

Caro Maestro e Cavaliere Mignone: Cosa scriviamo oggi? Reflections on writing the new edition of the seminal multidisciplinary masterpiece Italy Today (from WW2 to the Coronavirus Pandemic).

Abstract: This contribution will present the details behind the project of the new edition of *Italy Today* coedited by Mario Mignone and Nicolino Applauso forthcoming with Peter Lang Publishing. This new edition is entitled *Italy Today: Changes and Challenges from WWII to the Coronavirus Pandemic* and is the 4th edition of the multidisciplinary history textbook previously authored by Mignone in 2008. Since 2008, many things have changed in Italian and global history, including both social and demographic changes in the Italian population. More specifically, the world experienced the global financial crisis of 2008, mass migrations from Africa and the east, as well as the Coronavirus pandemic and major international refugee crisis that impacted Italy on profound ways. The main strength of Mario Mignone's masterpiece is its wide-ranging and multidisciplinary method that approaches the history of Italy through multiple levels, including (but not limited to) a political, economic, sociological, and anthropological perspective. The collaboration between Mignone and Applauso was recently conceived in 2017. Through a series of tragic events, including the unexpected passing of Mario Mignone, recent world calamities (such as the Coronavirus pandemic and the Russian-Ukrainian war), the project has been delayed. Despite these challenges, the book continues to be developed and incorporates all the new changes occurred in Italian political and social history, while keeping the multifaceted spectrum of the original masterwork created by Mignone. By illustrating the history of the collaboration between the two authors and the projected changes and updated that will be implemented in this new edition, we will be able to better grasp the important contribution of Mario Mignone to Italian studies and the challenges that he faced in writing this seminal work.

Nicolino Applauso, PhD. Is the Director of the World Languages and International Studies Lab at Morgan State University where he develops program building initiatives in relation to world languages pedagogy, digital learning and education technology, as well as engaging in capital improvement projects to implement strategic and financial growth within the space of the Media and Lab Center for the department and university. He also teaches Italian, Spanish, and Latin language and literature courses at Morgan State University, where he collaborated in founding the Italian program in 2018. This new program is of historical importance because it is believed to be the only Italian program currently taught at a Historically Black College and University (HBCU) across the United States.

His main research is on Dante and medieval literature and politics, satire, and modern Italian history. His recent publications include two books: *Dante's Comedy and the Ethics of Invective in Medieval Italy: Humor and Evil* (Lexington Press, 2019); *Dante satiro: Satire in Dante Alighieri's Comedy and Other Works* (with F. Alfie, Lexington Press, 2020). He is currently finalizing the 4th edition of *Italy Today: Changes and Challenges from WWII to the Coronavirus Pandemic* (co-edited with M. Mignone†, forthcoming in Peter Lang, NY 2023). He is also the author of more than a dozen book chapters, scholarly journals and encyclopedia articles. His numerous publications cover various topics ranging from Italian history and political satire to

humor, music, and poetry in medieval and modern Italy. His research has been published and presented in the U.S., Italy, England, Germany, Poland, and in the Netherlands.