English summary

Alessandro Arcangeli
The two-sided face of cultural history

The undoubted success of cultural history as an international paradigm has not really overcome its fuzzy definition and problematic status as a mode of historical enquiry and writing. New challenges are posed by the increasing relevance of cultural contact and by the need for fully appreciating its role in the past. Helpfully some recent theoretical reflection has proposed new ways of identifying what a specific cultural-historical approach may entail, from the horizon of the possible to a remodelling of the self. A discipline that requires constant reconsideration of the past may thus have also something interesting in store for the foreseeable future.

Key words: Cultural History, History Theory and Method, Historiography, Globalization, Cultural Mobility, Historicity

Antonella Salomoni
Historians and semiotics of history

The twentieth century has seen the qualitative explosion and the quantitative spreading of the semiotic theories and the sign systems. Taking their first steps with analyses that very rarely called up on history in their argumentation, such disciplines – most of all when dealing with cultural semiotics – have seen "history" enter into their researches. The essay intends to examine the specific contribution of the Tartu-Moscow school and, above all, of the work of Jurij M. Lotman (1922-1993), verifying the impact and the applicability of the Russian semiotics. After recalling the lotmanian scheme that sums up his work in the sixties, the author questions on what cultural semiotics means for "history" and on how the historian may avail himself of it in his work.

Key words: Cultural History, Cultural Semiotics, Sign Systems, Russian Culture, Semiotics of History, History Theory and Method

Marianna Scarfone
Subaltern historiography in a global perspective

After briefly considering the influence of Gramsci's thought on the founders of Subaltern Studies in India, the author outlines the theoretical and thematic transformation which the approach went through since the mid eighties, under the inspiration of the "cultural turn". In the second part of her essay Scarfone traces the spread of Subaltern Studies to other parts of the world, such as East Asia, Latin America and Europe, thanks also to the multiplier function of American and European universities. Whereas its influence on post-colonial and cultural studies is sizable, Subaltern Studies never became a widely recognized model to the practice of historiography, partly because of its later full immersion in postmodern waters. However, its contribution to the theory of history as a discipline and as practice should not be underestimated.

Key words: Subaltern Studies, Cultural History, History of Historiography, Indian Historiography, World Histor, Global Perspective

Catherine Brice
The Cultural History of Politics: state of the art, results and proposals

This article intends to summarize what has been studied as the Cultural History of Politics. Neither Culture or Politics are easy terms to define and this leads to extremely different approaches Between Reinhart Koselleck, Quentin Skinner and Alain Corbin, the differences are probably stronger that the similarities. By defining precisely what we call culture and what we call politics, or at least choosing a definition, the Author calls for more diversified tracks to follow, with a special attention to the inform always of acting politically.

Key words: History, Culture, Politics, Policy, Polity, Anthropology

Rolf Petri
Sentiments, emotions: Possibilities and limits of cultural history

The first part of the essay tries to elaborate a reasonable itemisation of the three main streams in the history of emotions: that of individual emotions, the study of the role that emotions have in historical processes, and the reflection about the influence of emotions on history writing. The second part is devoted to the methodological and theoretical status of the study of past emotions. The author criticises the definition of emotions as merely cultural phenomena. He argues in favour to a cross-disciplinary and theoretical perspective, and maintains that cultural history of emotions should be able to deconstruct its own history and contextualise historically the very paradigms of "culture" and "emotion".

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Key words: Cultural History, History of Emotions, History of Historiography, Feelings, Sentiments, Limits

Luigi Tomassini
*A motionless dialect? Historians and photography
between linguistic turn and visual studies*

How the visual studies have influenced the work of historians? To answer this question the paper addresses some methodological problems that have characterized the historians' growing attention for images over the last decades. Particularly, we examine the photograph as an image that is simultaneously trace and representation of the reality. The second part offers a survey of the works that have used photography as a historical source in Italy, identifying the Italian specificity in a strong presence of historical-political essays using the photographic sources.

Key words: Visual Studies, Cultural History, History Theory and Method, History of Photography, Historians, Italy

Michelangela Di Giacomo
*Changing Paradigms. Catholic Workers
and Southern Immigration in Turin (1955-1969)*

This paper aims at chronicle the relations between catholic workers movement and immigration from Southern Italy. The point of view is Turin during the '60s. It underlines the interest showed by Cisl and Acli concerning that phenomenon. It underscore evolution in Cisl's interpretative paradigms and Acli's increasing criticism towards consumerism. It shows the relations between action for integration of immigrants, will of attract them and interest in studying factory and urban changes. The thesis of this essay is that different ideological traditions could come closer resting upon the approach of trade unions to inner migration and socio-urban analysis and that the job actions of the '70s will be based on this refreshed unity.

Key words: Turin, Acli, Cisl, Inner Migrations, Fiat, Urban Changes

Maria Pia Casalena
Counter-Histories from Risorgimento: from Local to National (2000-2011)

With the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Unification of Italy several revisionist interpretations of the Risorgimento have appeared, which tend to delegitimize and present it as a series of crimes perpetrated against both Italian peo-

ple and institutions. This study analyzes the path made by this production since 2000, highlighting specific editorial circuits and entering into the most successful and most representative pages. It also measures the specific gravity of this production over the past twelve years, compared with the historiography produced in Italy on the Risorgimento, highlighting a number of books not negligible and hard work of some authors that in recent years have presented (also dealing with relevant publishers) some actual complaints about the process of State-building.

Key words: Risorgimento, Historiography, Revisionism, Brigandage, Laicism, Publishers

Enrico Natale
The Digital Humanities in Switzerland: an overview

In the last few months, several universities and research agencies in Switzerland disclosed their plans to open new programs in the Digital Humanities. Starting from this observation, this article aims to outline the state of the art of the Digital Humanities in Switzerland. A first part deals with the institutional framework of the Swiss research landscape and mentions recent developments that led to a cross-disciplinary and widespread interest for the Digital Humanities in Switzerland. This first part includes also a short historical overview of the uses of digital technologies in the humanities and the library sector In Switzerland. The second part is a typology of the digital humanities in Switzerland segmented in five categories: Research projects, Digital collections, Tools, Digital publishing, E-learning & Information literacy. For each category the article provides a critical assesment of the field and a description of the major projects. The typology is intentionally inclusive to reflect the diversity of the actors involved and the distribution of Digital Humanities skills among several fields. In conclusion, the article traces possible scenarios for the institutionalization of Digital Humanities in Switzerland.

Key words: Switzerland, Digital Humanities, Libraries, Information Science, Digital Libraries, Humanities