

The Wolfe Institute

*The Ethyle R. Wolfe Institute for the Humanities,
in cooperation with the Women's Studies Department and the Center for Italian American Studies,
presents*

Addiopizzo *Anti-Mafia Initiatives in Palermo*



“Signs of Civilization,” a photo by Sandro Scalia

Edoardo Zaffuto is a founding member and leading activist of Addiopizzo, a grass roots anti-mafia organization founded in Palermo Sicily. He was invited by the Clinton Library to speak on Addiopizzo and is travelling throughout the US promoting its agenda of critical consumption. Addiopizzo began in 2004 when five young people fresh out of the University of Palermo who wanted to open a bar realized they would be asked to pay a Mafia tithe, or pizzo. They decided instead to organize against this imposition. Frustrated with the Mafia's stranglehold on the local economy and political life, they peppered the city with stickers stating: “A WHOLE PEOPLE WHO PAYS THE PIZZO IS A PEOPLE WITHOUT DIGNITY.” Since these first stickers, Addiopizzo has established a new strategy to fight the mafia: critical shopping against the pizzo. The campaign aims to create a group of consumers in Palermo ready to support businesses who stand up to denounce extortion. Addiopizzo made headlines around the world when it launched a supermarket in Palermo that adheres to its core principles; Punto Pizzofree opening in March 2008.

Monday, May 18, 2009

4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Honors Classroom

2231 Boylan Hall

Refreshments will be served.

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