

CALL FOR PAPERS

Voci di Donne

Donne nella Storia - Women in History (1945-2000) *With a tribute to Tina Anselmi (1927-2021)*

Ragusa/Ibla-Catania 3rd & 4th November 2021
SDS / DISUM Università di Catania (Italia)

After a year of forced pause due to the pandemic, we are resuming the *Voci di Donne* meetings. In the meantime, we have launched an intra-departmental research project (*VoxDo. Women's voices. Historical, religious and linguistic studies*) to give continuity to the annual conferences organised in the last three years (2017, 2018, and 2019¹). As a result of these meetings, several volumes were published, updating the reflections from our interdisciplinary perspective, offering a unique vision of the issues addressed.²

The delicate search for balance in the male-female relationships, the laborious construction of identity, and the process of struggle for women's self-determination in the socio-cultural, political and religious spheres are some of the most pressing issues in contemporary society -even if these discourses often seem overused and saturated. In the next conference we want to focus on women who have made their mark in the fight for human rights, including gender equality: "Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status" (Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Art. 2).

For example, Arab women remain trapped between the anvil of conservative tradition and the hammer of a growing fundamentalist culture, despite the enormous leap they have made in the scientific, economic, and social spheres. Indeed, the process of modernisation in Islamic societies is conditioned by social norms and religious precepts, considered unquestionable by some, which seek to marginalise women to the point of limiting their role within their own home. This is the dramatic condition created by the unresolved transition to modernity, in which certain achievements, such as increased education, access to professions considered exclusive to men, and the attainment of certain skills, have not produced the effect of equal rights between the two sexes. Instead, the 'modern' result has been a 'reaction' that reaffirms the interpretation of sacred texts and values tradition in a more rigid way, setting rules and contents above any relation to history and social contexts. This happens despite the emergence, in recent decades, of scholars whose scientific contributions have challenged such interpretations.

This is therefore an opportunity to recall the numerous attempts made by women who have played and continue to play an important political, social and cultural role in their countries, thus paving the way for generations of women who, in the wake already traced, have decided to pursue the same goals as the 'teachers'. In fact, we want to remember those female figures who have left their mark on the twentieth century, in order to give them back their voice, if any were needed, in the debate of this new century.

We are interested in analysing women's discourse (as in Al Hibri 2003 and 2006), and that of women engaged on different fronts: from the struggle for the construction of a "new" non-sexist

¹ VOCI DI DONNE NELLA STORIA: LINGUAGGI, RITI E DIRITTI (dicembre 2017); VOCI DI DONNE. Potere e genere: religioni, linguaggi, culture (December 2018); VOCI DI DONNE: sconfinamenti, migrazioni, narrazioni (October 2019).

² S. Lagdaf, S. Fontana (eds.), *CONFLITTI DI GENERE. Società, religione e cultura*, Lugano, Agorà & Co. 2017; M. Carreras i Goicoechea, S. Fontana, S. Lagdaf, (eds.), *Identità femminili. Appartenenze etnico-religiose ed espressioni di potere*, Lugano, Agorà & Co, 2019; D. Motta e R. Liuzzo (eds.), *Silenzi e inclusioni: donne tra oriente e occidente (ss. XI-XXI)*, Agorà & Co, 2020. The latest in preparation, edited by M. Bonomo e M. Savoca.

language (as in Sabatini 1987), to the struggle for peace-building (Prisco 2018), to the narrative-denunciation carried out by journalism, cinema, literature: women have often been invisibilised, as taught by the *Breve historia feminista de la literatura española* (Zavala 1992-2000).

The interdisciplinary and diachronic approach will make it possible to jointly evaluate, through these female figures, the historical and cultural factors underlying the relegation of women to a condition of inferiority. The ambition is to highlight significant figures who opposed this status quo from the end of the Second World War to the end of the last century.

We therefore call for contributions that address historical, political, linguistic, literary, artistic and cultural issues from a gender perspective. In this sense, we will value proposals focusing on the following themes:

- Mobile and "contaminated" positions of gender, race, class and religion (especially from the perspective of denouncing gender inequality);
- Trespassings into discursive and power territories (academia, politics, labour, music, cinema, theatre);
- Textual or artistic practices aimed at deconstructing the canon by proposing counter-paradigmatic forms, deliberately precarious and subject to continuous negotiation.
- Translations, critical studies, essays...

The abstract must not exceed 250 words and can be written in Italian, English or Spanish in Times New Roman 12 format and sent to the following e-mail address: **vocididonne@unict.it** before 1 September 2021. Acceptance of the contribution will be communicated by 7 September.

It is planned to publish a monographic issue with contributions subject to a peer-review process.

Conference Support Team: vocididonne@unict.it