



Humanities Institute at Stony Brook

p r e s e n t s

Wednesday, March 12th, 2014

4:00 p.m.

Humanities 1008

Reception to follow

Giuseppe Gazzola

Betting Against Oneself: A Textual and Contextual Reading of *Così fan tutte*

Long vilified as a misogynistic work, Lorenzo Da Ponte's libretto *Così fan tutte* is now considered no more than an expression of a familiar antifeminist mode in comedy. This talk argues for an alternate reading of this uncomfortable yet widely acclaimed opera: excavating the libertine assumptions that underlie the Enlightenment context of the work, it suggests that Da Ponte slyly critiqued Petrarchan sexual politics in order to establish a new framework for gender equality.

Giuseppe Gazzola is Assistant Professor of European Literatures, Languages, and Cultures at Stony Brook University. His research focuses on the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. He has published articles on Foscolo, Petrarch, and Italian Orientalism, as well as the books *Futurismo: Impact and Legacy*, *Ugo Foscolo: Essays über Petrarca* (with Olaf Muller), and the forthcoming *Versi e Prose: Marinetti traduce Mallarmé*. He is currently completing a book project on landscape in the poetry of Eugenio Montale.

