

LXVI Study Week

HISTORIANS & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



ITALIAN-GERMAN
HISTORICAL INSTITUTE

FONDAZIONE
BRUNO KESSLER

SEPTEMBER 3-5, 2025

Trento - Italy

Partners



Patronage



With the contribution of



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How can civic engagement be combined with the historian's craft? To what extent did the historical context and intellectual experiences of European historians who lived through the Second World War influence their historiographical path? What political and cultural impact of the profession of historian can we see in the civilized society that has just emerged from the Second World War, and how has the role of historians changed in the 20th and 21st centuries in Europe?

On the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe and the liberation of the occupied European countries from Nazi-fascism, the ISIG LXVI Study Week 2025 will focus on two levels of analysis: First, with the historiographical debate in Europe since 1945 and, second, with the question of how this can be examined in the light of the different experiences of historians in their civic and political engagement activities in national and international civil society. Various activities that characterize the profession of historian will be considered, such as: participation in politics; participation in historical commissions; the founding of historical institutes; networking in an international environment; participation in publishing endeavors; participation in public debates; social and political activism (feminism, decolonization, environment, human rights, LGBTIQ+).

The aim is to trace the history of historiography not only on the basis of the academic production of historians, but also taking into account their historical and political contexts of reference and education.

The study week is an opportunity to reflect on the role of historians today, on the influence they have in national and international public life and on the network of intellectual relationships in which they are also integrated outside academic institutions.

During the Week it will be possible to visit a Documentary Exhibition on Enzo Collotti and his work as a historian.

Organizing Committee

Gabriele D'Ottavio
Università di Trento

Laura Di Fabio
Biblioteca FBK

Lutz Klinkhammer
DHI Rom

Cecilia Nubola
FBK-ISIG

Camilla Tenaglia
FBK-ISIG

10.00 Introduction

Laura Di Fabio, Biblioteca FBK
 Cecilia Nubola, FBK-Istituto Storico Italo-Germanico
 Camilla Tenaglia, FBK-Istituto Storico Italo-Germanico

10.30 Historians and Civic Engagement Between the Caesuras of Time

CHAIRS Simon Edwards (University of Sussex)
 Sofia Miola (Università di Pavia)

Assessing Historians' Social Role in Twentieth-Century Italy

Margherita Angelini (Università degli Studi di Enna "Kore")

Historians as Public Intellectuals in Germany from the Nineteenth Century to the Present Day

Stefan Berger (Ruhr-Universität Bochum)

Partisans and War Games: Academic Self-Delusions and the Future of History

Benjamin Zachariah (Einstein Forum, Potsdam)

12.30 Lunch break

14.00 Historians in the Post-World War II Transition Between Continuity and Ruptures

CHAIR Freddie Scott Cracknell (Universidad Complutense Madrid)
 Federica Schiaffino (Scuola Normale Superiore)

The Experience of Germany's Defeat in 1945 and the Search for a New Historiography

Christoph Cornelissen (Goethe Universität Frankfurt)

Making History for and Against a Dictatorship. The Spanish Case

Nicolas Sesma (Université Grenoble Alpes and École des hautes études hispaniques et ibériques)

Post-war Yugoslav Historiography Between Continuity and Discontinuity. The Slovenian Case.
 Marta Verginella (Università di Lubiana)

European Historians Between Exile and the Construction of Democracy: The Case of Gaetano Salvemini

Renato Camurri (Università di Verona)

18.30 ISIG Grant Recipient Presentation

9.30 **The Commitment of Historians in the Institutions: Justice and Historiography (1945-1989)**

CHAIR Inês de Sá (FBK-ISIG)
Simone Guerzoni (Leeds Beckett University)

History and Politics of Spanish Democratization: from Social Mobilisation to "Liberty" Commemoration (2008-2025)
Giulia Quaggio (Universidad Complutense Madrid)

Historians, a Commitment to Justice?
Cecilia Nubola (FBK-ISIG)

The Politics in Writing the History of the Italian Resistance
Nicola Labanca (Università di Siena) -

The Commitment of Historians in Judicial Inquiries and in Front of the Tribunals
Lutz Klinkhammer (Deutsches Historisches Institut in Rom)

12.30 Lunch break

14.00 **The Civic Engagement of Historians. International Networks, Political Participation and Social Activism**

CHAIR Rosa-Lena Lange (European University Institute)
Elena Serina (Scuola Superiore Meridionale)

Distance Configuration in Politically Engaged Historiography: Towards a Hermeneutic Framework
Bowen Ran (Erasmus University Rotterdam)

Feminism and the Value of History (1960s-2000s)
Raffaella Sarti (Università di Urbino Carlo Bo) -

A Sin of Youth or a Badge of Honor? Environmental Activism in Environmental History
Marco Armiero (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and Institut de Recerca i Estudis Avançats)

The Historian's Conscience: Ideas of Europe and Public Engagement, 1943-1960
Matthew D'Auria (University of East Anglia)

Studying Colonialism as Social Activism: The Public Role of Italian Historians between the 20th and 21st Centuries
Valeria Deplano (Università di Cagliari)

18.00 **Gli storici e le storiche oggi (in Italian)**

La biblioteca e l'archivio di Enzo Collotti donate a ISIG
Francesco Collotti
Massimo Rospocher

Tavola rotonda
CHAIR Massimo Rospocher, FBK-Istituto Storico Italo-Germanico

Marco Armiero (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and Institut de Recerca i Estudis Avançats)
Giorgio Caravale (Università Roma Tre)
Marco De Nicolò (Università di Cassino)
Filippo Focardi (Università di Padova)
Raffaella Sarti (Università di Urbino Carlo Bo)

9.30 How to Study Historians

CHAIR Leonardo Costadura (Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena)
Helen Williams (University of East Anglia)

Civic Engagement Between Historiography and Politics in the Library and Personal Archive of Historian Enzo Collotti

Laura Di Fabio (Biblioteca FBK)

From Parallel Paths to Diverging Engagements: Enzo Collotti, Leo Valiani, and the Evolution of Italian Historiographical Activism

Camilla Tenaglia (FBK-ISIG)

Either as an Ogre or as a Bullfighter. Studying Pavone Through Pavone

Agostino Bistarelli (Associazione Italiana di Public History)

Tectonic Changes, Moral Abysses and Political Instrumentalization. On Writing an Biography of Theodor Schieder

Christoph Nonn (Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf)

Different but Entwined Paths: Reimagining Collective Biography

Mikko Immanen (University of Helsinki)

13.00 Conclusions

Angelini Margherita
Università degli Studi di Enna "Kore"

Armiero Marco
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and Institució Catalana de Recerca i Estudis Avançats

Berger Stefan
Ruhr-Universität Bochum

Bistarelli Agostino
Associazione Italiana di Public History

Camurri Renato
Università di Verona

Caravale Giorgio
Università di Roma Tre

Cornelissen Christoph
Goethe Universität Frankfurt

D'Auria Matthew
University of East Anglia

De Nicolò Marco
Università di Cassino

Deplano Valeria
Università di Cagliari

Di Fabio Laura
Biblioteca FBK

Focardi Filippo
Università di Padova

Immanen Mikko
University of Helsinki

Klinkhammer Lutz
Deutsches Historisches Institut in Rom

Labanca Nicola
Università di Siena

Nonn Christoph
Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf

Nubola Cecilia
FBK-ISIG

Quaggio Giulia
Universidad Complutense Madrid

Ran Bowen
Erasmus University Rotterdam

Sarti Raffaella
Università di Urbino Carlo Bo

Sesma Nicolas
Université Grenoble Alpes and École des hautes études
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Tenaglia Camilla
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Verginella Marta
Università di Lubiana

Zachariah Benjamin
Einstein Forum, Potsdam

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Freddie Scott Cracknell
Universidad Complutense Madrid

Simon Edwards
University of Sussex PGR

Simone Guerzoni
Leeds Beckett University

Rosa-Lena Lange
European University Institute

Sofia Miola
Università di Pavia

Francesco Mocellin
Independent scholar

Federica Schiaffino
Scuola Normale Superiore

Elena Serina
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Helen Williams
University of East Anglia



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How to reach us

On foot

It takes less than 15 minutes to walk from the train station. Ask for via Santa Croce or for Centro Santa Chiara, a well known structure hosting an auditorium for cultural events.

By taxi

Taxi service is right outside the Railway station (Tel. +39 0461 235383) or Radio Taxi service (Tel. +39 0461 930002).

By bus

Trento has a very good transport system, with more than 17 city routes. All routes pass close to the train station, leaving every 15 to 30 minutes from about 5 a.m. to about 10 p.m. Tickets (€ 1.20) must be purchased at a tobacconist or a newspaper shop before boarding the bus and must be validated after getting on the bus. There are lots of buses that go to our head offices (President's office, Religious Studies, Italian-German Historical Institute, and FBK's humanities libraries). The most frequent are the 3 and 8, but any bus that stops at Piazza Fiera will work. When you get off, walk in the opposite direction of the old city wall.

Fondazione Bruno Kessler (FBK)

FBK is a research institute specializing in the fields of technology, innovation, humanities and social sciences, based in Trento.

Established by law by the Autonomous Province of Trento, FBK is a private entity whose mission is to promote and contribute to the advancement of knowledge with a focus on the fields of science and technology that allow for greater and faster economic and social benefits.

Active since 2007, FBK takes up the legacy of the Istituto Trentino di Cultura, founded in 1962 by Bruno Kessler. It is a research infrastructure that from the year of its establishment to the present has grown to accommodate a staff of more than 600 researchers and support staff, 170 PhDs, 200 visiting professors and doctoral candidates, and 700 affiliates and accredited students.

There are more than 70 foreign researchers at FBK and they come not only from major European countries but also from non-European countries such as the United States, China and India, Brazil and Argentina, Algeria, Iran, Pakistan, Australia and Russia.

The Italian-German Historical Institute (ISIG)

ISIG is a research centre that promotes study in modern and contemporary history, with particular emphasis on the Italian and German area.

The research team includes permanent researchers, collaborators and fellows, who develop projects in collaboration with other institutions and conduct individual studies in political, religious, social, cultural, legal, economic, media and communication history. The activities promoted by the centre maintain a constant dialogue with the most recent international historiographic trends.

ISIG has one of the most comprehensive specialized libraries for Italian-German historical studies and publish their own research in collaboration with prestigious publishing houses (Il Mulino, De Gruyter). They publish the "Annals of the Italian-German Historical Institute in Trento", an ANVUR category "A" periodical that compiles papers from Italian and foreign scholars on the most important ongoing themes in international historiography, and the "ARO - Annali_Reviews_Online", a freely consultable online periodical of reviews dedicated to research in the Italo-Germanic area.

In line with the aims of all the FBK Research Centres, the Institute pays particular attention to innovative scientific research practices with extensive bestowal of results to the community.



ISIG.FBK.EU