Luca Somigli is Professor of Italian Studies at the University of Toronto. He has published extensively on various aspects of Italian and European modernism and avant-garde, including *Legitimizing the Artist. Manifesto Writing and European Modernism, 1885–1915* (2003; winner of the 2004 book award of the American Association for Italian Studies) and *Italian Modernism: Italian Culture between Decadentism and Avant-Garde*, edited with Mario Moroni (2004).

His research on contemporary narrative, and genre fiction in particular, includes numerous essays on Italian detective fiction, a monograph on Valerio Evangelisti, and the edited volume *Negli archivi e per le strade. Il ritorno alla realtà nella narrativa di inizio millennio* (2013).

In 1912, Futurism theorist and impresario Filippo Tommaso Marinetti organised a travelling exhibition of Futurist paintings featuring works by Umberto Boccioni, Carlo Carrà, Luigi Russolo and Gino Severini that touched several major European cities. When it made its second stop in London, the British press, forewarned by the reviews of the exhibition’s first mounting in Paris, welcomed what it dubbed the “anarchists of art” with the expected irony and scorn – a reception not unlike that of Roger Fry’s post-impressionist exhibit of 1910, which had introduced modernist art to British museum-goers. In my talk, I will discuss a number of cartoons that lampooned, in different ways, Futurist art and artists. I will argue that behind the façade of defending supposedly commonsensical notions or good taste and artistic propriety, these cartoons reveal a real anxiety about the potential impact of modernism upon mainstream British art.

*The Futurist Contagion: Newspaper Cartoons and the Reception of Futurism in England in 1912*

Monday, 6 July 2015
6.30pm
Flinders in the City
182 Victoria Square, Adelaide
Room 1, Level 1

**Abstract**

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**RSVP** kerry.ludwig@flinders.edu.au / 8201 2637 by Friday, 3 July

**Co-hosted by** The Dante Alighieri Society of SA

*Image above: Cartoon by W. K. Haselden. “How to Paint a Futurist Picture” (1912).*