



# TURNING POINTS

“Turns” in Recent Historiography

**14-16 December 2023**  
**Fondazione Bruno Kessler**  
**Via S. Croce 77, Trento**

**Programme**



# CONFERENCE

The conference reflects on the meaning of a series of recent historiographical turns and on their impact on our interpretation of the past.

Are they signs of a highly fertile moment of historical innovation and critique? Or are they just a sign of crisis within historical studies and (more in general) within the humanities and social sciences? What are the relationships between them? How do they influence/react/relate to each other? Highlighting and historicizing some of the more recent historiographical turns, the aim of the conference is to reflect on the meaning of turns and on their impact on our knowledge and interpretation of the past.

In particular, the conference will focus on the Spatial Turn, Global Turn, Mobility Turn, Material Turn, Visual Turn, Biographical Turn, Animal Turn, Environmental Turn, Digital Turn, Archival Turn, Gender Turn, and Emotional Turn.

## *Organizing Committee*

Maurizio Cau, Fondazione Bruno Kessler-ISIG

Christoph Cornelissen, University of Frankfurt

Gabriele D'Ottavio, Università di Trento

Massimo Rospoche, Fondazione Bruno Kessler-ISIG

Sandra Toffolo, Fondazione Bruno Kessler-ISIG

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**ALMA MATER STUDIORUM  
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA**



# PROGRAMME

14.12.2023

Fondazione B. Kessler  
Via S. Croce 77  
Trento

14.30

## Introduction

*Massimo Rospocher*, FBK-ISIG

*Sandra Toffolo*, FBK-ISIG

*Gabriele D'Ottavio*, Università di Trento

15:00

## The Spatial Turn and its Impact on the Narration of Historical Times: A Critical Review

*Susanne Rau*, University of Erfurt

### DISCUSSANT

*Fabrizio Nevola*, University of Exeter

16:00

## The Global Turn: Two or Three Things That I Know About It

*Giuseppe Marcocci*, University of Oxford

### DISCUSSANT

*Alberto Masoero*, Università di Torino

17:00

Break

17:30

## The Mobility Turn: Nomads and Natives: Exploring Mobility and Migration in the Past

*Rosa Salzberg*, Università di Trento

### DISCUSSANT

*Tania Rossetto*, Università di Padova

**15.12.2023**

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**9.30**

**Material Turns: The Materiality of Global Connections and Mobility**

*Anne Gerritsen, University of Warwick*

**DISCUSSANT**

*Carlotta Sorba, Università di Padova*

**10:30**

**The Visual Turn: A Long Farewell to Historicist Text Fetishism**

*Annette Vowinckel, Centre for Contemporary History Potsdam*

**DISCUSSANT**

*Maurizio Cau, FBK-ISIG*

11:30

Break

**12:00**

**Biographical Turn or Rediscovery of an Older Form? Explanations for the Phenomenal Surge of Historical Biographies since the 1990s**

*Christoph Cornelissen, University of Frankfurt*

**DISCUSSANT**

*Ilaria Porciani, Università di Bologna*

13:00

Break

- 14:30**      **The Animal Turn: Agency, Activism, and the Anthropocene**  
*Karen Jones, University of Kent*
- DISCUSSANT**  
*Giulia Guazzaloca, Università di Bologna*
- 15:30**      **Three Environmental Turns: The Environment, Climate Change, and the Anthropocene as Alternative Frameworks for History**  
*Julia Thomas, University of Notre Dame*
- DISCUSSANT**  
*Giacomo Bonan, Università di Torino*
- 16:30      Break
- 17:00**      **The Digital Turn: Historians as Critical Arbiters of the Flood of Data That Surrounds Us**  
*Jo Guldi, Southern Methodist University*
- DISCUSSANT**  
*Angela Dressen, Villa I Tatti, Harvard University*

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**9:30**      **The Archival Turn: Back to Basics or New Deal?**  
*Olivier Poncet, École nationale des chartes*

**DISCUSSANT**  
*Katia Occhi, FBK-ISIG*

**10:30**      **The Gender Turn: Empowering Histories  
of Women and Intersectional Critiques  
of Cis-Hetero-Patriarchy**  
*Benno Bastian Gammerl, European University  
Institute*

**DISCUSSANT**  
*Fernanda Alfieri, Università di Bologna*

11:30      Break

**12:00**      **The Emotional Turn: On Histories of Mentality,  
Experience, and Feeling (with Some Thoughts  
on the Problem of Sources)**  
*Kerstin Maria Pahl, Max Planck Institute for  
Human Development, Berlin*

**DISCUSSANT**  
*Alessandro Arcangeli, Università di Verona*

**13:00**      **Final discussion**











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