

## Summer school

Gender and Conflicts in European History. Intensive summer programme organised by  
MATILDA – European Master in Women's and Gender History



**Explore the role of gender in shaping conflicts throughout European history — from the Middle Ages to the present.**

The **2026 International MATILDA Summer School** offers a vibrant, interdisciplinary programme led by some of Europe's top scholars in women and gender history.

You will acquire new tools to analyse how gender has influenced societies, cultures, and power dynamics across time and borders and you will discuss topics such as:

- Family, kinship, and property in medieval Europe
- Gender and labour across centuries
- Women's knowledge and cultural authority
- Nationalism, gender, and political identity
- Masculinities in the modern and contemporary age

The MATILDA intensive summer programme focuses on women's and gender history, from the Middle Age to the contemporary time. It aims to enhance knowledge on historical research but also the capacity of reading the complexity of present time and its transformations.

The programme is structured in three parts.

### **1. SUMMER SCHOOL: Gender and Conflicts in Historical Perspective**

- a keynote lecture
- five introductory lectures held by professors specialists of gender history which will focus on substantive issues and methodological approaches in different historical periods



- a workshop where Master and PhD students present and discuss their research. The students will be required to:
  1. read the required reading,
  2. participate actively in the discussions of lectures and seminars and either present their own research (including a written exposé in English, length: approx. 6000 words) or a written essay in English (length: approx. 3000 words) discussing a specific topic covered at the summer school (including additional secondary literature, i.e. 2-3 articles or a book, apart from the required reading on the selected topic).

## **2. INTERDISCIPLINARY WORKSHOP: “Naming a gendered world, past and present”: historians, political scientists and literary scholars challenge the censorship of speech**

The MATILDA intensive programme also aims to actively engage students and professors in a discussion on very contemporary issues like the language of official communication and the censorship of speech that reflect real agenda and precise policies of certain current governments:

In partnership with the *Centro di Ateneo Elena Cornaro per i saperi, le culture e le politiche di genere*, we will organize an interdisciplinary workshop entitled «Naming a gendered world» to explore some of the «hundreds of words» the administration of the US President Trump has banned or restricted the use on official websites, documents and other public texts. Among these words are: «women», «men», «gender», «equality», «feminism», «gender-based violence», but also... «historically».

Historians, political scientists and literary scholars will challenge the censorship of speech.

## **3. THE PADUA CULTURAL HERITAGE: a gendered historical reading**

Finally, the MATILDA Summer School features three excursions in Padua cultural heritage to engage students and professors in an artistic experience:

- A guided visit to the Scrovegni Chapel
- A guided visit to the Baptistry and its frescoes (an amazing example of medieval female artistic patronage by Fina Buzzacarini, the wife of the lord of Padua, 2nd half XIVth cent.)
- A tour in town with the collaboration of the Association “Mi riconosci” through sculptures dedicated to women in the Paduan public space



## KEY INFO

**Dates:** 5th July 2026 – 11th July 2026

**Target:** Bachelor's, Master's and PhD students

**Minimum number of participants:** 10

**Maximum number of participants:** 30

**Location:** Padua, Department of Historical and Geographic Sciences and the Ancient World

**ECTS:** 6

**Fee:** 500 euros per week / 20% fee waiver for students of partner universities / 50% fee waiver for Arqus and Matilda students (including UNIPD students). 50 euros for 5 students. A maximum number of waivers might apply.

**Contact:** [summerschool@unipd.it](mailto:summerschool@unipd.it)

**Application dates:** 15<sup>th</sup> November 2025 – 15<sup>th</sup> March 2026