





As a result of the economic crisis, Italian immigrants in the United States were often portrayed in the media as a threat to the American economy. In 1892, the New York Times published an article titled "The Italian Problem" which portrayed Italian immigrants as a threat to the American economy. The article stated that Italian immigrants were "a race of thieves and gamblers" and that they were "a danger to the American people." The article also stated that Italian immigrants were "a threat to the American economy" and that they were "a danger to the American people." The article was a reflection of the negative image of Italian Americans at the time.



Reading, Pennsylvania, and what on-line researchers have called "how we've come to see ourselves as Americans in community's" internal differences and myriad interests.

As we shall see in the example of the dedication of the Columbus Monument celebration, tensions also existed between the prominenti and working-class Italians. This will serve as an example of intra-ethnic tension, an area of investigation still under-explored in ethnic studies. The image of a singular and unified Italian community, displayed during public events, fractures if we look behind the scenes, where a different social reality prevailed. Working-class Italians did not always identify with the middleclass goals of the prominenti, and many never attended the elaborate celebrations. Others, while proud that Italians could carry off such pageantry, harbored resentment toward the prominenti for their achievements. The Catholic clergy, often at odds with a large number of Italians, formed a third source of contention. Despite the cacophony of voices representing diverse interests, values, and expectations, usually one group's agenda prevailed, providing an illusion of unity to the non-Italian majority. With careful analysis of the orchestration of the event, the existing social and political fissures become evident. The Columbus Day celebrations were key events illustrative of how the prominenti introduced and promoted the new role of American ethnic.

"Italians in Public Memory: Pageantry, Power, and Imagining the 'Italian American' in Reading, Pennsylvania," in [Italian Folk: Vernacular Culture in Italian-American Lives](#) [10], edited by Joseph Sciorra (New York: Fordham University Press, 2011), 153-169.

~~The friends opportunity [11] to get into the Columbus Circle and get a good view of the statue and the media.~~

Nishi's "Discovering Columbus" provides us with an exciting opportunity to face our past, present, and future, up close and personal, warts and all.

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- [2] <http://www.publicartfund.org/DiscoveringColumbus/>
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- [10] http://www.amazon.com/Italian-Folk-Vernacular-Italian-American-Critical/dp/0823232662/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1345737421&sr=1-1&keywords=Italian+Folk
- [11] <http://www.i-italy.org/16589/anti-defamation-punch-line>