



ASMI-SISSCO WORKSHOP 2025

The Transnational Making of Italy: Methods, Opportunities and Challenges

University of Florence – European University Institute, 25-26 June 2025

Call for papers:

The history and the histories of modern and contemporary Italy cannot be fully understood without acknowledging the fundamental role that transnational political, social and cultural dynamics have played in the nation-building process and in the definition of its national and local identities. From the *Risorgimento* to mass migrations, from colonialism to the management of refugees, minorities and enclaves, from intellectual networks to the circulation of political and cultural ideas and imaginaries, the construction of “Italianness” (*italianità*) has been, and still is, the result of a complex interplay of external and internal influences. Drawing from these considerations, this workshop intends to investigate, from a theoretical and methodological perspective, the critical historiographical tools for analysing how transnational processes have shaped Italy and its political and social cultures, particularly—though not exclusively—in relation to the Anglo-Saxon world.

The workshop will take a seminar format, with a specific focus on exploring the methodologies and historiographical challenges that studying the transnational construction of Italian identity entails. In this context, discussions will centre on the effectiveness of research strategies, both conventional and unconventional historical sources, and the analytical techniques that can reveal the transnational connections and influences that have shaped Italian history. The primary aim is to create a shared space for reflection, where scholars from various historical and cultural disciplines can engage and collaborate on how best to address the complexities of Italy’s transnational construction. Through interactive sessions and in-depth discussions, participants will be invited to contribute to the identification of new historiographical and analytical paradigms to address the challenges posed by an increasingly globalised and interconnected world.

The workshop **The Transnational Making of Italy: Methods, Opportunities and Challenges** will be preceded by a series of online events (to be held in spring 2025) where scholars will present readings, interpretations, and developments on the subject.

Possible themes and areas of inquiry

- *The transnational construction of Italian identity.* Analysis of the way Italian identity has been constructed by means of interaction with other cultures, politics and societies. How have migratory movements, diplomatic relations, cultural exchanges, intellectual networks, enclaves and communities contributed to shaping the very idea of *Italianness*?
- *Innovative methodologies and historiographical challenges.* Discussion of the methodologies required to study transnational processes and phenomena. Which theoretical and methodological tools are most effective to capture the complexity of transnational networks? How can we overcome the limitations of traditional comparison to adopt approaches that emphasise interconnection and mutual influence?
- *Circulations, networks and hubs.* Analysis of the dynamics of the circulation of ideas, people and cultures that have traversed Italy. This entails a focus on how these transnational networks have influenced the formation of political and linguistic enclaves, and how transnational institutions have contributed to defining Italian identity. Research into political, identity-based, linguistic, migratory, and media cultures will be central to this discussion.
- *Beyond 'classical' comparison.* Overcome the limitations of traditional comparison is essential for a deeper understanding of transnational dynamics. This workshop will encourage approaches that go beyond simple comparisons between nations, focusing instead on the complex and dynamic interactions between Italy and other national and supranational entities. What are the advantages and challenges of these approaches? How can we rethink the concepts of nation and identity from a truly transnational perspective?

Submission

Proposals may be submitted in Italian or English and should consist of an abstract of no more than 300 words, accompanied by a short biography of the author (maximum 100 words). All proposals must be submitted by **10 January 2025** to sissoasmicomitato@gmail.com. Proponents will be notified by **31 January** if their abstract has been accepted. The final written version of selected papers should be submitted to the organisers by **10 June 2025** to allow for circulation among the discussants.

Language:

The working languages of the workshop are English and Italian. As such, participants are expected to have at least a basic proficiency in both languages.

Costs:

Accommodation costs, as well as the social dinner on the evening of 25 June, will be covered by the organising committee.

For any queries, please contact us at: sissoasmicomitato@gmail.com

Scientific Committee: Nicola Cacciatore, Valeria Galimi, Ester Lo Biundo, Gianmarco Mancosu, Rossella Merlino, Alessandro Santagata.

The event is organised in collaboration with the Department of History, Archeology, Geography, Fine and Performing Arts (SAGAS), University of Florence, and the Department of History, European University Institute (EUI).



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