

TRACING THE ROOTS OF HUMAN CAPITAL INEQUALITY IN EARLY-MODERN ITALY, 17TH – 19TH CENTURIES

16 – 17 October 2025

Goodwin Room

Department of Economics and Statistics

Piazza San Francesco 7, Siena

Presentations 25 minutes | Discussant 10 minutes | Q&A 25 minutes

16 October

14.15–14.30 / Introduction (Gabriele Cappelli – Siena)

14.30–15.30 / Session 1

Chair: Alexandra de Pleijt (Wageningen)

Discussant: Giuliana Freschi (Sant'Anna Pisa)

Suvi Heikkuri (Gothenburg)

Social Capital and the Rise of Technical Education in
Liberal Italy, 1871-1911

15.30–16.30 / Session 2

Chair: Giacomo Gabbuti (Sant'Anna Pisa)

Discussant: Francesco Fiore Melacrinis (Milan Bicocca)

Caterina Alfonzo (Bologna)

The Legacy of Feudalism and Sicilian Low Social
Capital

16.30–17.00 / Coffee Break

17.00–18.00 / Session 3

Chair: Giulio Talini (Bocconi)

Discussant: Mattia Fochesato (Bocconi)

Alexandra De Pleijt (Wageningen)

The Complementarity of Education and Skills in Pre-
Industrial England

20.00

Dinner at Ristorante San Desiderio

Piazza L. Bonelli, 2

17 October

9.00–10.00 / Session 4

Chair: Caterina Alfonzo (Bologna)

Discussant: Alessandro Brioschi (Queen's Belfast)

Giuliana Freschi (Sant'Anna Pisa)

Why did girls go missing? Determinants of missing girls
in the Italian circondari, 1881-1911

10.00–11.00 / Session 5

Chair: Gabriele Cappelli (Siena)

Discussant: Michelangelo Vasta (Siena)

Francesco Fiore Melacrinis (Milan Bicocca)

The Roots of Innovation: Guilds and Knowledge
Transmission in Italy, 17th–19th Centuries

11.00–11.30 / Coffee Break

11.30–12.30 / Session 6

Chair: Josep Mas Ferrer (Barcelona)

Discussant: Leonardo Ridolfi (Siena)

Alessandro Brioschi (Queen's Belfast)

Asymmetric shocks in pre-industrial labour markets:
evidence from the 1630-1631 plague in Venice

12.30–13.00

Final remarks and end of the workshop