

*Faculty Division of the Arts and Humanities
Presents:*

Mario Infelise

**Professor of Early Modern
Cultural History and History of
the Book, University of Venice
“Ca’ Foscari”**



Mario Infelise is professor of Early Modern Cultural History and History of the Book at the University of Venice “Ca’ Foscari”. His area of expertise is book printing and censorship from the Counter-Reformation through the age of the Enlightenment. His persuasive and provocative best-seller, *I libri proibiti: Da Gutenberg all’Encyclopédie* (2010), now in its tenth edition, explores the strict control over publishing and the mechanism of copyright and printing licenses in Italy between the fifteenth and the eighteenth century. His vast bibliography includes *L’editoria veneziana nel ‘700* (1989), *Prima dei giornali. Alle origini della pubblica informazione* (2002) and *Libri per tutti: Generi editoriali di larga circolazione tra antico regime ed età contemporanea* (2010). His research is currently centered on free thinking and libertinism in seventeenth-century Venice.

*Friday, 11 November 2011, 4:00 PM lecture,
reception to follow*

The Pyle Center, 702 Langdon Street

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Inquisition and Censorship: (Early) Modern Perspectives on the Humanities

The lecture will focus on print, censorship and free speech. Drawing from the most recent studies on the role of the Inquisition and censorship in the early modern period, Professor Infelise will illustrate the reasons that led European societies to exert control on book printing in the context of cultural cross currents and religious wars. Censorship was not simply a matter of prohibitions and condemnations, but a force that left profound effects within western societies. Forms of control over the instruments of communication are not archeological relics, as they reappear in different guises even now. Only through a thorough knowledge of this long period’s historical problems and their evolution can we understand that present-day democracy is the product of a quite fragile equilibrium rather than an indissoluble achievement.

The Hilldale Lecture is free and open to the public.