

Call for Papers: Objects and Spaces of Encounter in Renaissance Italy

15-17 April, 2024

Istituto Storico Italo-Germanico, Fondazione Bruno Kessler, Trento

Organisers: Mary Laven and Emily Michelson

Arriving in Venice in 1494, the French ambassador, Philippe de Commines, famously noted, 'most of their people are foreigners.' This conference, part of the AHRC project [ItalianRose](#), aims to bring 'foreigners' from the margins to the centre of our understanding of the Italian Renaissance. We will explore the fecundity of encounters to paint an alternative picture of the Renaissance in Italy, enriched by minorities, migrants and outsiders.

The focus of this conference will be on objects and spaces which reveal the influence of foreign actors, materials, designs and production techniques on the culture of the Renaissance. Objects (such as Turkish rugs, German bedclothes or garments made of 'damask' or 'scotch tweed') evoke material exchanges, sociability, and the layering of real and imagined interactions. Spaces of encounter (workshops, inns, fairs, churches) frame the human and material contacts underpinning the Renaissance and allow us to assess levels of extraneity and belonging, as they varied by circumstance and place.

Multidisciplinary in scope, the conference will bring together scholars working in various fields. We especially welcome contributions that concern underexplored regions of Italy and their encounters with people and goods beyond the peninsula.

Suggested topics include, but are not limited to:

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| Meeting places | Families and households |
| Labour and enslavement | Gender and encounter |
| Spaces of sociability | Travel and hospitality |
| Rural encounter | Trade and Consumption |
| Global Italy | Foodways and/or Clothing |
| Borderlands | Coastal Italy |
| Knowledge transfers | Diversity and creativity |
| Artisanal practices | Material exchanges |
| Minority communities and their living spaces | |

To submit, please send a 300-word proposal for a 20-minute paper and a brief biographical note to ItalianRoseAHRC@gmail.com by **15 December, 2023**.
Notice of acceptance will be given by 31 December 2023.

We especially welcome proposals from early career researchers based in Italy, for whom some travel funding is available. Accommodation provided for all accepted speakers.