



Mathew Carey, Map of the World, Library of Congress Geography and Map Division, Washington D.C., 1795, 25x50.

GLOBAL HISTORY AND GOVERNANCE 2025-2026 PHD WORKSHOP

JUNE 16

Via Mezzocannone 4,
Aula Magna. SSM

JUNE 17, 18

Largo San Marcellino
9, Room 2. SSM

Naples

INSTITUTIONAL GREETINGS

Prof. Arturo de Vivo
Representative Scuola Superiore Meridionale
Prof. Daniela Luigia Caglioti
Global History and Governance Doctoral Programme Coordinator

JUNE 16

**Via Mezzocannone 4, Aula Magna
Panel I**

Chair: Prof. Ettore Costa

14:15-15:00

Alessia Orlandi - Crossing Oceans and Navigating Identities: Migrations, Status and Reparations During the Age of Revolutions. The Case of French Colons from Saint-Domingue in a Transatlantic Perspective Between France and the U.S. (1789-ca. 1830)

Discussant: Prof. Nathalie Dessens (University of Toulouse)

15:00-15:45

Mario Migliaccio - Championing "la France Nouvelle" in the European Revolutionary Context: Thinking of Nations and of the Representative Government in a Time of Reaction (1819-1823)

Discussant: Prof. Matthew D'Auria (University of East Anglia)

15:45-16:30

Dario Laborano - Barriers Against Germans. German Capital and German Identities in the Economic Transformation Processes of Poland and Lithuania (1920-1933)

Discussant: Dr. Cristiano La Lumia (Scuola Superiore Meridionale)

COFFEE BREAK (16:30-17:00)

Panel II

Chair: Athanasios Angelopoulos

17:00-17:45

Adrian Jesús Cabrera Bibilonia - The Vice of a Race. The Moralization of Opium Consumption and Anti-Chinese Discourse in Cuba (1847-1898)

Discussant: Dr. Daniel-Joseph MacArthur-Seal (Scuola Superiore Meridionale)

17:45-18:30

Claudio Stumpf - Performing Expertise. Mary Carpenter and Bertha von Marenholtz-Bülow Lecturing at Expert Congresses (1857-1876)

Discussant: Prof. Anne-Julia Zwierlein (University of Regensburg)

JUNE 17

Largo San Marcellino 9, Room 2

Panel III

Chair: Dr. Daniel F. Banks

9:00-9:45

Pavel Demchenko - Stadtrecht and Imperial Rights: Debates on the Commercial Rights in the Imperial Commission (1767-1768)

Discussant: Prof. Leos Müller (University of Stockholm)

9:45-10:30

Daniele Colonnetti - Inventing the Indigenous Idolater: The Chichimeca (New Galicia, 1529-1556)

Discussant: Prof. Christophe Giudicielli (Sorbonne University)

10:30-11:15

Guido Precchia - Precarious Li(v)es: The Neapolitan Exiles of the "Masaniello Revolt" in the Struggle Between French and Spanish Monarchies (1648-1678)

Discussant: Prof. Heloïse Hermant (Sorbonne University)

COFFEE BREAK (11:15-11:45)

Panel IV

Chair: Giulio Piumelli

11:45-12:30

Athanasios Angelopoulos - The Socialist Historicization of Colonialism During the Second International

Discussant: Prof. Tommaso Giordani (Ca' Foscari, University of Venice)

12:30-13:15

Tommaso Rossetto - Projecting Culture, Performing Statehood. The Chinese Cultural Renaissance Movement and Its Overseas Branch Network (1966-1972)

Discussant: Prof. Bi-Yu Chang (SOAS, University of London)

LUNCH BREAK (13:15-14:15)

Panel V

Chair: Dr. Daniel-Joseph MacArthur-Seal

14:15-15:00

Lukman Jibril Saeed - Coerced Work, Macroprocesses and (Micro)realities: The Labour Problem in Infrastructural Development in Northern Nigeria (1914-1939)

Discussant: Prof. Enrique Martino (Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia)

15:00-15:45

Arianna Boccamaiello - "Italians Lost the War Miserably, but Won the Peace Gloriously," the Economical, Political and Cultural Role of Italians in Postcolonial Eritrea (1941-1974)

Discussant: Prof. Pierluigi Valsecchi (Scuola Superiore Meridionale - University of Pavia)

15:45-16:30

Maria Bovolon - The Making of a Geneticist: Guido Pontecorvo's Early Career in Great Britain (1938-1946)

Discussant: Prof. Simone Turchetti (University of Manchester)

COFFEE BREAK (16:30-17:00)

Panel VI

Chair: Claudio Stumpf

17:00-17:45

Martina Ricci - Remaking Memory Landscapes: Museums and the Politics of Heritage in the Post-Yugoslav Successor States

Discussant: Prof. Dacia Viejo-Rose (University of Cambridge)

17:45-18:30

Deni Dagalev - Legible Ecologies: Power, Profit, and Property in Yugoslav Forest Governance (1918-1939)

Discussant: Prof. Iva Lucic (University of Stockholm)

**CONFERENCE DINNER (20:30)
JUNE 18**

Largo San Marcellino 9, Room 2

Panel VII

Chair: Claudio Stumpf

9:00-9:45

Pietro Graziano - Legal Issues Behind Liberalities to Museums: Actors, Relevant Laws and Outline of the First Case Studies

Discussant: Prof. Andrzej Jakubowski (Institute of Law Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences)

9:45-10:30

Marta Pecchioli - Non-Regression as a General Legal Concept and Its Potential Extension to Environmental Law

Discussant: Prof. Vinicio Brigante (University of Naples Federico II)

COFFEE BREAK (10:30-11:00)

Panel VIII

Chair: Adrian J. Cabrera Bibilonia

11:30-12:15

Fulvia Dellavedova - A Partisan Church: U.S. Catholic

Neoconservatives Between Just War Theory and Political Engagement

Discussant: Prof. Valentina Ciciliot (Ca' Foscari, University of Venice)

12:15-13:00

Giulio Piumelli - A Non-Strategy: U.S. Treasury, the IMF, and the Making of the Debt Crisis Response (1979-1983)

Discussant: Prof. Federico Romero (European University Institute)

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Athanasios Angelopoulos, Adrian J. Cabrera Bibilonia,
Giulio Piumelli, Claudio Stumpf

BOOKLET

Alessia Orlandi

38° Cycle

Title: Crossing Oceans and Navigating Identities: Migrations, Status and Reparations During the Age of Revolutions. The Case of French Colons from Saint-Domingue in a Transatlantic Perspective Between France and the U.S. (1789-ca. 1830)

Abstract: This thesis examines the trajectories of displaced French colons from Saint-Domingue between the onset of the Revolution in the island and the indemnity of 1825. It argues that the loss of the colony did not simply produce a material problem of expropriation, but generated a long-term struggle over the meaning of status, property, indigence, political recognition, and compensation in the colonial, and subsequently, postcolonial setting. By following these actors across France, the Caribbean, and the United States, the thesis explores how former colonial subjects transformed displacement, dispossession, and victimhood into claims upon state assistance, moral legitimacy, and indemnification. Ultimately, this thesis argues that the history of Saint-Dominguan colons should not be understood only as a history of migration, exile, or compensation. It is also a history of status: of how colonial belonging, property, and dispossession were reworked after the collapse of French Saint-Domingue and transformed into claims upon the French state. By examining the secours and the 1825 indemnities together, the thesis shows how post-revolutionary France attempted to reconcile the fractures left by its Atlantic colonial and imperial past. These measures reveal the long afterlife of Saint-Domingue in French political culture, where the memory of loss became a durable basis for recognition, entitlement, and reparation.

The discussion will briefly focus on the secours granted to réfugiés and déportés from the colony from 1791 onward (chapters 2 and 3), showing how relief practices became a crucial arena in which the French state classified and recognized the claims and status of former colons, and how they became a particular kind of “deserving” subject. Finally, the transatlantic dimension of this process of construction of colonial status and identity will be presented through their experiences of resettlement in the United States (chapter 4), where former status had to be renegotiated within different legal, social, and political frameworks. Thanks to the analysis of a multiplicity of different

sources, like family paper and mémoires, the work will show how different practices of assistance, networking, classification, and memory-making helped the exiled colons to turn their victimization into a political and economic capital outside and beyond the metropolitan context.

Mario Migliaccio

39° Cycle

Title: Championing “la France Nouvelle” in the European Revolutionary Context: Thinking of Nations and of the Representative Government in a Time of Reaction (1819-1823)

Abstract: In a context of political turmoil in France following the murder of the Duke of Berry in February 1820, and of revolutions on the two sides of the Atlantic Ocean, Guizot devoted himself to the cause of ‘la France nouvelle’, opposing the reactionary government while remaining a monarchist. After being suspended from the Council of State, he came back to his teaching activity at the Faculty of Letters of Paris in 1820, focusing on the history of the representative government. Between 1820 and 1822, he also wrote some of his most known political texts. Based on the reading of these texts, the aim of this on-going chapter is to analyse how Guizot conceptually responded to the problem of the levelling and atomisation of postrevolutionary societies, while proposing, on the basis of a specific interpretation of history, new conceptions of the nation’s past and of the relations between the government and society in the present. Guizot’s views deal not only with French domestic politics, but also with the imperial legacy of Napoleon and with the elaboration of a new projection of France in Europe after the repressive turn of the Holy Alliance in 1820. This chapter will then also look at this relatively less known aspect, that is Guizot’s interpretation of the revolutions in Southern Europe and of Bonaparte’s imperial legacy in the establishment of a European post-Napoleonic order.

Dario Laborano

40° Cycle

Title: Barriers Against Germans. German Capital and German Identities in the Economic Transformation Processes of Poland and Lithuania (1920-1933)

Abstract: This dissertation investigates the extent to which, and the ways in which, German economic actors and German capital intervened in the

reconstruction and economic transformation processes that took place in Poland and Lithuania between 1920 and 1933. Focusing on a context in which Germans who were interested in (re-)entering the Central European space mostly faced economic, legal, political, and social barriers, the dissertation analyses: (1) the strategies that were devised and implemented to circumvent or mitigate the obstacles encountered by Germans active in the financial, commercial, industrial, and agrarian sectors of the Polish and Lithuanian economies; (2) who the German involved were, what citizenship and citizenship rights they had, in what ways the new economic and political contexts reshaped their local identities over the long term; (3) the extent to which German economic repenetration in Central Europe and market (re-)entry became possible during these years, the role played by German capital in the economic transformation processes of Poland and Lithuania.

A special focus of the presentation is devoted to the financial aspects of the activities of German banks and cooperatives in relationship to Weimar Germany's minority policy, which will form one chapter of the dissertation. In this regard, the presentation will analyse: (1) the role played by certain financial institutions involved in the transmission of subsidies provided by the German government or other lenders to ethnic German communities in Poland and Lithuania; (2) the ways in which, and the extent to which, the category of "minority" started to be constructed, negotiated, and asserted in relation to the economic and political opportunities it offered at a local, regional and international level.

Adrian J. Cabrera Bibilonia

39° Cycle

Title: The Vice of a Race. The Moralization of Opium Consumption and Anti-Chinese Discourse in Cuba (1847-1898)

Abstract: One of the lesser-known issues in both the world of commodities and Asian migration to Cuba is that with the arrival of thousands of Chinese coolies to work on plantations, in ports, and on railways in the mid-19th century, the island became an opium market, and para-medicinal consumption became a new concern for the authorities. In this article, we will specifically analyze the issue of the moralization and racialization of opium consumption. First, we will look at how the idea of suicide through opium and anti-Catholicism was promoted. Second, we will observe how it was part of

the mechanism for conceptualizing the "yellow race" as inferior and degenerate. Finally, we will show how this hygienist narrative unfolded into anti-Chinese immigration projects, although not exclusively.

Claudio Stumpf

39° Cycle

Title: Performing Expertise. Mary Carpenter and Bertha von Marenholtz-Bülów Lecturing at Expert Congresses (1857-1876)

Abstract: Historians of science and expertise have recently highlighted the importance of experts' performances in order to succeed with their advice. Although these researchers have noted the predominance of men as experts, questions of gender in the performance of expertise have been addressed only in passing. This chapter examines the performance and transnational activities of two women expert speakers on 19th-century (inter)national congresses: the British social reformer Mary Carpenter and the German kindergarten-propagator Bertha von Marenholtz-Bülów.

First, it will be argued to regard the two experts as early drivers of the formalisation of Anglo-German transnational interconnections. In addition, Carpenter will be identified as a transnational agent who the Prussian-led women's organisations could present as a "guarantor" for their female public activities. Then, the two experts' long-standing ventures as lecturers on national and international congresses will be put under scrutiny. In contrast to research that has drawn conclusions on Carpenter's speaking based on her reception in the press, the analysis of the well-protocolled speeches paints a different picture. Applying the rhetorical concept of ethos, it will be argued that Carpenter and von Marenholtz-Bülów were not, in fact, presenting themselves as women or individual speakers. Both put their personalities and gender in the background, in contrast to their male colleagues. In addition, both regularly invoked recognised authorities – the founder of the kindergarten Friedrich Fröbel and British honoraries. This way of performing expertise served the women to legitimise their speaking in the highly masculine-coded space of the experts' congresses. To conclude, the contrast between the women's self-presentation in the speeches and their representation in the press will be discussed. It will be shown that the depiction of the experts' speaking bore great resemblance to typical narratives of British women's first speeches. Against this background, it will

be argued to regard the gendered reports as serving to defend the women experts' speaking and to promote their endeavours.

The comparison of the extraordinary speakers shows that, at a time when female expert speakers were a rather uncommon phenomenon, similar presentations promised public acceptance in Britain as well as the German lands – despite Britain's tradition of free-speech and despite the severe blow to women's speaking in the German lands in the post-March period.

Pavel Demchenko

39° Cycle

Title: Stadtrecht and Imperial Rights: Debates on the Commercial Rights in the Imperial Commission (1767-1768)

Abstract: This paper examines the debates on commerce, urban privilege, and legal integration in the Legislative Commission of 1767 through the case of the Baltic cities of the Russian Empire. While the Commission has usually been studied as a source for imperial social thought, estate representation, or Catherine II's reform agenda, this paper approaches it as a site where the incompatibility of different legal regimes became visible. The focus is placed on the city instructions (nakazy) from Riga, Reval, Narva, Dorpat, Pernov, Wenden, and related petitions from Baltic urban communities and Russian merchants. These texts reveal how questions of commerce were inseparable from the problem of urban citizenship, municipal jurisdiction, and the status of non-burgher residents.

The central argument is that the Baltic materials of the Commission expose a fundamental tension between two understandings of the city. In the Russian imperial legal order, urban citizenship or meshchanstvo was primarily a fiscal and administrative category, connected to taxation, registration, and the institutions of imperial governance. By contrast, in the Baltic cities, shaped by German, Lübeck, Magdeburg, and Roman legal traditions, citizenship remained an exclusive corporate status that regulated access to trade, property, guild membership, and municipal jurisdiction. Thus, the conflict was not merely between "local privilege" and "imperial reform," but between two different legal languages of urban society.

The paper pays particular attention to the procedure by which the Baltic nakazy entered the Commission. Unlike most other petitions from the empire, many Baltic instructions were originally written in German and then

translated into Russian in Moscow. This means that the Russian versions of the Baltic nakazy should be read not simply as translations, but as politically mediated texts, shaped by the strategic choices of deputies, translators, and imperial procedure.

This is especially visible in the Riga instruction. Its German original and Russian translation diverge significantly: the Russian version expands some commercial demands, softens or omits others, and reframes Riga's concerns in a language more legible to the imperial administration. Riga's petition defended the commercial rights of local burghers, opposed the expansion of Russian merchants' trade within the city, demanded protection against middlemen, nobles, and external competitors, and insisted on the preservation of municipal control over trade-related offices. Similar concerns appeared in other Baltic cities, where burghers sought to restrict trade by non-citizens, protect guild-based economic order, and preserve inherited privileges confirmed after the Northern War.

The paper also situates these Baltic claims in a broader early modern European context. Across many parts of Western and Northern Europe, the distinction between citizens, residents, and foreigners was increasingly challenged by expanding commercial networks. Yet in many German and Baltic cities, the boundary between Bürger, Einwohner, Beisassen, and Fremde remained legally and economically significant. This comparative perspective helps explain why Baltic urban elites interpreted Russian merchants not simply as fellow imperial subjects, but as outsiders whose access to trade threatened the corporate order of the city.

By reading the debates of the Legislative Commission through the Baltic nakazy, the paper shows that the Commission functioned as an imperial arena in which local legal regimes had to be translated, defended, and reformulated. The Baltic case complicates the image of Catherine II's empire as moving straightforwardly toward legal uniformity. Instead, it reveals an empire negotiating between integration and legal pluralism, between commercial expansion and corporate privilege, and between the fiscal logic of imperial administration and the municipal logic of Baltic urban society.

Daniele Colonnetti

38° Cycle

Title: Inventing the Indigenous Idolater: The Chichimeca (New Galicia, 1529-1556)

Abstract: This dissertation examines how the enemy was represented during the wars of conquest waged by the Spanish on the north-western border of New Spain. It focuses particularly on the interactions between settlers (including conquistadors and private citizens), ecclesiastical bodies (clergy and Franciscans) and the nomadic “indigenous” populations who lived in those territories. Against a backdrop of widespread oppression, these interactions (in both war and peace) also presented opportunities for negotiation. Moving through the long Chichimeca War (1529-1590), the indigenous groups that could be absorbed into Spanish imperial rule were selected. Those that were not eligible to join the Christian community were excluded. To emphasise the stigma of the religious enemy, the category of Chichimeca was created during the decades of conquest and was equivalent to that of an idolatrous barbarian. The paper in question aims to show some of the fundamental stratifications that contributed to the formation of Chichimeca.

It is particularly interesting to note how the indigenous Caxcanes people were initially included in the Chichimecas category. However, during the *Rebelión de los Peñoles* (1540-1541), their inclusion in the socio-economic projects of New Galicia was carefully evaluated, even though many of them, including their leader Francisco Tenamaztle, were still fighting against the Spanish. The complexity of the new Galicia during the first half of the sixteenth century is indicative of the lengthy process of establishing a presence in the area and among its inhabitants. The aim of this endeavour is to illuminate the initial phases of the Spanish territorialisation of these regions.

Guido Precchia

38° Cycle

Title: Precarious Li(v)es: The Neapolitan Exiles of the “Masaniello Revolt” in the Struggle Between French and Spanish Monarchies (1648-1678)

Abstract: This study examines the political, economic, and social trajectories of Neapolitan exiles who fled the Kingdom of Naples following the suppression of the 1647–1648 “Masaniello revolt.” Operating within the broader framework of the Franco-Spanish War (1648–1678), the research analyses how these displaced rebels transformed from defeated subjects into active trans-border political agents. The investigation begins with a chapter

on the initial Spanish counter-revolutionary repression under the Count of Oñate, tracking the creation of the Giunta degli Inconfidenti, subsequent asset confiscations, and the resulting exodus toward diplomatic (not always) safe havens such as Rome, Venice, and Benevento.

In the subsequent two chapters, the work evaluates the organizational dimensions of the exile community through its media strategies, financial reliance on French Bourbon subsidies, and the preservation of familial and political networks. It then contextualizes these exiles within Cardinal Mazarin's multi-front strategy against the Habsburgs. While France integrated Neapolitan dissidents into naval expeditions and localized military operations between 1654 and 1678, the study highlights critical divergences between French imperial ambitions and the exiles' plots for new revolts. Concurrently, it details the Spanish Crown's counter-strategies, which relied on preventative profiling and a vast intelligence network to neutralize dissent.

The fourth and final chapter the research assesses the nature of the exiles' political agency. Caught between the competing interests of two rival monarchies, these individuals weaponized information, utilizing their specialized military and political expertise as a tradable commodity. In navigating this precarious existence, the exiles frequently resorted to political mystification, fabricating rumours of impending uprisings to secure diplomatic protection. Ultimately, this study tends to demonstrate that the capacity to maneuver through inter-monarchical tensions and market strategic political illusions became the primary capital for the survival and enduring relevance of the Neapolitan diaspora.

Athanasios Angelopoulos

39° Cycle

Title: The Socialist Historicization of Colonialism During the Second International

Abstract: The paper examines how socialist intellectuals treated colonialism in the histories of their respective nations from the 1880s to the First World War. The main aim of the paper is to explore and reconstruct the different and, in many cases, conflicting historical discourses around colonialism, produced by leading socialist intellectuals such as Eduard Bernstein, Franz Mehring, Otto Bauer, Jean Jaurès, James Connolly and Henry Hyndman. Using as main sources histories of the nation authored or edited by leading

socialists, as well as the minutes of the congresses of the Second International, the paper emphasises the extent and the ways through which colonialism was integrated in the various socialist versions of national history. Given the centrality of the imperial dimension in nineteenth century European nationalism, the paper perceives the different interpretations of colonialism as a way to highlight the differing socialist viewpoints on the contemporary national and nationalist politics.

Tommaso Rossetto

38° Cycle

Title: Projecting Culture, Performing Statehood. The Chinese Cultural Renaissance Movement and Its Overseas Branch Network (1966-1972)

Astract: This thesis examines the overseas projection of the Chinese Cultural Renaissance Movement (中華文化復興運動, Zhonghua wenhua fuxing yundong, CCRM) between 1966 and 1972. Launched by Chiang Kai-shek as a response to the Cultural Revolution, the CCRM built a network of overseas branches across four continents intended to extend its cultural governance to overseas Chinese communities worldwide. Drawing on archival materials from Academia Historica in Taipei, the thesis addresses three connected questions: how did the ROC attempt to govern culture at a distance, and through what institutional apparatus? What did the overseas branch network actually look like in practice — how was it established, who led it, and what did it do? And what concrete strategies did the ROC deploy across the cultural, educational, and anti-communist domains, and how did these actually operate on the ground across different diaspora settings?

The thesis argues that the CCRM's overseas branch network is best understood as an instrument of active Cold War statecraft — one through which the ROC sought to sustain international presence and overseas Chinese alignment as formal diplomatic recognition contracted, initially complementing diplomacy and subsequently redeployed to sustain what diplomacy could no longer secure. Examining how that instrument actually operated on the ground reveals a system whose reach depended on local autonomy it could not fully govern — and it is in that gap, between institutional design and local practice, that the thesis locates its central analytical contribution.

Lukman Saeed Jibril

39° Cycle

Title: Coerced Work, Macroprocesses and (Micro)realities: The Labour Problem in Infrastructural Development in Northern Nigeria (1914-1939)

Abstract: This study seeks to capture shifts in global labour relations, particularly in Northern Nigeria during the post-Atlantic slave trade period between 1914 and 1939. It uses transport infrastructure projects, the northern sections of Nigerian Railways and roads such as the Nigerian Eastern Railway extensions, Zaria to Gusau Railway and Road, Kano to Nguru and Jos to Bauchi Road, as sites of both continuity and change in the transition from slavery through forced to voluntary wage labour. The main question of this undertaking is how the shifts shape and manifest in local infrastructure labour. In this workshop, a provisional interpretation of sources—official correspondences, minutes and memoranda among the Secretariat Northern Provinces, Kaduna, Chief Secretary's Office Lagos, various Provincial offices, political officers in charge of construction and Railway officials—collected from the National Archives of Nigeria, Kaduna (NAK) and analysed, so far, will be given in the section of the thesis provisionally entitled "Moral coercion unbacked by physical force, cannot go far": recruitment and reactions of Eastern railway construction labour."

The chapter mainly seek to contextualise how the slave trade, rather than slavery as an institution, was abolished first through the 1901 Slavery Proclamation and evolution of forms of socioeconomic coercion, i.e. "slavery by any other means," primarily using administrative (legal) and financial means. Regardless of the variety of labour relations, procurement and recruitment constituted the entry into the supply chain. This chapter also interrogate the colonial official account, among others, and reconstruct the processes and those involved, specifically analysing the relationships and negotiations in the management of procurement and recruitment of workers for railways and roads. The voices and roles of the intermediaries and contractors, the types of labour, the locations, strategies, and factors that shaped coerced labour recruitment will form part of the analysis. Sub-questions to be answered include how local chiefs performed dual functions, as intermediaries and community leaders? How was labour coerced under 'civilising mission' and 'free wage labour'? what did freedom meant to construction labour and recruiters?

Arianna Boccamaiello

40° Cycle

Title: "Italians Lost the War Miserably, but Won the Peace Gloriously," the Economical, Political and Cultural Role of Italians in Postcolonial Eritrea (1941-1974)

Abstract: After abruptly losing their dominion over Eritrea, many Italians chose repatriation over remaining in a territory controlled by their former enemy, the British. Those who chose to stay, within a few years, achieved prominent positions in the new administration and became part of an economic, political and cultural elite that continued to thrive in the Horn of Africa. Later, despite the arrival of the Ethiopian Empire, which first federated and then annexed Eritrea, Italians remained at the heart of the power system, both influencing it and being influenced by the new government: no longer in the top position, but still close to it. The Italian community was diverse and disunited; nevertheless, shared ties of family history and language made its members recognizable to one another and to others, contributing to the history of Eritrea during the years of the independence armed struggle. The Italians thus reveal the porosity of the category of "community," embodying the contradictory reality of their needs and role, sometimes aligned with, sometimes against, the Eritrean population.

Maria Bovolon

40° Cycle

Title: The Making of a Geneticist: Guido Pontecorvo's Early Career in Great Britain (1938-1946)

Abstract: This presentation forms part of a broader research project examining the scientific trajectories of Italian Jewish doctors and medical scientists who emigrated following the 1938 racial laws, and how their encounters with different institutional contexts shaped both their careers and their contributions to the scientific systems of the host countries. Within this framework, the paper focuses on the early career of Guido Pontecorvo (1907–1999) in Britain, examining how forced emigration – understood as the intersection of political displacement, scientific networks and institutional contingencies – contributed to defining and orienting his scientific trajectory towards experimental genetics. This constitutes the first part of a broader case study on Pontecorvo, whose subsequent contributions to human and

medical genetics will be addressed in the thesis.

Drawing on unedited archival material, the presentation identifies three intersecting circumstances as decisive in shaping his trajectory. A professional visit to Edinburgh in 1937 established the institutional contact that served as the channel for emigration. The encounter with Hermann J. Muller at the Institute of Animal Genetics redirected his research from animal breeding to experimental genetics. The wartime internment and the subsequent ban from Edinburgh due to his former PNF membership produced an unplanned relocation to Glasgow, where Pontecorvo would eventually found the Genetics department and develop the parasexual cycle in fungi.

The case of Pontecorvo thus contributes to the debate on continuity and change in the careers of émigré scientists: rather than simply transplanting an existing scientific identity into a new context, his trajectory was shaped by a creative encounter between his prior formation in animal genetics and the new disciplinary possibilities opened by displacement, suggesting that discontinuity should be considered as a significant variable in the study of scientific migrations.

Martina Ricci

38° Cycle

Title: Remaking Memory Landscapes: Museums and the Politics of Heritage in the Post-Yugoslav Successor States

Abstract: This study examines some of the major historical or history-focused museums and cultural institutions in the post-Yugoslav space, tracing the long-term transformation of their exhibitions. Far from considering museums as neutral repositories of cultural heritage, the study re-positions them as dynamic arenas of power, in which narratives of the past are selected, contested and renegotiated in response to shifting political and social demands.

The research is based on a multi-layered methodological approach: direct visits to museum sites, systematic consultation of catalogues of temporary and permanent exhibitions in the period between 1995, immediately post-war, and 2025, thirty years later, and the collection of oral material through interviews conducted with curators, museum staff and, where present, owners of private galleries. The collections thus documented are treated as

historical sources capable of reflecting the ideological and identity-related transformations that have taken place across the region in the three decades following the conflict.

Central to the analysis is the historicisation of the museum's institutional mandate. The study examines how collections originally assembled within the epistemological and ideological assumptions of Yugoslav ethno-anthropology and historiography were subsequently reinterpreted, dismantled or reconverted to the service of emerging national identities. The exhibited objects and the scenographic architecture of the exhibition spaces are analysed as semiotic tools through which national history is testified, identity constructed and memory renegotiated and codified.

This work further maps the tension between processes of de-Yugoslavisation, understood here as a systematic revision of institutional narratives, and the emergence of competing memorial frameworks at local, national and transnational levels. Exhibitions are classified according to their operational function: to preserve, reconstruct or reconceptualise the traumatic past. The study argues that across the region, regardless of national context, the post-conflict museum has undergone a structural displacement of its original ethno-anthropological mission in favour of identity-driven commemorative functions, a transformation that reveals the museum as a primary instrument of political legitimation in post-conflict societies. In this way, the study advances the historiography of museum studies, memory studies and cultural heritage policy.

Deni Dagalev

40° Cycle

Title: Legible Ecologies: Power, Profit, and Property in Yugoslav Forest Governance (1918–1939)

Abstract: The dissertation follows the vectors of Yugoslav wood—and the specific conditions under which wood became timber—to examine how forests became entangled with projects and processes of state- and economy-building after the First World War. Wood offers a concrete entry point into this problem because it moved across forests, villages, sawmills, rivers, railways, administrative offices, ports, and global markets. On the eve of Yugoslav unification and continually throughout the interwar period, its circulation was simultaneously encouraged and obstructed, bringing to view

both the ambitions of post-imperial national integration and the limits imposed by inherited ways of organizing nature, property, labor, expertise, and local social relations more broadly. Focusing on the forested and rapidly industrializing regions of Slovenia, Croatia-Slavonia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina, while following their links to broader Yugoslav, Adriatic, Central European, and Mediterranean orbits, we question how the post-war construction of an “imagined community” and “imagined economy” becomes visible from the forests—and how forests themselves were imagined, organized, and claimed by a plurality of actors—state institutions, corporate-economic bodies, private firms (traders, industrialists), forestry experts, and local populations. In its current outline, the dissertation begins with the commercial and ecological specificity of wood itself (e.g., species, quality, durability, uses, transport, tariffs, and the negotiations that made some trees more desirable and valuable than others). With methodological sensitivity to the economic geography of resources, energy, and labor, we also explore why Yugoslav wood was particularly attractive to transnational capital. From there, the dissertation moves through “national” forestry and its internal tensions, infrapolitical antagonisms in the woodlands, institutional forums of forest governance, and the archives of nature through which forest agency can be read.

Pietro Graziano

40° Cycle

Title: Legal issues behind liberalities to museums: actors, relevant laws and outline of the first case studies

Abstract: This presentation falls within a broader research project examining the relationship between private autonomy – and the legal instruments available to express and enforce private will – and the public interest, in the domain of cultural heritage law. The focus of the comparative analysis is on liberalities of art collections to museums, in the legal systems of France, Italy and the United States of America.

Primarily aiming at presenting the structure of the work and its sources, as well as the main methodological issues, the paper deals with the core purposes of the research and the reasons behind the choices of the jurisdictions compared. Crucial is, as well, the definition of the interaction between legal aspects, museum soft law and cultural policies.

The analysis focuses on the actors of the giving and receiving end – namely collectors and museums, as well as the public of museums as final beneficiaries – and, concerning museums, on the different laws applicable depending on their status and legal form. Attaching to the transfer conditions and obligations and defining the purpose of a liberal transfer allows the donor to place restrictions on the collections, on their circulation and their management. The legal status of the museum and the jurisdiction it falls within, however, affect the degree to which a donor can restrict the enjoyment of property of the donee-museum. In these respects, the role of the distinction between private and public law must be taken into account.

In order to highlight some of the differences between legal orders and legal status of museum and museum policies, the presentation will include an outline of the first three case studies of museums which received donations of collections.

Marta Pecchioli

39° Cycle

Title: Non-regression as a general legal concept and its potential extension to environmental law

Abstract: The first chapter examines the theoretical and normative origins of the principle of environmental non-regression. It argues that the prohibition of regression does not constitute an entirely novel concept, but rather forms part of a broader legal tradition already present in other areas of law. In particular, the analysis begins with international and regional human rights law, where the prohibition of regression has been developed primarily in relation to economic, social, and cultural rights, as the counterpart to the principle of progressive realisation. With regard to international law, the chapter focuses specifically on the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. At the regional level, the analysis considers the Inter-American, African, and European contexts. The chapter also examines the presence of non-regressive logics in labour law, international trade agreements, treaty law, and national constitutions.

On this basis, the chapter investigates whether these developments make it possible to qualify non-regression as a general principle capable of being extended to the environmental field, particularly in light of the emergence of the right to a healthy environment at the international level and the

teleological nature of environmental law as a whole. The underlying assumption is that, in international law, the principle of non-regression can currently only be derived indirectly, since all attempts to secure its explicit recognition have thus far failed. The final part of the chapter focuses specifically on this issue.

In its conclusions, the chapter seeks not only to summarise the main findings, but above all to lay the foundations for the analysis developed in the following chapters and to frame the key problematic issues that will be addressed later in the thesis, particularly in Chapter 3.

Fulvia Dellavedova

38° Cycle

Title: A Partisan Church: U.S. Catholic Neoconservatives between Just War Theory and Political Engagement

Abstract: This dissertation examines the development of Catholic neoconservatism in the United States from the end of the Cold War to the early 2000s (1991-2008), focusing on the relationship between Catholic social teaching, just war theory, and American foreign policy. Situated at the intersection of intellectual, political, and religious history, the project reconstructs the evolution of a network of Catholic public intellectuals within the broader neoconservative movement. This presentation focuses on Sections 3 and 4 of the dissertation, which analyze the network's relationship with the Catholic hierarchy and its growing political engagement from the early 1990s through the early 2000s.

Section 3 first examines the evolution of Catholic teaching on just war theory during the second half of John Paul II's pontificate, from the Persian Gulf War to the War on Terror. It also analyzes how Catholic neoconservatives responded to the positions adopted by both the Holy See and the U.S. Catholic bishops. The section argues that, while Catholic neoconservatives sought to downplay their disagreements with the Pope's views on just war and international affairs, they also consistently attempted to delegitimize the U.S. bishops' authority by portraying their positions as "out of step" with authentic Catholic teaching. This strategy reflected their broader effort to present themselves as the most faithful interpreters of papal social teaching in the United States.

Section 4 investigates the political uses of just war theory and Catholic

social teaching during the George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush administrations, both in presidential rhetoric and congressional debates. It shows how Catholic neoconservatives actively contributed to constructing a just war rationale for Republican foreign policy. The section also analyzes their increasing political involvement in the early 2000s, which represented a qualitative shift compared to earlier years, and examines the reasons behind this development.

Giulio Piumelli

39° Cycle

Title: A Non-Strategy: U.S. Treasury, the IMF, and the Making of the Debt Crisis Response (1979-1983)

Abstract: The 1982 international debt crisis came largely as a surprise. Initially framed as a liquidity shock, it prompted a coordinated response by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the U.S. Federal Reserve. The resulting “Volcker Plan” was more of a postponement than a solution. It relied on government bridge loans, rescheduling commercial bank lending, and IMF stand-by agreements programs as the core of the concerted effort.

This paper dispenses with the reassuring narrative of coherent American stewardship in managing the crisis. Based on extensive archival research – the papers of Paul Volcker and Donald T. Regan, and the records from the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library – it finds instead hesitation and conflict within the U.S. government. Treasury Secretary Donald T. Regan’s persistent underestimation of the crisis appears more as a consistency than a misjudgment. His formation at Merrill Lynch supplied a grammar in which free markets simply do not fail. The trajectory from the 1979 “Volcker Shock” to the Reagan administration’s confrontation with Congress over IMF quota expansion in 1983 is not a story of strategy but one of reluctant recognition. This case shows how U.S.-IMF relations during the debt crisis unfolded as a sequence of revisions under pressure, within a framework in which neither systemic thinking nor contingency planning was seriously contemplated.