

# **Intercultural Learning in the Italian Classroom: Novice Italian 1 Lab 1**

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**LABORATORIO INTERCULTURALE I  
ITAL 101  
UNIVERSITÀ DI PURDUE**

IMPORTANT NOTE ON GRADING LAB ICC 1: Lab ICC 1 is an experiential activity, which means that in order to get the maximum learning benefit from it, you must go through the entire experience, following every step. Because it is your individual learning experience that counts rather than the mastery of some external knowledge, this Lab ICC 1 is graded for COMPLETION only. This means that in order to receive full credit for this Lab, you must complete ALL the required steps in the order in which they are presented. Each step is worth a discrete number of points (see above). Please make sure you read the instructions carefully, so you do not skip any steps of the learning process. If you have any questions, please contact your instructor for further clarification.

**MI CHIAMO ...**

**MY NAME IS ...**

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# CURIOSITY

## CURIOSITÀ

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- ◆ the ability to ask complex questions about different cultures and to seek out complex answers



- ◆ viewing difference as a learning opportunity

# WHAT'S IN A NAME? CHE COSA C'È IN UN NOME?



## UNIVERSAL

- COME TI CHIAMO?
- MI CHIAMO ...
- TI PIACE IL TUO NOME?
- SÌ, MI PIACE PERCHÉ È ...
- NO, NON MI PIACE PERCHÉ È ...

BELLO – BRUTTO  
LUNGO – CORTO  
RARO – COMUNE  
STRANO



## PERSONAL

## CULTURAL



# NAMES ACROSS CULTURES

## NOMI ATTRAVERSO LE CULTURE

DID YOU KNOW THAT ...? LO SAPEVI CHE ...?

- Which naming practices do you find most/least surprising/strange/interesting/different from what you're accustomed to?

- What can a naming practice tell us about culture?

Cultural values      Power relations      Collectivism  
Individualism      Identity      Tradition      Equality  
Hierarchy      History      Religion

- What is the common practice in your culture?
- Do you have a personal story to illustrate this point?

- In some cultures, family name comes first and given name comes last; in other cultures, it is the reverse.

CHINA:

LIU (last/family name) JIANGUO (first/given name)

ITALIA:

ANNA (first/given name) MAGNANI (last/family name)

USA:

MICHAEL (first/given name) JORDAN (last/family name)



## DID YOU KNOW THAT ...?

### LO SAPEVI CHE ...?

- Which naming practices do you find most/least surprising/strange/interesting/different from what you're accustomed to?
- What can a naming practice tell us about culture?

Cultural values      Power relations  
Collectivism   Individualism   Identity  
Tradition      Equality      Hierarchy  
                    History      Religion

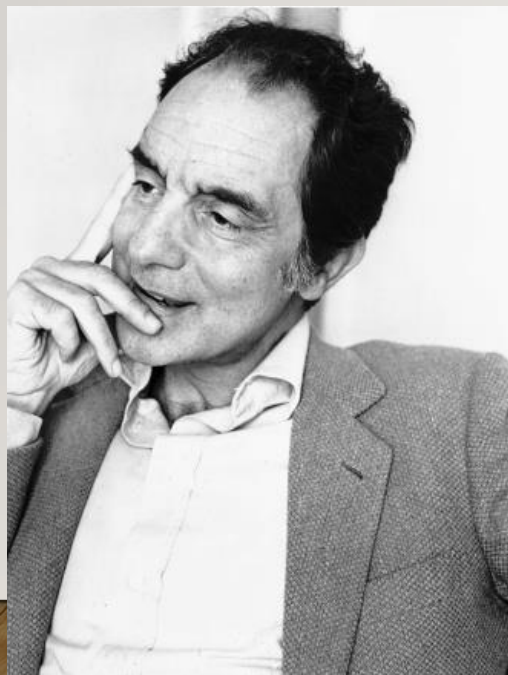
- What is the common practice in your culture?
- Do you have a personal story to illustrate this point?

- In some cultures, one's given name carries significance, representing the family's hope for the child, or signifying some characteristic of the individual.
- At Columbia University in 2017 non-Western name tags were ripped from dorm room doors during the Chinese Lunar New Year. Chinese students responded with this video titled "Say My Name"



MI CHIAMO ITALO CALVINO (1923-1985)

I am one of the most famous 20<sup>th</sup>-century Italian writers. I was born in Cuba of Italian parents. My Mom gave me this unusually patriotic name so I would not forget my Italian heritage. But, I ended up growing in Italy, where my name sounded “belligerently nationalist.”



MI CHIAMO ITALO SVEVO (1861 – 1928)

My real name is Aron Ettore Schmitz. I am an Italian novelist born in Trieste of Jewish German mother and Italian father. James Joyce was my buddy. I chose this pseudonym to celebrate my Italian (ITALO) and my German (SVEVO=SWABIAN) heritage.





# NAMES THAT CHANGE

## I NOMI CHE CAMBIANO

- During slavery in the US, African people were often forcefully renamed
- Some people change their name in order to claim agency: the name change can be a political act, aiming to protest the historical or religious inequalities and injustice
- In some cultures, women take their husband's family name upon marriage.

### In Italia:

Until 1975 → women have to take husband's name

After 1975 → the right to keep their last name or add the husband's

Giulia **Ferrari** + Silvano **Mancini** →  
Giulia Ferrari o Giulia Ferrari Mancini

- Which naming practices did you find most/ least surprising /strange/ interesting/ different from what you're accustomed to?

- What does naming practice tell us about culture?

Cultural values	Power relations	Collectivism
Individualism	Identity	Tradition
Hierarchy	History	Religion
	Acculturation	Equality
		Authority

- What is the common practice in your culture?

- Do you have a personal story to illustrate this point?



MI CHIAMO IGIABA SCEGO.  
I am a Somali-Italian writer.  
Here is the story of my name.



MI CHIAMO FRED KUDJO KUWORNU.  
I am a Ghanaian-Italian film director, producer, and activist.  
This is the story of my name.



- People who (im)migrate to a new country sometimes choose a new name for themselves
- In some Middle Eastern and African cultures, a name identifies the family, ethnic group, and/or tribal affiliation.



# NAMES ACROSS CULTURES

## NOMI ATTRAVERSO LE CULTURE

DID YOU KNOW THAT ...? LO SAPEVI CHE ...?

- Which naming practices do you find most/least surprising/strange/interesting/different from what you're accustomed to?
- What can a naming practice tell us about culture?

Cultural values    Power relations    Collectivism  
Individualism    Identity    Tradition    Equality  
Hierarchy    History    Religion

- What is the common practice in your culture?
- Do you have a personal story to illustrate this point?

- In Ireland, a family name will tell you the family's geographic and religious history.
- In some cultures (e e. .g., Ghana and Bali) the name indicates a child's gender, birth order, or day of the week he or she was born.
- In Germany there are some restrictions placed on child naming (names must indicate gender, they cannot be an object or a brand, they cannot be associated with evil, etc.)



Italiano 101 Fall 2018

# Laboratorio interculturale 1: I cognomi italiani

# Introduzione

- In Italia per identificare le persone ci sono due elementi:
  - il *nome*
  - il *cognome*
- Ad esempio:
  - Nome = Annalisa
  - Cognome = Mosca(nome istruttore)

## Da dove vengono i cognomi italiani?

- Le origini dei cognomi italiani sono molto interessanti e varie
- I cognomi possono derivare da tante cose.

# Derivazione / Origine

- *qualità fisica:*
  - Ricci perché una membro della famiglia aveva i capelli ricci.
  - Mancini, Bruni, Calvi o Calvino, Magri, DeGrassi, Biondi, Basso
- *carattere e personalità:* di un membro della famiglia era così con le persone
  - Bravi, Villani, Gentili, Cortesi, Sgarbi, Bruschina,





# Derivazione / Origine

- *professioni o ceto sociale:*
  - Barbieri perché un membro della famiglia era un barbiere
  - Soldati, Vescovi
  - Ferrari, Fornari, Muratore, Medici,
  - Principe, Marchesi



# Derivazione

- *provenienza geografica:*  
città, regione, paese o  
relativo alla natura
  - Romano perché la  
famiglia era di Roma
  - Fiorentini, Genovesi,  
Milanese
  - Lombardi, Toscano
  - Spagnoli, LaRussa
  - Della Valle, Delmonte,  
Collina, Prati



# Derivazione

- *nomi*: di un antico nome di un membro della famiglia, connesso a questa persona
  - Mattei = figlio di Matteo
  - DiLuigi = figlia di Luigi
  - DeGregori = parente di Gregorio
- *colori*: di un colore, anche modificato
  - Bianchini, Rossi, Rosselli, Neri, Negroni, DelVerde, Derossi, etc.
- *Soprannomi, occasioni o situazioni*:
  - Benvenuti, Diotatiuti, Bonaventura, Caccialuoi
  - DiGennaro, Maggi
  - Esposito, DegliEsposti

Nome membro famiglia

BIANCO		NERO		ROSSO		GIALLO	
VERDE		BLU		AZZURRO		VIOLA	
ARANCIONE		ROSA		MARRONE		GRIGIO	





# Ordine: Nome e Cognome


- Normalmente in italiano, il nome precede il cognome...
  - Ad esempio, "Mario Rossi" o "Annalisa Mosca" (**nome istruttore**)
- .. eccetto in contesti formali o per documenti quando il cognome precede il nome
  - Sulla carta d'identità, sul registro, nell'appello (*role call*), "Rossi, Mario"
- È anche normale chiamare una persona con il cognome
  - ad esempio "Rossi" invece di "Mario" in contesti come la classe, l'università, il lavoro, l'ospedale, etc.

# Donne, matrimonio e cognomi

- Fino al 1975, era necessario prendere il cognome del marito al momento del matrimonio.
- Dopo il 1975, hanno il diritto di tenere il proprio cognome, al quale, se vogliono, possono aggiungere quello del marito.
  - Es: se Giulia Ferrari sposa Silvano Mancini
    - adesso può chiamarsi o "Giulia Ferrari" o "Giulia Ferrari Mancini".





# Nota sui nomi (propri)

- Normalmente i nomi seguono le regole della lingua italiana (those you just learned!)
  - Carloo è un maschio/uomo e Carlaa è una femmina/donna
  - Paoloo e Paolaa, Alessandro e Alessandra, Franco e Franca, etc.
- I nomi che finiscono in "-e"  sono maschili:
  - Danielee, Emanuelee, Giuseppee che al femminile sono ...Daniela, Emanuela, Giuseppina.
- Ci sono nomi maschili che finiscono in "-a", come
  - Nicola che al femminile diventa Nicoletta.



# Altre note

- Sono molto comuni i nomi composti come
  - Gianpaolo, Gianmarco, Gianluca, Gianluigi e Annalisa, Annamaria, Annarita, Mariastella.  $N+N$
- Ci sono alcuni nomi problematici e non molto comuni per motivi storici e di uso comune.
  - Ad esempio non troverete bambini chiamati **Benito** o **Cristo** o **Gesù** e pochissimi chiamati **Dante**. 
- Infine, ci sono nomi che in italiano sono maschili ma in inglese sono femminili.
  - Ad esempio **Andrea** è sempre un uomo. 





# Nomi italiani comuni

QUALI SONO GLI EQUIVALENTI IN INGLESE?


maschili				femminili		
Alberto	Enrico	Luca		Alessandra	Elisabetta	Luisa
Antonio	Giorgio	Marco		Anna	Giovanna	Maria
Andrea	Giacomo	Matteo		Caterina	Giulia	Patrizia
Carlo	Giovanni	Riccardo		Cecilia	Ilaria	Susanna
Claudio	Giuseppe	Stefano		Chiara	Lucia	Teresa

Immagine: Tratto da Parliamo Italiano, ed. Wiley

SAI (DO YOU KNOW) ALTRI NOMI ITALIANI? E COGNOMI?

# References:

- **This activity has been adapted from:** Stringer, Donna M, and Patricia A. Cassidy. *52 Activities for Improving Cross-Cultural Communication*. Boston: Intercultural Press, 2009. pp.157-159. **This activity is a modification of an existing activity that can be found in Purdue HubICL:** <https://hubicl.org/toolbox/tools/51/downloads>
- **This activity has been a collaborative effort of Purdue Italian faculty and CILMAR specialists:** Tatjana Babic Williams, Brett Bogart, Giuseppina Grande, Dan Jones, Annalisa Mosca
- **“Naming Practices Across Cultures”** video was authored and recorded by Tatjana Babic Williams
- **“I cognomi italiani”** video was authored and recorded by Annalisa Mosca
- **Links to the videos:**

“Say My Name” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7C62wFXybl0>

“Black Sounding’ names and Their Surprising History” [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gjiGBpdmk\\_l&t=1s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gjiGBpdmk_l&t=1s)

“Igiaba Scego at New Your University” [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_lhQN8pTW-o&t=516s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_lhQN8pTW-o&t=516s)

“fred kuwornu orizzontale” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IAiZzfrQtXw&t=69s>

- **Photos:**

Italo Calvino <it.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Italo-Calvino.jpg>

Italo Svevo <https://www.inspirock.com/italy/trieste/statua-di-italo-svevo-a5389444141>

# References

- Calendar image: <https://www.filastrocche.it/contenuti/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/calendario-3-2-550.jpg>
- Colors image: <http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-6aUzgfRatCQ/TmVNSRgwhnI/AAAAAAAAAXY/vKio8nmPHIA/s1600/Coloriz.JPG>
- Italy map image (free preview size):  
[https://as2.ftcdn.net/jpg/01/77/89/01/500\\_F\\_177890133\\_22q6BTqz6tBJjvvlMQoRODigZX2RcwdV.jpg](https://as2.ftcdn.net/jpg/01/77/89/01/500_F_177890133_22q6BTqz6tBJjvvlMQoRODigZX2RcwdV.jpg)
- Italy word cloud (reference in image): [www.fotosearch.com](http://www.fotosearch.com)
- Nature image (names added by Annalisa Mosca):  
[https://png.pngtree.com/element\\_origin\\_min\\_pic/16/09/16/1357db7e09343a5.jpg](https://png.pngtree.com/element_origin_min_pic/16/09/16/1357db7e09343a5.jpg)
- Physical description image crops: by Alma edizioni on <http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-LLy3ctgziFI/U1v4bVJW4kI/AAAAAAAAAB7o/Ri24U3pe-Lk/s1600/UOMINI.jpg>
- Purdue Boilermaker image: <https://media-cdn.tripadvisor.com/media/photo-s/04/bb/db/b9/purdue-university.jpg>
- Names screenshot: from Parliamo Italiano Textbook, Wiley editions.
- All other images: available through Microsoft Clipart website at the time of use

## ITAL 101

### Lab IC 1 “Mi chiamo/My Name Is”

There are two tasks to complete:

**Task 1:** Brainstorm in writing about the questions below and post your answers to the discussion forum. (45 points)

**Task 2:** Read the answers by your group members and comment on their posts (15 points)

**Task 1:** For this task, we are asking that you reflect on your own name. Use any number of resources to accomplish this: Internet CANNOT be your only resource. Brainstorm in writing about the questions below and post your answers to the discussion forum. (45 points)

1. What are the origins of your given name and your family name?
2. How do you feel about your name? Why do you feel this way about your name?
3. Has your name ever changed? Who made the change? Why was the change made? What impact did your name change have on you? If not, have you thought about changing your name? If you could have chosen your name, what would it have been?
4. Have you ever been called a name (or a nickname) you didn't like? What impact did it have on you?
5. Say your employer insisted that you change your name (either to one commonly held by the other gender or to a name that you have a hard time identifying with) in order to keep your job, how might that feel? What might you do?
6. Which name would make you most uncomfortable and why?
7. How could you handle names of those you interact with every day in order to create an environment that feels respectful to everyone with whom you come in contact?
8. What was the most surprising or the most useful thing you learned from the video "Naming Practices Around the World and in Italy"?

**Task 2:** Read the answers by your group members and comment on their posts (15 points)

If you need some ideas for your comments, you may choose to address the following:

- What did you learn from your classmates' posts?
- What did you find interesting, curious, strange, etc.?
- Did you make any hypotheses about the culture based on the naming practices described by your classmates?
- What else would you like to know? Do you have any follow-up questions?



**MI CHIAMO ...**

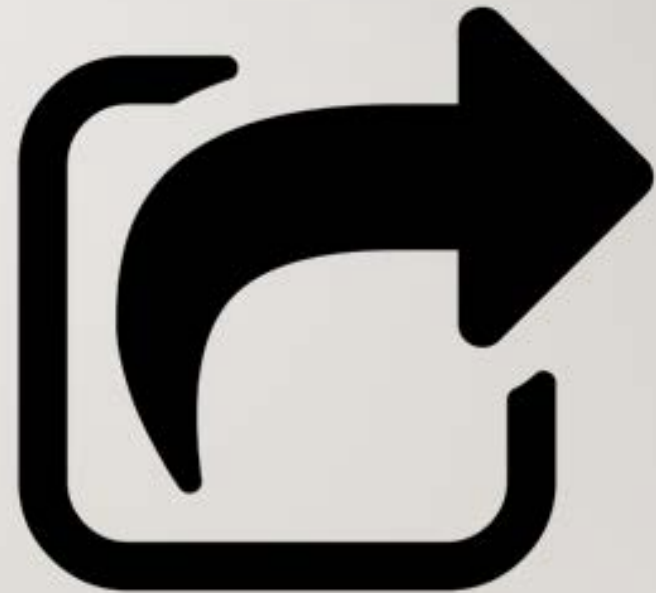
**MY NAME IS ...**

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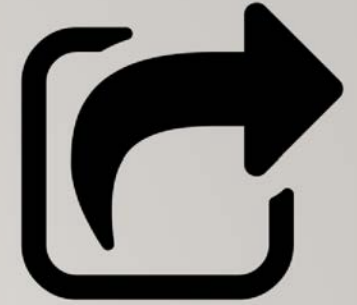
# **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION:** **TIME TO SHARE**

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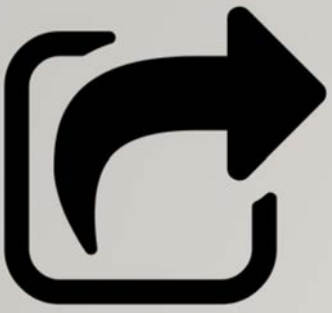
# HOW ABOUT YOUR NAME? E IL TUO NOME?

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- What are the **origins** of your name (both your given name and your family name)?
- How do you **feel** about your name? Why do you feel this way about your name?
- Has your name ever **changed**? Who made the change? Why was the change made? What **impact** did your name change have on you? **If not**, have you thought about changing your name? If you could have chosen your name, what would it have been?
- Have you ever been called a **name** (or a **nickname**) **you didn't like**? What impact did it have on you?





## HOW ABOUT YOUR NAME? E IL TUO NOME?

---

- Say your employer insisted that you **change your name** (either to one commonly held by the other gender or to a name that you have a hard time identifying with) in order to keep your job, how might that feel? What might you do?
- Which name would make you most **uncomfortable** and why?
- How could you handle names of those you interact with every day in order to create an **environment that feels respectful** to everyone with whom you come in contact?



# WHOLE CLASS DISCUSSION: **TIME TO DEBRIEF**

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People don't learn  
from experience. They  
learn from *reflecting*  
on their experience.

**John Dewey & Thiagi**

# LET'S TALK ABOUT IT: DEBRIEF & TAKEAWAYS

## PARLIAMONE: DISCUSSIONE & CONCLUSIONI

### CURIOSITY/CURIOSITÀ

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- What resources did you/could you use to gather information about the origin of your name?
- Did your small-group discussion generate any follow-up questions? Did you discover any new/creative/unusual/intriguing/surprising information or methods for gathering information? What are they?
- What feelings did these discussions evoke for you? Why?
- Did you form any hypotheses about why naming is done in certain ways in other cultures? If yes, how would you test these hypotheses?
- What were the ideas for creating a respectful environment?
- Has this activity as a whole prompted you to learn more or is this information sufficient for you?



# TAKEAWAYS CONCLUSIONI

## NAMES/NOMI

---

- Names are more important in some cultures than in others – and for some individuals than for others.
- Cultures assign the meaning of names and every individual gains some portion of their self-identity from their name based on that cultural assignment.
- Allowing others to make choices about what to be called – and how to be addressed – is one factor in being perceived as respectful in your communication.
- Specific tips for managing names include:
  - Learn to pronounce a person's name correctly.
  - Ask how people are addressed in their own language and when you should use a formal address, family name, or given names.
  - Ask people about their names – how they got them and how they pronounce them (and do not assume based on how someone looks that they are not U.S. born).
  - If a name has been “assigned” to make it easier for others to pronounce, asking about someone's “original” name and learning how to pronounce it may lead to a deeper conversation, and the ability to show greater respect by calling someone by the name they prefer.
  - Do not assign other people nicknames. If they have a nickname and enjoy using it, they will likely tell you as trust builds.
  - Do not use slang terms or pet names (such as *honey*, *dearie*, *bud*, and so on).

# WHAT DID YOU TAKE AWAY FROM THIS?

## REFLECTION ASSIGNMENT ON “MY NAME IS ...” ACTIVITY

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- **Goals:** This assignment is intended to help you process what you have learned in Intercultural Lab I, to give you an opportunity to deepen your reflection on what you’ve learned, and to help you increase your Intercultural Curiosity.
- **Instructions:** Complete the Reflection Assignment by the **DUE DATE**
- **Grading:** There is no right or wrong answer in this type of assignment. The credit for this assignment will be awarded according to the following criteria: Completion (thoroughness of your answers), Curiosity (complexity of questions you attempt to ask), and Effort (your effort in developing the skill).
- **Tips:** Aim to be detailed, thorough, honest, and insightful in your answers. Write in complete sentences. Aim to have at least 100 words for each question.



### Reflection Assignment Questions:

- What resources and strategies (other than the Internet) can you use to gather information about how your culture (and other cultures) practice naming or understand naming?
- If confronted by a name or naming practice unfamiliar to you, what would you do? Who would you ask for insight or where would you look for answers?
- Do you have any additional observations/insights on the topic of connection between curiosity and intercultural competence?

**Reflection assignment on Intercultural Lab 1: “My name is ...”**  
**Riflessione sul Laboratorio Interculturale I: “Mi chiamo”**

**Goals:** This assignment is intended to help you process what you have learned in Intercultural Lab I, to give you an opportunity to deepen your reflection on what you’ve learned, and to help you increase your Intercultural Curiosity.

**Instructions:** Complete the Reflection Assignment sheet (on Blackboard), and post it to Blackboard under “Diario Interculturale” by the **DUE DATE**

**Grading:** There is no right or wrong answer in this type of assignment. Credit for this assignment will be awarded according to the following criteria: Completion (thoroughness of your answers), Curiosity (complexity of questions you attempt to ask), and Effort (your effort in developing the skill).

**Tips:** Aim to be detailed, thorough, honest, and insightful in your answers. Write in complete sentences. Aim to have at least 100 words for each question.

Reflection Assignment Questions:

1. What resources and strategies (other than the Internet) can you use to gather information about how your culture (and other cultures) practice naming or understand naming?
2. If confronted by a name or naming practice unfamiliar to you, what would you do? Who would you ask for insight or where would you look for answers?
3. Do you have any additional observations/insights on the topic of connection between curiosity and intercultural competence?



# LAB IC 1 “MI CHIAMO / MY NAME IS”

POST-LAB INTEGRATION IDEAS



## POST-LAB INTEGRATION

- Revisiting IC Lab topic and skills
- Integrated extension questions

▪ **Say their name activity:** record yourself pronouncing the Italian names on this list (in Italian). **What Italian name did you find most interesting/ familiar/ unfamiliar/ difficult to pronounce and why?** (in English or Italian)

▪ **Guess their gender activity:** practice noun gender endings by turning female names into male and vice versa (Maria → Mario) **What is the common practice in your language/culture: are names usually only male/female, or can they be unisex?**

▪ **Guess their origin activity:** students work with a list of last names deriving from adjectives for color (Verdi), physical or personality trait (Bassi, Gentili), or a place (Milanese) and have to guess their origin and use them to qualify nouns (ex.: Bassi → from basso → la sedia è bassa) **What is the common practice in your language/culture: do names usually derive from adjectives? Examples?**

▪ **Video/written presentation of family:** as part of the assignment, comment on your family members' names and your last name (it can be an invented family)

▪ **"What's in a name" activity:** with instructor's help, students skim the newspaper article about the Italian court ordering a family to choose a gender-specific name for their daughter. **In discussion forum, students express and exchange their feelings and opinions on the topic.**

**Chiamano la figlia Blu, genitori convocati dal Tribunale: "E' un nome unisex, va cambiato"**

TODAY

## Chiamano la figlia Blu, genitori convocati dal Tribunale: "E' un nome unisex, va cambiato"

"Il nome imposto al bambino deve corrispondere al sesso", dice il giudice. Un anno e mezzo dopo la nascita della piccola, i genitori Luca e Vittoria dovranno convincere il tribunale che la loro bambina ha già un nome e va benissimo così

Redazione

22 maggio 2018 11:47



**Una coppia ha deciso di chiamare la propria figlia Blu.** Un anno e mezzo dopo i due sono stati convocati dalla Procura della Repubblica di Milano per rettificare l'atto di nascita della piccola, **perché "il nome imposto al bambino deve corrispondere al sesso"**.

A raccontarlo al quotidiano *Il Giorno* sono i genitori della bambina, che hanno ricevuto una lettera di convocazione da parte del Tribunale, che si rifà all'articolo 35 del Dpr 396/2000:

*Considerato che si tratta di nome moderno legato al termine inglese Blue, ossia il colore Blu, e che non può ritenersi attribuibile in modo inequivoco a persona di sesso femminile, l'atto di nascita deve essere rettificato, anteponendo altro nome onomastico femminile che potrà essere indicato dai genitori nel corso del giudizio*

Se i genitori non si presenteranno, **sarà il giudice a decidere quale nome dare alla bambina.** Ma Luca e Vittoria andranno al giudice e, statistiche alla mano, proveranno a convincere il tribunale.

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