

Italy at the Brink?

Reflections on the Italian Financial and Social Crisis

Lecture-Seminar

Lecture 12:00—12:45pm

Discussion 12:45—1:30pm



Italy is the 8th biggest national economy in the world and the 3rd biggest in the Euro zone after Germany and France. Although it holds the third-largest gold reserves in the world and enjoys a high living standard with comparatively low private debt and high technological innovation, Italy is currently considered to be the most vulnerable big economy threatened by the European debt crisis. Public debt reached 118% of GDP in 2011, and while Italy is considered as "too big to fail" there are fears that further loss of trust by the international money markets could trigger an unprecedented crisis.

This seminar discussion gives a concise overview of the current state of affairs in Italy, covering its debt and economic crises as well as their potential inflection with an ongoing social crisis in the country. In the age of media democracy, contextual political factors from social and cultural psychology to public representations and symbolic events are increasingly impacting Italian politics and economics in ambivalent ways.

**Roland Benedikter, Orfalea Center Visiting Research Scholar &
European Foundation Fellow, Stanford University**



Directions: The Orfalea Center is located in the detached ground-level wing of offices on the left just outside the main Ocean Road entrance to Robertson Gymnasium

**December 1, 2011
Thursday, 12pm
Orfalea Center Seminar Room
1005 Robertson Gym**
