

S P E R A N Z A.



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Hope: Fragments towards a Cultural History

15 October 2026
11.30-13.00

University of Florence
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Room 17

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UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
FIRENZE

Dipartimento di Storia,
Archeologia, Geografia,
Arte e Spettacolo
Eccellenza 2023-2027



SOCIETY FOR THE
**HISTORY of
EMOTIONS**

GLOBHIS
NETWORK FOR GLOBAL HISTORY

ABSTRACT

Negative emotions have, in general, attracted more scholarly and public interest than the positive ones. However, recent worldwide events – such as the COVID-19 pandemic – have encouraged new interdisciplinary attention to the case of hope. The narrative of its history is under revision, for example by challenging the thesis according to which in Classical Antiquity it got a bad press. The presentation will aim at sketching significant moments of the story, by considering religions and systems of thought both in the West and elsewhere. From the perspective of cultural history, it would be important to go beyond the reconstruction of an intellectual tradition, to try to get closer to the feeling that may have been experienced by individuals and groups from the past.

THE SPEAKER

Alessandro Arcangeli is a cultural historian of early modern Europe who taught at the University of Verona. His topics of research include dance, leisure, emotions, gesture and dreams.