

Guest lecture and film

16.6.2026 • 17:30-19:00

Lecture room HS05

Haus der Musik, 5th floor

Universitätsstraße 1

6020 Innsbruck



(from: <https://commons.mtholyoke.edu>)

Gianmarco Mancosu – guest lecture

Università di Macerata

Gianpaolo Chiriaco – film presentation

Universität Innsbruck

History, sound, and images of the colonial pasts

The lecture provides analytical insights into exploring the intersections between visuals and sound in representations of Italy's colonial past. Through the analysis of footage, music, and archival documents, and of the interactions among them, students will gain an understanding of how colonial narratives were constructed, disseminated, and reinterpreted over time. Special attention will be given to the role of soundscapes and audiovisual media in shaping collective—and often contrasting—memories, as well as the persistence of colonial imaginaries in contemporary cultural production. By adopting a transmedial approach that combines archival and historical research with film studies, musicology, and critical discourse analysis, the seminar will encourage students to critically engage with the ways in which the colonial past continues to resonate in present-day media and public culture.

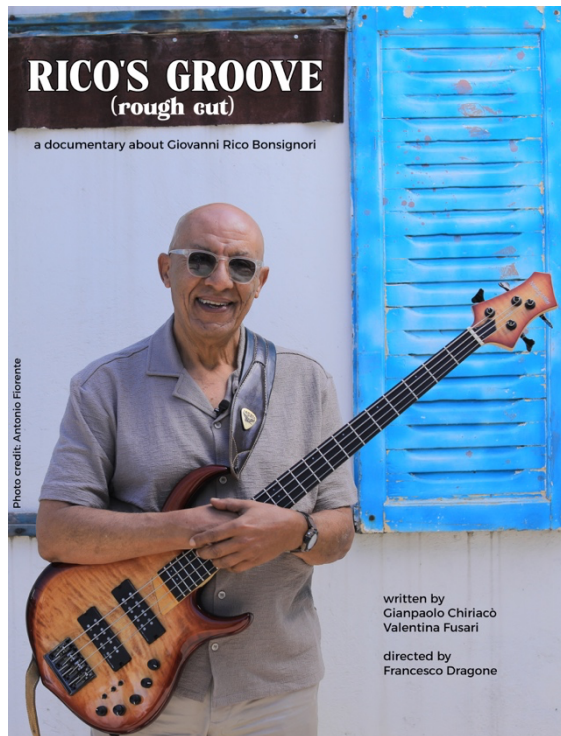


Gianmarco Mancosu is a historian whose work focuses on the history and culture of colonial and post-colonial Italy; the history of audiovisual media and fascist propaganda; memories of colonialism in modern and contemporary Italy. He has published extensively on these topics (notably his volume “Vedere l’impero. L’Istituto Luce e il colonialismo fascista”), and he is currently working on a monograph on the articulations of Italian colonial memories. Previously, he worked as a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow at the School of Advanced Study of the University of London and has conducted research and teaching activities at institutions and universities in Italy (Cagliari, Sassari) and the UK (Warwick, Manchester, Cambridge).

Rico's Groove

A documentary by Gianpaolo Chiriaco and Valentina Fusari
Directed by Francesco Dragone

teaser running time: 15 minutes



Rico's Groove is a documentary that reconstructs the personal and musical journey of Giovanni Rico Bonsignori, a bass player and band leader whose artistic impulse contributed enormously in shaping the music of Eastern Africa between the early 1970s and the late 1990s. Born in Asmara to an Italian father, Enrico, a Tuscan stonemason, to whom he owes the shortened name Rico, and an Ethiopian mother from Axum, Giovanni moved to Addis Ababa with his parents when he was two.

The documentary tells this unique story through the voices of past and present musicians, as well as of those who, across generations and along the fault lines of gender, have navigated - like

Giovanni Rico himself - the complex experience of being at once Eritrean, Ethiopian, and Italian in the Horn of Africa and beyond. By following Rico's experience, this documentary shows how his presence and basslines still echo through today's Addis Ababa, continuing to inspire new generations of musicians, and opening onto a choral narrative of mixedness across the Horn of Africa.

Gianpaolo Chiriaco works as a researcher at the Archive for Popular Music Studies, University of Innsbruck, where he also teaches History of Jazz and Popular Music. After a three-year experience at the Center for Black Music Research in Chicago, Chiriaco has conducted extensive research into the intersections of music and blackness in Italy. He published several articles related to the history of popular music within Italian colonial enterprise, and he is principal investigator of the research projects SONIETHIO (financed by a Marie-Curie Fellowship) related to the sonic archives of Ethiopian music recorded during the Italian occupation.

