



RESEM - Reconsidering the Southern Europe model: labour, families and mobility in rural Savoy-Piedmont state during the eighteenth-century

The RESEM project aims to reconstruct the occupational structure and the households' structure of a range of small and medium-size rural communities of the Savoy-Piedmont state during the eighteenth-century. The project engages with the debate about the European "little divergence" and the diffusion of the EMP from the Southern Europe perspective. It will inquire into the life-cycle servanthood, the female labour force participation rates, and the gender division of labour in preindustrial rural and semi-rural communities. Moreover, by reconstructing in detail three specific cases studies, RESEM will grasp the connexions between the occupational and social structure, the distribution of assets and wealth, and the juridical framework of property rights. The RESEM project combines a historical micro- and macro analysis level and it adopts a gender approach, paying special attention to women's work and women's property rights. In addition it will analyse the interactions among a range of factors (sex, age, marital status, occupation, mobility experiences, wealth rank, economic policies). The project will exploit a range of unpublished archival sources (population registers of rural and semi-rural Piedmontese communities, notarial deeds, laws and documents concerning the economic policy of the state and of the regions under scrutiny). Data will be collected from the National Archives in Turin (population censuses, laws and regulations), in Biella and in Vercelli (for the notarial archives). Two databases will be set up: one for the data about the households' structure and about the members of the household; the second for data issued from the notarial deeds (marriage contracts, endowments, wills, emancipations and proxies) of two communities in the provinces of Biella and Vercelli, and developed as case studies. RESEM will deliver pathbreaking findings on the occupational and social structure of the rural preindustrial Italy and will challenge the current narrative about the "little divergence", the EMP and the stereotyped dichotomy between Northern Europe and Southern Europe. The research will be conducted by the Applicant with the technical and technological support of the DiSSGeA, the Mobility and Humanities Centre, and the MobiLab at the University of Padua, where she will be able to discuss the methodological approach and any historiographical issue risen from the archives research, from the sources and from the databases. The RESEM project will last 36 months, and in order to ensure its feasibility it has been organised in 18 Work Packages.