



**The Imagined Immigrant: The Images of Italian  
Emigration to the United States Between 1890 and  
1924 (The Fairleigh Dickinson University Press  
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*Ilaria Serra*

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# **The Imagined Immigrant: The Images of Italian Emigration to the United States Between 1890 and 1924 (The Fairleigh Dickinson University Press Series in Italian Studies)**

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Using original sources - such as newspaper articles, silent movies, letters, autobiographies, and interviews - Ilaria Serra depicts a large tapestry of images that accompanied mass Italian migration to the U.S. at the turn of the twentieth century. She chooses to translate the Italian concept of *immaginario* with the Latin *imago* that felicitously blends the double English translation of the word as 'imagery' and 'imaginary'. *Imago* is a complex knot of collective representations of the immigrant subject, a mental production that finds concrete expression; impalpable, yet real. The 'imagined immigrant' walks alongside the real one in flesh and rags.

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