

Webinar (in Italian) on 14 February 2024 with CRIAT (Bari) on the creation of an international database on emigration from Puglia.

Here is the list of participants along with their information:

- 1 **Giovanni Ferrarese:** • *Affiliation:* CNRE – ISMED, CGIL, University of Salerno. • *Profession/Specialization:* Researcher specialized in migration studies, with a particular focus on the contemporary period from the 1950s onwards, mainly focusing on the Southern Italy regions.
- 2 **Giulia Mastrodonato:** • *Affiliation:* Polytechnic University of Bari • *Profession/Specialization:* Researcher with experience in planning, master's degree holder, and PhD candidate in engineering. Associated with CRIAT.
- 3 **James Smith:** • *Affiliation:* Atelier Genealogique, Marseille, France • *Profession/Specialization:* President of an association specializing in genealogy, with a specific focus on Corato for eight years. Also works with a scientific committee of historians, chaired by Professor Salvemini.
- 4 **Biagio Salvemini:** • *Affiliation :* Aldo Moro University, Bari, *Profession/Specialization :* historian with experience in teaching modern history and territorial studies. Currently involved in the project both internally and externally.
- 5 **Stefano Mangullo:** • *Affiliation:* Sapienza University, Rome • *Profession/Specialization:* Historian specialized in contemporary history of Southern Italian regions, focusing on territorial aspects such as the relationship between infrastructure, landscape, and settlements in Puglia and Basilicata.
- 6 **Donato di Sanzo:** • *Affiliation:* National Research Council (CNR), Institute of Mediterranean Studies • *Profession/Specialization:* Researcher specialized in contemporary history of migrations, particularly in the Mediterranean context. Part of a group of migration historians based in Naples.
- 7 **Antonio Bonatesta:** • *Affiliation:* University of Bari • *Profession/Specialization:* Researcher of contemporary history, mainly focusing on the history of European integration from a regional perspective, particularly regarding water resources governance.
- 8 **Resmi Hallulli:** • *Profession/Specialization:* PhD student (tutor: Carlo Spagnolo, University of Bari) specialized in contemporary migration history, with a focus on territorial policies. Currently working on a migration project in the Bari area, intersecting the migration history of Corato.

Summary of the webinar on the construction of the database

Biagio Salvemini, as coordinator, announced that a conference would be held in Grenoble in autumn 2024 or spring 2025. James Smith prepared the webinar with Louis Lafranceschina (webmaster) and Stephan Adjété (IT technician) on the construction of the database,

addressing technical issues such as data security. Antonio Bonatesta emphasised the importance of understanding the current state of the database and discussed the organisation of Resmi Halluli's PhD course in Corato. Giovanni Ferrarese and Donato di Sanzo spoke about the technical management of databases and asked for concrete examples of the types of data available. Stefano Mangullo accepted the theme of Corato's Mediterranean agrotown for his presentation at the Grenoble conference. Giulia Mastrodonato undertook to contact those responsible for access to national archives. Finally, communication between participants is planned to coordinate activities and define tasks and responsibilities.

Summary of presentations

Biagio Salvemini (coordinator)

Biagio announced that an outline of the Grenoble conference, drawn up with Anne-Marie Granet-Abisset, a colleague from Grenoble University, had been sent by e-mail. The draft provides useful indications for understanding the responsibilities involved. The importance of both quantitative and qualitative sources in the study of migratory phenomena is emphasised, with a focus on individual, family and group dimensions, as well as migratory chains and personal histories.

The need to transform the conference outline into a structured project was discussed: given the tight deadlines, the possibility of making changes to the outline during this webinar to transform it into a concrete project was highlighted.

The issue of Giovanni and Donato's experience with migration databases was raised, as well as the importance of understanding how such databases are constructed and what the underlying research questions are.

The availability of digitised materials and the possibility of starting a study using these materials, with the aim of transforming them into a structured database, were discussed. Indexing the data and digitising the registers and documents are seen as crucial steps in building the database.

Resmi's thesis project including migration between Corato and Grenoble is mentioned, and it is proposed that her work be integrated into the wider project of building the database.

The importance of focusing on migration flows between Corato and Grenoble was emphasised, by examining migration chains and the impact of these flows on the urban restructuring of Grenoble.

Finally, access to the Bari State Archives needs to be arranged in order to digitise the Corato civil registers, and the indexing of these registers is discussed for inclusion in the database.

The webinar concludes by planning communication between the participants to coordinate activities and clarify tasks and responsibilities.

James Smith

James mentions the preparation of this webinar with Louis Lafranceschina, webmaster of the Atelier Généalogique, and Stephan Adjété, the IT technician, to discuss the construction of

the database. James thanks the participants and begins to define the questions and concerns that have emerged during the discussions with his technical team.

Louis asked who could be the contact person for the transformation of the website in collaboration with the Puglia international database and what should be transferred from the current site to this database. Stephan raised the issue of data security and the possibility of storing data in online books rather than on Google Drive. He also asked if more people could edit the database on Google Drive and if it was possible to track changes, create a mirror site, or should we consider transferring the information permanently to the international database instead.

James provided a detailed list of sources already available on the Atelier Généalogique's website. These include:

1. *L'albero genealogico coratino* with over 26,000 interconnected people.
2. More than 20,000 photos of authentic records.
3. Testimonials on emigration and over 20 articles by Marina Labartino, journalist and project partner in Corato.
4. Work in the Marseille departmental archives to list Coratino immigrants naturalised in France (50% photographed and indexed).
5. Digitisation in November 2023 of around 13,000 passport applications by candidates for Coratino migration between 1920 and 1960.
6. Oncial land register from 1754, digitised in 2006, but still to be indexed; obtained from Pierre Marzocca, who also digitised the baptism and marriage registers in the Corato parish archives in 2008.
7. The burial registers in the parish archives have yet to be digitised.
8. Examples of documents include residence permits (digitised inventory from the Isère departmental archives), and a map of strikes in Grenoble in the 1930s.

James went on to discuss future priorities for the project, including obtaining permission from the Mayor of Corato to volunteer at the registry office and the cemetery, which is essential for collecting evidence of Coratino migration and participating in a 'roots tourism' project. He asked CRIAT to support this request to the Mayor of Corato.

He continues to describe the future website of the Atelier Généalogique, which will focus on services for descendants of emigrants and on consultation of the family tree and Google Drive database. James stresses the need for volunteers for activities such as indexing digitised registers and finding contacts with the families of Coratini who took part in the French Resistance.

By seeking to make primary resources accessible, the Atelier Généalogique is committed to helping Coratini research their origins, promoting the writing of the history of Coratino emigration and, more recently, developing an international network between Coratini from different countries, compatible with the development of 'roots tourism'. James presents his two-year vision for the project, including collaboration with an American university to write the history of emigration from Puglia and the launch of digitisation projects in Puglia's archives. The current priority is to participate in the construction of CRIAT's international database, making available anything that can contribute to this goal and signing an agreement to this effect.

Negotiations are underway with genealogical companies such as MyHeritage and Ancestry to gain free access to data on the Coratini who landed at Ellis Island.

The lack of digitization of the burial registers in the Corato parish archives was highlighted, as was the attempt to obtain a response from the Archbishop of Trani regarding the file sent in 2021.

Biagio asked whether some of the digitised documents could be exploited, not just photographs but also indexed documents. James confirmed that some of the documents had been digitised and indexed, such as the pages on the naturalisation of Coratini immigrants in France.

James also mentioned the need to index the 1754 oncial cadastre, consisting of 2,000 pages, photographed in Naples in 2006 and now available at CRIAT. The photos need to be translated into computer data and the indexing completed to make the digitised pages, as well as those relating to passport applications, fully usable.

James received advice from Stéphane Murlane of Aix-Marseille University, an expert in Italian immigration, on the importance of transnational families. This phenomenon involves families whose members have settled in different countries, such as the United States, Germany and Venezuela. James plans to explore this subject, as many families of immigrants from Corato - including those from Grenoble - have experienced this transnationality.

In this respect, the collaboration with WikiTree, a genealogy organisation based in the United States, which has over a million members, was mentioned. Thanks to WikiTree and mathematician Greg Clarke, the obstacles of endogamy in genealogical research in Corato have been alleviated. It was discovered that endogamy was widespread in Corato until the early 20th century, with a rate of 97% between 1835 and 1865. With the help of WikiTree and the Coratino family tree, which now includes 26,000 interconnected people, it is also possible to identify transnational families, making it easier to find relatives descended from Coratini emigrants. This tool was made public by Greg Clarke just two months ago, and is considered to be an important contribution to the international database.

Finally, the museum in the former Corato prison, currently closed, contains documents on the 1946 land reform. These documents may be useful in understanding the causes of the emigration of 2,000 Coratines in 1946. It has been suggested that Marina Labartino could help Resmi to find these documents.

Antonio Bonatesta

Antonio raises the importance of understanding the current state of the database they are working on, what data is already available, who collected it and how, and what data needs to be built from scratch. This is seen as fundamental to informing ISMED colleagues. In addition, Antonio mentioned the need to distinguish between data management and the structure of the conference in Grenoble presented by Professor Salvemini.

Antonio also highlights the need to define a shared database structure, in addition to the technical aspect, which can collect specific information such as surnames, first names, dates of birth, and other details, to ensure an orderly capture of information.

Antonio then provides information on the organisation of Resmi's doctoral scholarship, which focuses on the study of migration in the Bari region during the twentieth century. Resmi will determine her research interests and begin an internship at Corato municipality.

Resmi Halluli

Resmi Hallulli is a doctoral student in the history of contemporary migration working with Antonio. She has won a scholarship from Corato City Council, focusing on territorial migration policies. She is collaborating on research into the history of migration in Corato and will be working on a database. Her study focuses on incoming migration flows in post-war Republican Italy, with a study period planned in Corato during the months of May, June and July 2024. Resmi is committed to exploring historical studies on Coratino immigration and collaborating to recover relevant documents.

Giovanni Ferrarese and Donato di Sanzo

Giovanni and Donato spoke about the technical management of migration databases. Giovanni points out that in their research group they have Francesco di Filippo, an expert in both historical studies and IT, who looks after the technical aspects of the databases. Donato adds that they also have contacts with a group of colleagues at the CNR in Pisa who are working on databases for the 'digital humanities', through colleague Stefano Gallo, who specialises in migration in France. Both consider that it is essential to have a detailed list of available data in order to begin to understand the subject and work effectively. Giovanni suggested meeting Francesco di Filippo to get a precise indication of how to structure the database according to their research proposals, thus avoiding unnecessary work.

To this end, they are asking for concrete examples of the types of data available and their format. They want a clear vision of the nature of the data, whether photos, PDFs or other, so that they can begin to plan their research in a more targeted way and guide the construction of the database effectively. Biagio confirms that the Atelier Généalogique is prepared to grant access to documents not only to researchers, but also to Francesco, to enable him to have an overview of the material available.

Stefano Mangullo

Stefano Magullo was happy to accept the theme of Corato's Mediterranean agrotown for his talk at the Grenoble conference. Despite time constraints, he plans to give a 20-minute talk, using sources from the Bari State Archives. He undertakes to provide a detailed overview of the topic, highlighting the territorial context of Corato and its role within Mediterranean dynamics, aimed at a non-specialist audience.

Giulia Mastrodonato

Giulia, a researcher at the Politecnico di Bari, presented her experience in engineering and urban planning, as well as her participation in CRIAT. She explained her intention to contact the Cavaliere (former director, now a volunteer) and Dr Buzzanca, current director of the National Archives in Bari, for questions relating to access to the Corato civil registers in Trani.

At the end of the meeting, James, Giovanni and Donato were invited to get in touch, and Antonio and Resmi to coordinate. Biagio then suggested that James formalise the questions to be put to the colleague in charge of building the database, in collaboration with Giovanni and Donato, and forward them to him.

12 March 2024 - James Smith, Atelier Généalogique, Marseille

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