International Conference

A History of Early Modern Communication: German and Italian Historiographical Perspectives

Trento, 6th - 7th December 2018
**Front page image:**
Pieter Brueghel the Younger, The tax-collector’s office, oil on panel, circa 1615 (Adelaide, Art Gallery of South Australia)

**Internal pages image:**
Giuseppe Maria Mitelli, Newspaper vendor warning of war, engraving on paper, circa 1659 (Milano, Castello Sforzesco, Civica Raccolta delle Stampe Achille Bertarelli)
What is the history of communication? This conference aims to approach and discuss possible answers to this question, focusing on early modern Europe (1400-1800). While being a forum for discussing recent and on-going research on this broad topic, the conference highlights especially approaches and trends within German and Italian historiography.

Although there is as yet no chair for the history of communication either in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, or Italy (‘Storia della comunicazione’ – ‚Kommunikationsgeschichte’), communication history is a well-established field of research within Italian and German historiography. In fact, an early modern history of communication remains to be written: the scope and limits of a communicational approach to historiography are still unclear and under-theorized.

Some aspects of communication history have been addressed fruitfully, both on an empirical and theoretical level. These components derive from different historiographical backgrounds and schools of thought, for example ranging from narrow perspectives on certain forms of media only (e.g. on speeches, newspapers or books) to wider examinations into the intermediality of the communication landscape, or from the ‘public’ dimension of certain acts of communication to the accompanying non-public or clandestine aspects.

By adopting a wide understanding of ‘communication’ this conference sets out to evaluate the scope, concepts, and approaches of an inclusive history of (early modern) communication.

The event is funded by the “Institute for the Study of the Book” at Friedrich-Alexander-University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, the “Freundeskreis der Erlanger Buchwissenschaft”, and by the FBK-Istituto storico italo-germanico.

**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**

*Daniel Bellingradt*
University of Erlangen-Nuremberg

*Massimo Rospocher*
Italian-German Historical Institute, FBK
Introduction

15.00  Welcoming Remarks
Christoph Cornelißen, FBK-ISIG - University of Frankfurt a.M.

What is the History of Communication?
Daniel Bellingradt, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg
Massimo Rospocher, FBK-ISIG

Approaches

15.30  Public Sphere in the Making in Early Modern Europe
Rudolf Schlögl, University of Constance

Information and Communication in Early Modern Europe:
from National Historiographies to a European Model
Mario Infelise, University of Venice
Intermediality of Communication
Comments by Jan-Friedrich Mißfelder, University of Zurich

9.30 News on the French Wars of Religion. An Intermedial Perspective
Alexandra Schäfer-Griebel, The Leibniz Institute of European History (IEG)

A Linguistic Perspective on Intermediality in Early Modern Italy. The Regno, 1450-1700
Chiara De Caprio, University of Naples

Speaking of Print: Oral Informants on the Marketplace of News
Carla Roth, University of Basel

Shaping Religious Literacies in the Long Fifteenth Century: Intermediality of Communication
Sabrina Corbellini, University of Groningen

13.00 Lunch break

Communication as Information Acquisition
Comments by Matthias Pohlig, Humboldt University Berlin

14.30 From Street to Paper? Language, Translation and Communication in Late Renaissance German and Italian Newsletters
Paola Molino, University of Padua

The Republic of Venice and the German Princes as Military Allies: A German-Italian History of Communication in Times of War (17th and 18th century)
Andreas Flurschütz da Cruz, University of Bamberg
Communication and Emergency: Information Gathering in Times of Crisis in the Early Modern Period
Davide Boerio, University of Cork-Teramo

‘Tutto serve a sapere’: Gathering, Ordering and Using Information in Diplomatic Communication (Italy, 1350-1520 ca.)
Isabella Lazzarini, University of Molise

17.30 Roundtable
Chair Heiko Droste, Stockholm University