

Enrica Asquer
Associate professor
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Education and training

2009

Phd in Early Modern and Modern History (XXI ciclo)

University of Florence- IT

Supervisor: Prof. Paul A. Ginsborg

2005

MA in History

University of Florence- IT

Supervisor: Prof. Paul A. Ginsborg

Academic Experience

2022-2025

Unit member- PRIN project ‘Civil Calendar and Memory Politics in Italy: National and Transnational Dynamics (PI: prof. Filippo Focardi, University of Padua- IT; Unige unit coordinator Prof. G. Schwarz)

2018-2020

Adjunct Lecturer

University of Padua- DISSGEA Department

“Sources and methods in Modern History”

2028-2019

Adjunct Lecturer

University of Trieste- Department of Humanities

“History of Women and Gender”

2017-2018

Post-doctoral Fellow

Edith Saurer Fonds- Wien (Austria)

2017-2018

Post-doctoral Fellow

Ville de Paris- Axe Antisémitisme et Xenophobie- Paris (France)

2013-2014

Research Fellow

University of Turin- IT- Department of Humanities

Project: Minorities models of integration, with a specific focus on Jews In Milan from Unification to 1938 Racial Laws (San Paolo Foundation funds, coord. Prof. Luciano Allegra, Unito)

2010-2012

Young Researcher

Regione Autonoma della Sardegna (2 years contract)- University of Sassari, Department of History

Research project: "Gencosud"- Gender, generations and consumption in the second half of XXth century. Multiple Paths in the South of Italy.

Teaching Activities

Since 2024-2025, I teach "Gender, sexuality and history in modern times" (BA in History) and "Social History" (MA in Historical Studies). I taught "Introduction to Modern History"; "Didactics of history"; "Modern and contemporary history"; "Women's history and gender" (University of Trieste); "Sources and methods in modern history" (University of Padua).

Research Interests

My research interests have focused primarily on the history of the family and gender issues, consumption and domestic cultures in contemporary Italian and European society. My first work, 'La rivoluzione candida. Storia sociale della lavatrice in Italia, 1945-1970' (Carocci, Rome 2007) [The white revolution. A social history of the washing machine in Italy, 1945-1970], reconstructs the Italian economic boom from a gender perspective, starting from the social biography of the washing machine, and broadening the view to the wider cultural development that took place around the advent of new consumption and domestic comforts in the post-war period. My subsequent work (Storia intima dei ceti medi. Una capitale e una periferia nell'Italia del Miracolo, Laterza, Rome-Bari 2011) [An intimate history of the middle class. A centre and a periphery in the Italian Economic Miracle], which began as doctoral research, introduced a clearer focus on the middle classes. The behaviours and values of the family and the intimate sphere, material and work culture, and the class, gender and generational conflicts that marked the daily life of married couples in the 1960s were investigated using an archive of oral sources. Two different urban and socio-cultural realities, Milan and Cagliari, were compared.

In the field of the history of consumption and material culture, I have continued to investigate over the years, always maintaining a gender perspective and an interest in everyday life and family history (see the monographic issue of Genre & Histoire, dedicated to "Genre et alimentation", edited with Aurélie Chatenet- Calyste, no. 34, 2024; participation in the major work "The Cultural History of Shopping"-vol

The Age of Revolutions and Empires, edited by Erika Rappaport, with the chapter 'Home and Family', Bloomsbury, 2022).

Since 2013, I have opened a second line of research aimed at investigating the unfolding of anti-Semitic policies in Fascist Italy and Vichy France, starting from an analysis of the administrative procedures triggered by requests for exemptions, dispensations and differentiated treatment sent by victims to the authorities responsible for anti-Jewish persecution. The investigation intercepts, on the one hand, the broad debate within social history on the writings of "supplication" and appeals to the authorities over the long term, and, on the other, the relationship between anti-Semitism, the history of citizenship, forms and practices of belonging to the national community (on these issues I've written a book, 'Caso per caso. Una storia sociale delle discriminazioni razziali (1938-1943)', Viella, Roma 2025 [Case by case. A social history of the racial 'discriminations' (1938-1943)]), I co-edited with Lucia Ceci, 'Scrivere alle autorità. Suppliche, petizioni, appelli, richieste di deroga in età contemporanea', Viella, Roma 2021) [Writing to the authorities: supplications, petitions, appeals, exemption requests, in modern history], I publish several articles in peer-reviewed journals, such as 'Autobiografie di supplica: alcune considerazioni sulle richieste di "discriminazione" degli ebrei milanesi, 1938 -1943 in "Società e storia", n. 151, 2016; Being a Fascist Jew in Autumn 1938. Self-portrayals from the "Discrimination" Requests Addressed to the Regime, in "Quest. Issues in Contemporary Jewish History", n. 11, 2017; Scrivere alla Demorazza. Le domande di "discriminazione" delle donne "di razza ebraica" e il conflitto sulla cittadinanza nell'Italia del 1938, in "Italia contemporanea", n. 287, 2018; Rivendicare l'appartenenza. Suppliche e domande di deroga allo Statut des Juifs nella Francia di Vichy, in "Quaderni storici", n. 160, 2019; Il caso Blinderman. Naturalizzazione, revoca della cittadinanza e antisemitismo nell'Italia fascista, in "Italia contemporanea", n. 304, aprile 2024).

In recent years, I have also devoted numerous reflections to the history of women and gender (see my contribution to the volume "Storia delle donne nell'Italia contemporanea" (History of Women in Contemporary Italy), edited by Silvia Salvatici, with the chapter 'Tra casa e mercato: genere, consumo

e lavoro familiare' (Between Home and Market: Gender, Consumption and Family Work), Carocci, Rome 2022; my contribution to the volume 'L'insegnamento della storia oggi' (Teaching History Today), edited by Sonia Castro et al, with the chapter "Storia di genere" (Gender History), Carocci, Rome 2023) and on the theoretical aspects inherent in the categories of gender and patriarchy (in progress - Dizionario della violenza di genere (Dictionary of Gender Violence), edited by Simona Feci and Laura Schettini).

Finally, as part of the PRIN 2022 project, I am investigating the representation of 'Holocaust Remembrance Day' in contemporary popular magazines (Gente and Oggi), as part of a reflection on the cultures and politics of memory in contemporary Italy, with a focus on the specific case of the Holocaust.

Editorial Activity

I'm co-editor of 'Italia contemporanea', one of the most important journal in the field of modern and contemporary history in Italy (Rete nazionale Ferruccio Parri, Milan, FrancoAngeli editore, Milano); I'm a member of the editorial board of Genre & Histoire (Association Mnémosyne, France); I've been part of the editorial board of 'Genesis', the journal of the Italian Association of Women Historians (Società Italiana delle Storiche, SIS, Viella, Rome) and of 'Snodi. Pubblci e privati nella storia contemporanea' (Venezia, La Toeletta).

