



2026 CONFERENCE

JULY 2-5

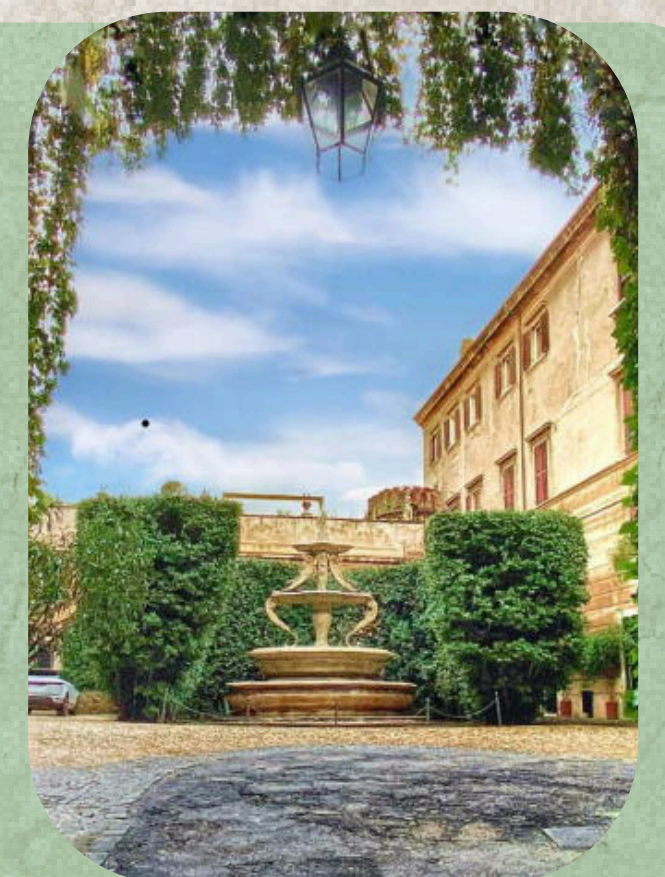
UARK ROME CENTER



The American Association of Teachers of Italian (AATI) is pleased to announce its forthcoming International Conference, to be held in Rome, Italy, at the **University of Arkansas Rome Center**, hosted in the historic **Palazzo Taverna**, from July 2 to 5, 2026.

The provisional program is as follows:

- July 1 (evening): EC Meeting
- July 2 (morning): Workshops
- July 2 (evening): Plenary Session and Welcome Reception
- July 3-5: Conference Sessions
- July 4 (morning): All-member meeting
- July 5 (evening): Gala Dinner
- July 6: Official Departure



Set in Rome—Caput Mundi, the city of seven hills overlooking the Mediterranean—this conference offers a unique opportunity to engage with a locale that embodies a rich continuum from antiquity to the present. Rome's multifaceted history spans anthropology, politics, literature, film, and the arts, providing an unparalleled backdrop for scholarly exchange.

While the conference welcomes submissions on all aspects of Italian Studies, we particularly encourage proposals that address contemporary developments in Italy and higher /K-12 education. Core themes remain central, including pedagogy, linguistics, culture, literature, cinema, theatre, Italian as a second language, Italian language and culture abroad, migration, Italian identities worldwide, history, media, economy, and the arts.

Moreover, we invite contributions that foreground Rome and its surrounding region, Lazio, as focal points for interdisciplinary inquiry. Potential topics might explore the city and region's historical, cultural, social, and political dimensions within broader Italian and global contexts.



We look forward to receiving proposals that advance **critical and innovative perspectives** on these themes, and others.

- Romanesco, from humor and memes to literature and cinema
- Queer Rome, from the Ancients to Today
- Cinecittà and its relationship with American/International cinema
- Rome as a Business capital (Bulgari, Enel, Eni, Leonardo S.p.A)
- Urban and Rural Dynamics in Ancient Rome/Lazio
- Rome as a Crossroads of Communication, Trade and Transport
- Religious and Cultural Identities throughout Rome's History
- Contemporary Social and Ethnic Diversity in Rome
- Segregation, Urban Space, and Marginalized Roman Communities
- Technological Innovation in Cultural Heritage Preservation
- The Construction of Regional and National Identities through Museums, Art, and Monuments
- Rome's Historical Landscape as Palimpsest of Power and Memory
- Intersections of Arts, Politics, and Urban Space from the Renaissance to Baroque Rome
- Environmental and Geographic Influences on Lazio's Historical Development

Additionally, as the American Association of Teachers of Italian, the committee also encourages/welcomes submissions on different facets of curriculum development, second language acquisition, advocacy, and cultural education. Possible areas of interest include:

- The teaching, learning and integration of language, culture, intercultural competence, linguistics, literature, cinema and media studies, diversity, social justice, other disciplines such as sciences and art.
- National/International testing including, PLIDA, AP, National Italian Exam, OPI, etc.
- Advocacy in programs and in the classroom
- Dual Degree Programs
- Languages across the curriculum

POSSIBLE SESSION TYPES

- **Panel:** 3-4 participants with 15-20 minute presentations as established by the chair, followed by Q&A
- **Roundtable:** 5 or 6 participants with informal 5-10 minute presentations. Sessions are open to conversation and debate.
- **Poster session:** minimum of 4 participants, each with a digital poster.
- **Workshop:** hands-on interactive discussions led by a moderator. They aim to instruct participants on specific skills or methods.

Proposals should adhere to the following guidelines:

- 200-250 words in length
- make clear 1-3 conceptual goals of the sessions/paper (for pedagogical proposals, 1-3 “take aways” for the audience)
- a bio of 100-150 words

DEADLINES AND REGULATIONS

October 10th, 2025: **Extended deadline** to submit **open session proposals** to the conference committee. Please send open session proposals to aaticonferencecommittee@gmail.com with the title **“Open session proposal”**.

October 12th, 2025: A complete **list of open sessions will be disseminated** to the AATI listserv **and posted on the website** (aati-online.org). Abstracts will be sent directly to the session chair(s), who will select abstracts for the completed session proposal.

November 12th, 2025: **Deadline for chairs** to submit **completed sessions** (panel, roundtable, or poster session. Instructions are forthcoming) **and for individual proposal submissions**. Proposals should only be submitted individually if they are not able to be accepted as part of a completed session. Individual presentations will be grouped or inserted into sessions at the discretion of the committee.

NOTE:

- Participants can appear in the program for a total of three times. They are allowed to present **once in a session**, once **in a roundtable**, and then **chair a session**.
- Participants may not present the same abstract/paper on two different sessions.
- All presenters **must be current on their AATI membership** in order for their proposals to be accepted for the conference.
- Papers can be **in Italian or in English** and will be limited to 15-20 minutes, maximum (depending on session-type).
- **Organizers of open sessions** will also need to **(re)submit** their now completed session in this round with all the necessary presenters' details.
- Please note that **double/triple sessions** (ex. Part I - Part II) **will not be considered** and will require a change in format. Please be mindful of this as you accept abstracts for your sessions.
- Colleagues are cordially invited to submit proposals for entire sessions and roundtables of 90 minutes each.
- Be advised that **no accommodations can be made for date requests**.

December 30th, 2025: All **notifications of acceptance will be sent to the proposer** (chair or individual). For completed sessions, the session chair will communicate details to individual presenters in their session.



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For questions, contact:
aaticonferencecommittee@gmail.com

