

*Project : 'A tale of two twinned cities: Corato and Grenoble*  
*Association Genealogical Workshop,*  
*Marseille, France*

Webinar September 24, 2021 at 7pm (European time) - 6pm BST  
1pm EDT - 10am PDT (max. duration 1hr 30min)

## *“Where do we go from here?”*

*“How can descendants of emigrants contribute to the documentation of emigration history, within the scope of Migration Studies ?”*

**Moderator: Biagio Salvemini**, full Professor of Modern History, Aldo Moro University, Bari

**Guest of honor: Catherine Virlouvét**, Professeur émérite, Aix Marseille Université, former director (2011-2019) of the Ecole Française de Rome

**Guest speaker: Matteo Sanfilippo**, Professor of Modern History, University of Viterbo, coordinator of the journals "Studi Emigrazione" and "Archivio storico dell'emigrazione italiana" :

*"National model and Apulian model of emigration".*

**Webinar organizer : James Smith**, president of the 'Atelier Généalogique' association, Marseille :

*"Is it possible in 2021 to write the history of Coratine migration? and in what way could genealogical studies make a relevant contribution in this regard?"*

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**Key address : Stéphane Mourlane**, lecturer in Contemporary History, Aix Marseille Université, specialist in Italian migration

### ***‘Memories and History of Migration between Italy and France’***

The memory of the large-scale emigration of people from Corato in the Apulia region is still very much alive. Associations of descendants in the host cities (such as Grenoble in France), but also associations in Corato contribute greatly to maintaining

it. The genealogists who initiated this webinar intend to contribute to this by recording the paths and itineraries of transnational families. The webinar is part of a project aiming to make the best use of genealogical data to mobilize multiple actors in this memorial process while articulating it to the history of Coratino and more generally Italian migration. Generally speaking, historians of Italian migration have noted a renewed memorial dynamic to which their work contributes while being nourished by it. The rapprochement between memory and history is favored by the evolution of historiography that is increasingly attentive to transnational phenomena and to the change of scale leading to a growing interest in individual or family trajectories. This being so, everyone (descendants, genealogists, historians...) is paying particular attention to the unveiling, exploitation and valorization of private and public archives as well as to the collection of testimonies. The webinar will present the project ('A Tale of Two Twinned Cities: Corato and Grenoble': [www.emigrazione-corato.org](http://www.emigrazione-corato.org)) and will place it in the broader context of the relationship between memories and the history of Italian immigration (Stéphane Mourlane).

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## **Context and purpose of the webinar**

The webinar is part of a mission that will be carried out in Corato from September 20-27 2021, planned jointly by the Association Atelier Généalogique and the Comitato degli Italiani all'Estero (COM.IT.ES) of Lyon (\*). The mission follows the constitution of a file requesting the digitization and the putting online of the parish archives of Corato, which was sent on August 14, 2021 to the Archbishop of Trani, Mons. Leonardo d'Ascenzio, and to don Peppino Lobascio, priest in charge of the archives in Corato. An appointment has been made with Fr. Peppino on September 22 at 10 am.

During the same mission, we will also follow up on our request to the Mayor of Corato to digitize and put online the passport applications of the candidates for emigration. If the decisions of the Church and the Mayor are positive, this would be a very important incentive for obtaining testimonies, attesting to our ability to make a real contribution to the process of deepening the history of the Coratino migration.

In the course of our genealogical research, we are in contact with many descendants of Coratino emigrants. We have created a family tree containing more than 22,000 people (95% Coratini and other *pugliesi*), and a database of more than 20,000 photos of genealogical records. One of the directions we have taken is to identify transnational families, whose siblings are scattered in different parts of the world. This could lead to reconnections between the descendants of these dispersed siblings.

The webinar is intended to give us practical directions for the post-mission period, to move forward in our efforts to liberalize resources that are useful for both genealogical and historical research. In particular, we hope that the Archives Départementales de l'Isère (AD38) will open a section on its website which could be

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\* Participating in the mission: Jean-Philippe di Gennaro (vice-president, COM.IT.ES of Lyon), Joseph Marzocca and James Smith (Atelier Généalogique). Partner of the project in Corato: Dott.ssa Marina Labartino.

entitled 'Coratino immigration to the Isère department', given the fact that Coratini emigrants settled in Isère in large numbers. This should help to better identify, concentrate, and make more accessible to researchers from all over the world, resources such as naturalization records and expired residency cards (which the AD38 has preserved), as well as archives of companies that hired immigrants.

This webinar on September 24, 2021 could be the first of a cycle, which would allow us to report *viva voce* on the progress of our project and to develop contacts. It is our belief that the liberalization of resources will benefit people of all kinds - academics, archivists, descendants of emigrants, genealogists - who can contribute to the progress of the project, including students who would like to participate in the study of Coratino migration. And, of course, the current population of the city of Corato.

### **How the webinar will help us in practice**

Invitations to this webinar on Zoom have been sent to people in France, Italy, the UK and the USA. All are invited to participate in the discussion, each in their own language. The recording of the webinar will be available in several languages on our website.

If you are interested in participating in our webinar, please inform us as soon as possible at [ateliergenealogique@gmail.com](mailto:ateliergenealogique@gmail.com). In due course we will send you the Zoom link to enable your participation. If you wish to participate just to listen, you are welcome to do so. However, if you are planning to speak, we would be grateful if you could think about the answers to questions such as the following, if possible by writing to us with your thoughts before the webinar:

- What academic programmes are likely to incorporate the topic of Coratin emigration/immigration?
- What kind of testimonies could be of interest to academic programmes, based on the family experience of Coratin migration?
- Which publications in France, Italy, or elsewhere, might be interested in publishing testimonies?

Thank you in advance, looking forward to meeting you visually at the webinar.

Marseille, 3rd September 2021

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