

# Uncommon sources and where to find them: Jews in Politics in Long Renaissance Italy (13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century)

What does the enquiry into unexploited sources reveal about the capacity of Jewish women and men to become active on the political stage? How did they formulate their political thought in Italy during the Renaissance (13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> centuries)? The Jewish condition as minority and the need for continuous political and economic negotiations set up specific processes of political participation, detectable in important documentary resources. Yet, this participation and documentation has so far been neglected by historiography. We intend to focus this Jewish political thought and agency to raise the question of the existence of a “Jewish politics” and to describe it in its particularities (pragmatism, pursuit of group interests, recourse to intercession and alliance, own institutional and documentary structuring) and in its interactions with European politics.

## ORGANISATION

Guido Bartolucci - Università della Calabria  
Serena Di Nepi - Sapienza Università di Roma  
Pierre Savy - Université Gustave-Eiffel  
Giuseppe Veltri - Universität Hamburg  
Alessandra Veronese - Università degli Studi di Pisa

## CONTACT

### École française de Rome

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12-13  
SEPTEMBER  
2022

SAPIENZA UNIVERSITÀ  
DI ROMA

EFR  
PIAZZA  
NAVONA 62

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MOYEN ÂGE

CONFERENCE

## MONDAY 12 SEPTEMBER

9 H 30

SAPIENZA UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA  
AULA A DI STORIA MEDIEVALE - DIPARTIMENTO  
DI STORIA ANTROPOLOGIA, RELIGIONI, ARTE,  
SPETTACOLO, FACOLTÀ DI LETTERE E FILOSOFIA

**Arianna Punzi** - Preside della Facoltà di Lettere e  
Filosofia, Sapienza Università di Roma  
**Alessandro Saggioro** - Vicedirettore Dipartimento  
SARAS, Sapienza Università di Roma  
**Ruth Dureghello** - Presidente della Comunità  
Ebraica di Roma  
Greetings

Chair: **Fabrizio Lelli** - Sapienza Università di Roma

Greetings

**Serena Di Nepi** - Sapienza Università di Roma  
**Giuseppe Veltri** - Universität Hamburg  
*On Jews in Politics in Long Renaissance Italy. Introduction to  
the workshop*

Keynote Lecture – **Giacomo Todeschini**  
*The political languages of the Jews and the Christian  
representation of politics. Historiographical and chronological  
problems*

Lab 1. Making Jewish History Political: a question of  
sources?

Chair: **Tamar Herzig** - Tel Aviv University

**Guido Bartolucci** - Università di Bologna  
*Theory or practice? Jews and politics in the Early Modern  
period: a historiographical review*

**Asher Salah** - Bezalel Academy – Hebrew University  
*Lay Leadership and Rabbinical Authority in the Ghetto of  
Florence: an Alternative Model for the Beginning of Jewish  
Modernity*

Discussion

15 H 00

Lab 2. Uncommon Sources: images, imagination and  
self-representation

Chair: **Caterina Volpi** - Sapienza Università di  
Roma

**Francesco Freddolini** - Sapienza Università di  
Roma  
*Jews in Cesare Vecellio's Habiti antichi et moderni : self-  
representation and imagination*

**Massimo Moretti** - Sapienza Università di Roma  
*Pesach: representations and self-representations of Jewish  
identity in Early Modern Age*

Transfer to the Jewish Museum of Rome (via  
Catalana / Largo 16 ottobre 1943): special visit led by  
Olga Melasecchi (Director of the Jewish Museum of  
Rome)

## TUESDAY 13 SEPTEMBER

9 H 30

ÉCOLE FRANÇAISE DE ROME, SALA CONFERENZE,  
PIAZZA NAVONA 62

**Brigitte Marin** - École française de Rome  
**Noemi Di Segni** - Presidente dell'Unione delle  
Comunità Ebraiche Italiane  
Greetings

Lab 3. Making Responsa Political: new approaches on  
Jewish History

Chair: **David Malkiel** - Bar Ilan University

**Pinchas Roth** - Bar Ilan University  
*Isaiah ben Mali's responsa and Jewish political agency in  
Southern Italy (13<sup>th</sup> century)*

**Jeffrey Woolf** - Bar Ilan University  
*Rhetoric and Rabbinic Authority in Italian Responsa*

**Bernard D. Cooperman** - University of Maryland  
(online)  
*Are Non-Members Subject to Taxation? A Case Study in the  
Rise of Modern Jewish Self-Government*

14 H 30

Lab 4. Inside Out: looking for Jewish political agency  
in External Sources

Chair: **Laura Pettinaroli** - École française de  
Rome

**Marina Caffiero** - Sapienza Università di Roma  
*La politica dei Memoriali. La retorica della fedeltà e il  
linguaggio della protesta*

**Alessandra Veronese** - Università di Pisa  
*Trial as local politics in 15<sup>th</sup> century Volterra*

**Germano Maifreda** - Università degli Studi di  
Milano  
*Enticing the outside, self-governing the inside: papers on  
"ethnic" conflicts mediated by Christians as sources on Jewish  
agency*

**Pierre Savy** - Université Gustave-Eiffel  
*Conclusion*

Walk to the Archivio Storico della Comunità Ebraica  
di Roma "Giancarlo Spizzichino" (Lungotevere  
Cenci Tempio). Visit led by Claudio Procaccia  
(Director of the Archive) and Silvia Haia Antonucci  
(Responsible of the Archive)

Legend: Jews attacked in Verdun-sur-Garonne, end of the 14<sup>th</sup>  
century (British Library)