

Panel 1:  
**Students and Teachers in the Italian Overseas Empire.  
Colonial and Postcolonial Trajectories**

ITA: "Studenti e insegnanti nell'impero italiano d'oltremare. Traiettorie coloniali e postcoloniali."

Organizzatori/Organizers: Caterina Scalvedi (University of Illinois, Chicago), Francesco Pongiluppi (University of Turin).

Panel Description:

Throughout the period of Italian colonialism (1880s-1940s), hundreds of thousands of people migrated from Italy to its colonies in Northeastern Africa (Eritrea, Somalia, Ethiopia) and the Mediterranean (Libya, Dodecanese Islands). Migrants – most of whom were male soldiers – were seasonal workers or permanent settlers, each displaced to a specific region as a result of military maneuvers, labor and settlement policies, economic trends, and social dynamics. In this complex context of colonial migration, the Italian colonial state opened, ran, or subsidized schools for settlers and colonial subjects. Schools became an imperial tool of governance, political control, and cultural promotion, but also lively arenas for exchange and socialization, individual and collective identity formation, and negotiation over existing power relations. While scholars of French, British, Portuguese, Dutch, and Belgian colonialism have already explored the multiple aspects of education in imperial settings, historians of Italian colonialism have only recently started addressing schools as a window into colonial society. This panel seeks to join this emerging scholarship on Italian colonial education. **The organizers invite one or two additional presenters to join our panel. We welcome submissions from a variety of disciplines, including history, anthropology, sociology, education studies, and linguistics, on the broad topic of Italian education in Eritrea, Somalia, Ethiopia, Libya, and the Dodecanese Islands in the colonial and early postcolonial period (1880-1970). Studies that examine schools as a fertile space for the colonial encounter with effects on both colonial and post-colonial trajectories of students, teachers, missionaries, state authorities, settler and local communities are especially welcome.**

Panel Discussant: TBA.

1. Valentina Fusari (University of Pavia) [valentina.fusari@unipv.it](mailto:valentina.fusari@unipv.it)

ITA: "A scuola di italianità. Il paradosso dell'istruzione degli italo-eritrei nell'Eritrea (post)coloniale."  
ENG: "School of Italianness. The Paradox of Italo-Eritreans' Education in (Post)colonial Eritrea."

2. Valeria Deplano (University of Cagliari) [valeria.deplano@unica.it](mailto:valeria.deplano@unica.it)

ITA: "Formare le élite postcoloniali: studenti somali ed eritrei nelle università italiane (1950-65)."  
ENG: "The Formation of Post-colonial Elites: Somali and Eritrean students in Italian universities (1950-65)."

3. Caterina Scalvedi (University of Illinois, Chicago) [cscalv2@uic.edu](mailto:cscalv2@uic.edu)

ITA: "Le scuole per sudditi coloniali nell'impero italiano fascista."  
ENG: "The Schools for Colonial Subjects in Fascist Italy's Empire."

Il panel si svolgerà in italiano o inglese. / The language of the panel will be Italian or English.

Si veda la call for papers allegata riguardo alla modalità d'invio delle candidature. / Please see the attached call for papers for paper proposal submission instructions.