

WORKSHOP

Writing Women, Making History: Literature and the Study of Women's Past Lives

With Judith Lyon-Caen (EHESS) and Maya De Leo (University of Bologna)

Organised by the Queer and Feminist Studies Working Group and Public History Working Group (Giselle Bernard, Louisa Niesen and Zsófia Veszely) and Biblioteca Femminista

11 March 2024, Sala del Consiglio, 11:00-17:00, Villa Salviati and 12 March 2024, 10:00-16:00 Biblioteca Femminista, via Fiesolana 2b and Oblate Library, Via dell'Oriuolo 24

Event Outline

The aim of the workshop is to mark International Women's Day together with the Biblioteca Femminista, a volunteer-run organisation collecting and lending feminist books in the city centre of Florence, which also functions as a meeting and organising space for different local activist groups. We will have a day of presentations on the topic of writing history from literary sources, specifically women's writings, and on how writings have themselves played an important role in shaping history. This first day will explore both methodological approaches and issues for historians researching literary sources, and specific questions raised by women's literary production. Participants include EUI researchers, a Max Weber fellow, and two external guest speakers. On the second day, in the morning, a workshop will take place where researchers will present literary sources they are working on and questions they have about these. The sources will have been pre-circulated to all participants, and during this session, researchers will have the opportunity to get feedback from their peers and external guests. In the afternoon, we will visit the Biblioteca Femminista together with its founding members and learn about its history and role in the Italian women's movements. This will be followed by a visit to the Oblate Library, which holds the Biblioteca's archives, and a guided tour with the archivist.

Programme

11th of March 2024, EUI, Villa Salviati, Sala del Consiglio

11:00-11:30 Welcome Words

11:30-12:30 First Panel

Zeynep Tezer (EUI, Max Weber Fellow): *Behind the Veil? Early Modern Ottoman Poetesses and What They Had to Say About State and Society*

Georgia Katakou (EUI, HEC): *"We sing now all together, embraced, until dawn": Communism, Friendship, and Love in Greek Women's 20th Century Writing*

12:30-13:30 Lunch

13:30-14:15 First Keynote

Maya de Leo (University of Bologna): *"It opened the door to my soul and told me who I was": A Queer Perspective on Novel, Identity and History*

14:15-14:30 Short break

14:30-15:30 Second Panel

Jennifer Ashby (EUI, HEC): *"A life for a life": A Woman's Voice in the Archives*

Giselle Bernard (EUI, HEC): *Becoming a Queer Subject Through Oriental Poetry, Fantasies and Stories in the Early 20th-Century European Press for Women Desiring Women*

15:30-16:00 Coffee break

16:00-17:00 Second Keynote

Judith Lyon-Caen (EHESS): *"La littérature sur le trottoir" (Literature on the sidewalk)*

12th of March 2024, Biblioteca Femminista, Via Fiesolana 2b and Oblate Library, Via dell'Oriuolo 24

10:00-12:00 Workshop on researchers' pre-circulated sources

Each researcher will have 30 minutes to present their (literary) sources to a small group, raise questions, share challenges they are grappling with in analysing them, and receive feedback from other participants and guests. We will reconvene with all participants in the last twenty minutes to share key takeaways or important questions raised.

12:00-12:15 Short break

12:15-13:00 Visit of the Biblioteca Femminista with members, and discussion about its role in the history of women's movements

13:00-14:15 Lunch break

14:15-15:45 Guided tour of the Biblioteca Femminista archives at the Oblate Library

15:45-16:00 Closing remarks



With the support of the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union