

Call for papers *INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE*
**LOOKS OF GENDER AND SOCIOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE
BETWEEN THE ROUTES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN**

Agrigento 29-30 maggio 2014

Abstracts – 400 words with a title, a description of the topic and a short biography of the presenter(s) – must be sent until **March 1, 2014** to coordinator of each workshop and to Ignazia Bartholini (ignazia.bartholini@unipa.it).

Notification of acceptance will be given until **April 1, 2014**.

Workshop A

Identity and relationships in migration

Coordinator and discussant: Roberta Teresa Di Rosa e Maria Giovanna Musso
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The session on "identity and relationships in migration" will be a moment of reflection and theoretical and empirical integration of the studies that have as their theme the identity, social ties and migration in the Mediterranean area.

The issue of identity consists of a "bunch of problems", and in this bunch of problems fall both that of belonging (to one or more worlds) and that of the social relationships that constitute the background within which the identity figure stands out.

Migrations tend to undermine and reconfigure identity, relationships and social bonds, producing tensions, negotiations and conflicts, often painful, both in individuals and in the social fabric of reference. It is indeed a challenge to the customs, meanings and the sense that feeds every culture, both the one of origin and the host one.

When such trajectories are declined by women that challenge becomes more profound and urgent as it seems to be affected the deeper structure of identity and social bonds. Here also the sociological observation is forced to wonder more deeply about the problem of identity, the relationship between the male and female, individual and group, tradition and change, violence and power, affective life and work life.

Workshop B

Media e women representations

Coordinator and discussant: Francesca Rizzuto e Gianna Cappello
(francesca.rizzuto@unipa.it; gianna.cappello@unipa.it)

This workshop intends to look at the most recent studies on the role media play in the social construction of the "feminine" and also start reflecting on the consequences that the use of particular narrative strategies may produce in terms of the creation and/or perception of social problems. Particularly welcomed are papers that, from different theoretical-methodological approaches, deal with the following topics:

1. The visibility and representation of the feminine in the Italian media
2. The media construction of new social problems: the case of feminicides
3. The feminine in the Italian media between public and private: work, politics and the family
4. Dynamics of participation and feminine identity construction on the internet.

Workshop C

Social policies and gender violence

Coordinator and discussant: Gaetano Gucciardo e Folco Cimagalli
(gaetano.gucciardo@unipa.it; cimagalli@lumsa.it)

Violence against women is not a topic for traditional social policies. It requires innovative approaches, capable of operating both in terms of the contrast of the phenomenon than on prevention, and the safety of the victims on the side of social representations.

The workshop aims to develop a reflection on the ability of policies to identify services and interventions that can effectively tackle the phenomenon. In particular, the session will focus around the following themes: prevention, networks and local partnerships; actions targeted at specific groups (migrants, etc.); methods of evaluation; relations between local reality and national networks; actions for the recovery of violent men.

Workshop D

Differences of gender and sexual orientation between oppression e privileges

Coordinator and discussant: Cirus Rinaldi, Emanuela Abbatecola
(cirus.rinaldi@unipa.it; emanuela.abbatecola@unige.it)

This workshop invites works that examine symbolic and cultural space represented by Mediterranean area as intersections domains of oppression and privilege.

We invite scholars and independent researchers to elaborate experiences of both theoretical and empirical approaches to research on liminal dimensions of differences (gender, sex and sexuality, social class, ethno-racial, age, political and religious affiliations, etc.) and on the intersection of such identity categories.

We welcome contributions - in the format of a case study, literature review, research note or research article – especially Interdisciplinary and postdisciplinary domains, such as Queer studies, post-communist theory, LGBT theory and Critical race theory.

Workshop E

Symbolic violence in gender relations and its representations

Coordinator and discussant: Ignazia Bartholini e Giovanna Vingelli
(ignazia.bartholini@unipa.it; giovanna.vingelli@unical.it)

The workshop aims to welcome contributions aimed at analyzing scripts that identify properly the dynamics of indirect violence present in the gender relations and specifically in the intimate relationship. Oppression, for example, is an indirect violence and, at the same time, a hot emotion that distinguishes some gender relations and the acceptance of certain scripts (Bartholini 2013).

Scholars have the possibility to present studies and researches that have analyzed the

phenomenon in Mediterranean area highlighting the link between:

- a- indirect forms of oppression between the genders;
- b- domination and power' representations of the indirect violence identifiable in the relational patterns between the genders in the workplace, as well as in the family;
- c- the elements of break/connection between the direct and indirect violence and the situations/circumstances that make them possible.

Workshop F

Violence explained on the routes of the Mediterranean

Coordinator and discussant: Maria Rosaria Pelizzari e Maria Antonietta Selvaggio
(m.pelizzari@unisa.it; mselva@libero.it)

The aim of this workshop is to explain men's violence against women, in the sense of researching, defining and recognising the reasons and the dynamics of men's behaviours and conducts still now represented as irrational and/or pathological gestures, consequences of a *raptus*, of a moment of anger or of a mental disorder, as well as expressions of passion and even of love, although a tainted love.

Still coming up especially in the iconography and the language used by the mass *media* while informing their audience or believing to make it aware of the problem of gender-based violence, this stereotype should be faced very carefully, since it actually amounts to a conniving - though unaware - way to present such cases of violence.

The contributions shall be used to set up a laboratory for the analysis and the decoding of languages and portrayals from different environments: not just journalism, but also history, literature, art, psychology, anthropology and sociology. At the same time, ancient and recent forms of entrenched cultural dimensions shall be analysed in depth, starting from the question of whether the "routes of the Mediterranean" were (or not) conveying and resurfacing harsh forms of patriarchy in conjunction with a men's spirit of revenge of occidental origin, peculiar to societies like ours.

Workshop G

Racism and sexism: theoretical and empirical cases in the Mediterranean

Coordinator and discussants: Marco Antonio Pirrone, Michele Mannoia, Antonella E. Castronovo
(marco.a.pirrone@unipa.it; michele.mannoia@unipa.it; antoeli@hotmail.it)

The workshop aims to focus on the relationship between sexism, racism and capitalism. Starting point will be the reflection on these two dimensions: the link between social class and gender and the status of women within the Roma community. In order to take into account the first dimension, the papers will help to identify which mode of overlap between class and gender can be found in the global society predominated by neoliberalism, analyzing the forms of discrimination against women in the labor market, access to rights and legal protection also in the migrant condition.

In order to take into account the second dimension the papers will help to analyze the different forms of discrimination experienced by women in Roma community. Further aim is to highlight the risks arising from this condition of subordination and the effects of the cultural conditioning on social acceptance of domestic violence.

Workshop H

Women's health in the Mediterranean Area

Coordinator and discussant: Tullia Saccheri and Lia Lombardi
(saccheri@unisa.it; rosalia.lombardi@unimi.it)

The reasons that make particularly relevant the topic of health or, rather, the differences in health conditions which are varied, but often disclaimed: the first reason is that this issue is of interest to the social and health policies, both in terms of responding to the needs and on that of prevention and health promotion; a second and very relevant reason relates to the fact that the issue of health / illness allows us to understand the connections between the role played by the strictly biological / physiological factor and that exerted by the behaviours, lifestyle and social constraints of people.

With these assumptions, we intend to analyse the women's health in the Countries bordering on the Mediterranean shores. These appear to be a privileged observatory of the dynamics of production and reproduction of social and gender inequalities between the populations of the North and those of the South.

A significant observatory due both to its symbolic value in the history of mankind, and the increase in exchange in more recent years: in particular, the migrations from the countries on the south and east shore (Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Albania, former Yugoslavia etc) towards the countries on the north shore (Italy, France and Spain).

Therefore, we invite you to participate in this workshop by sending theoretical and/or empirical contributions which deal with one of the following themes:

1. the medicalization of women's body
2. gender, medicine and power
3. cultural and political movements for women's health in the Mediterranean area
4. health and reproductive rights: contraception, abortion, pregnancy and childbirth, Medically assisted procreation/New reproductive technologies
5. social inequalities and health inequities in gender perspective
6. women's health in the Mediterranean countries: comparative analysis
7. social and health determinants in gender perspective
8. social and health policies; the impact on the health and well-being of women

Workshop I

Families' cultural patterns and women's role in the Mediterranean area

Coordinator and discussants: Isabella Crespi, Claudia Santoni, Maria Letizia Zanier
(isabella.crespi@unimc.it; c.santoni@unimc.it; marialetizia.zanier@unimc.it)

The workshop investigates the cultural models of family that act in the socio-economic contexts in the Mediterranean area, aiming to revealing the presence of women within them, both in terms of identity building process and role played.

Scholars have the possibility to present studies and researches aimed at understanding cultural variables, gender relationships and the presence of women in family living spaces.

In particular, contributions related to the following areas, will be selected:

- Family history and working life of women: interconnections between care responsibilities (marriage, natality) and participation in the labour market.

- Stability and fragility of the couple ties: organization of daily life and negotiation of gender roles.
- The Family's influence on personal identity: female stories about patterns, opportunities, constraints, representations.
- The role of migrant women and their families of origin.

Workshop L

Women travelers. Destinations and routes between opportunity and insecurities

Coordinator and discussant: Elisabetta Ruspini and Alessandra Decataldo e
(alessandra.decataldo@unimib.it; elisabetta.ruspini@unimib.it)

Travelling to unknown places and spaces can be a difficult task for tourists, especially for those who choose to travel alone or independently (Ruspini, Gilli, Decataldo, Del Greco, 2013).

Although women have more chances to travel today, feminist and gender studies related to tourism show that women are more deeply constrained than men in taking part in tourism activities (Henderson, 1994; Wilson, Little, 2005). As various studies have reported, women use a number of specific “strategies” to protect themselves against possible harassment or male violence when they travel. For example, women tend to select safe destinations; they involved themselves principally in activities in daylight hours during their journey and abstain from isolated sites, such as forests, parks, beaches (Wilson, Little, 2008).

Fear is a social concept which is also constructed by institutions and the media system, where men are usually portrayed as being strong, while women are normally shown as being weak and needy. Starting from early childhood, women learn the appropriate spaces and behaviors for them to not “run a risk” (Wilson, Little, 2008; Ruspini 2009).

Considering the assumptions above, the workshop will focus on the following issues:

1. the representation of tourism as a gendered phenomenon;
2. the influence of the so-called “geography of fear” (Valentine, 1989) on women’s (and men’s) travel behaviors, choices and needs;
3. restrictions and constraints that affect women’s travel and leisure experiences;
4. the development of new practices for women (but also men) traveling alone.