culture in modern and contemporary historical studies. For this purpose, it compares different disciplines and traditions, focusing on the debate about the concept of “culture”, which represents the main issue in German Kulturwissenschaften and in Anglo-Saxon Cultural Studies. It aims at broadening the interest in this field through a series of complementary lines. The papers included here were selected from papers presented during two international conferences held at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia (Department of Cultural and Linguistic Sciences) in 2006 and 2007. These conferences dealt with the study of culture from an interdisciplinary perspective, and the essays collected here show approaches based on anthropology, communication studies, cultural studies, history, linguistics, and philosophy. This volume not only shares a common theme (“study of culture”), but also implies openness to confrontation and negotiation between the different theoretical approaches that are represented.

The four sections display a series of different theoretical approaches. Each section is introduced by an interpretation of the theoretical background of the papers which reproduces at least in part the original spirit and contents of the two conferences. These introductory papers have been written by some members of the scientific committee which organised the conferences. They are not introductions to the papers presented in the different sections; they rather try to give a general idea of the theoretical and methodological background of these papers.

In the first section, introduced by Andrea Borsari, the selections focus on historical and evolutionary anthropology, in particular on reflections on historical anthropology, on the difference between nature and culture and on the connections between material culture and evolution. The second section, introduced by Claudio Baraldi, focuses on cross-cultural issues, taking into consideration the difficulties in comparing cultures and intercultural communication, and dealing with the contrasts between cultural variations and cultural hybridisation. Section three, introduced by Augusto Carli and Marina Bondi, examines the relationship between language and culture, ranging from ethnopragmatic study of the use of language as a social act, to cultural studies concerning literary and multimodal texts. In the fourth section, introduced by Michele Nani, the so-called “new culture history” is the theoretical framework for case-studies dealing with the representations of history in the light of cultural development due to social, political and identity factors.

Presenting contributions of some of the most authoritative scholars in their disciplines, these four sections aim to explore the most important areas of present debate in the study of culture. The book aims neither to present an exhaustive collection of essays on the study of culture, nor to summarize the main approaches to this topic. When we asked for contributions, we did not assign a general task to the authors. We preferred to explore their most genuine and original ideas emerging from their current work. Some authors (Wulf, Nederveen Pieterse, Carbaugh, Duranti) have chosen to present general reflections about their topics, making the point of their theoretical approach through examples and cases, while others (Tomasello, Solinas, O’Regan, McGuirk, Holly, Harth, Banti, Lumley) have chosen to present specific case studies which suggest general reflections. All of them, anyway, have integrated theoretical approaches and empirical considerations. For us, this



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integration, in the variety of the authoritative perspectives, is the most meaningful and satisfactory result of the conferences and the volume.

C.B., A.B., A.C.