

Accounting Practices and Religious Orders in Missionary Territories

Università Roma Tre
24.01.2024
H09:30-18:30

Istituto Svizzero
25.01.2024
H09:30-13:15

Catholic overseas missions developed in a context of European territorial and commercial expansion. Recent studies have highlighted the significance of missionary involvement in commercial activities both at the global and local levels. The contributions to this conference build on this novel historiography by focusing on a specific type of sources, namely missionary account books. How specific were the missionary accounting practices which were mostly in the hands of regular clerics who were supposed to be devoted to a life in poverty? How did they differ from the practices of other economic agents such as merchants? More broadly, by asking these questions, the purpose is to contribute to the discussion about how to conceive the relation between religious confession and economy and, in particular, the growth and development of capitalism.

Scientific and organizing committee:

Felicita Tramontana, H el ene Vu Thanh, Christian Windler, Rebecca Carnevali, Manuel Capomaccio.

The conference is organized within the ERC Horizon 2020 project 'HOLYLAB – A global economic organization in the early modern period: The Custody of the Holy Land through its account books (1600–1800)'. In collaboration with Istituto Svizzero and the Department of Early Modern History of the Historical Institute, University of Bern.

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PROGRAMME

WEDNESDAY, 24.01.2024

Political Sciences Department of Università degli Studi di Roma Tre – IV floor
Via Gabriello Chiabrera 199, Roma

- H09:30-10:00 — **Felicita Tramontana** (Rome),
Hélène Vu Thanh (Lorient/Paris),
Christian Windler (Bern), *Welcome and Introduction*
- H10:00-10:45 — **Alexander Schunka** (Berlin),
Money Matters: Fundraising Journeys among European Protestants in the Early Modern Era
- H10:45-11:15 — *Coffee break*
- H11:15-12:00 — **Christian Windler** (Bern),
*Missionary Economy, Accounting Practices and 'Glocal' Entanglements in a Cosmopolitan Port City:
The Discalced Carmelites in Basra (Eighteenth Century)*
- H12:00-12:30 — **Bernard Heyberger** (Paris),
Comment
- H12:30-14:30 — *Break*
- H14:30-15:15 — **Frederik Vermote** (Monterey Bay),
*The Accounting of Jesuit Missions in China: Fighting over French Financial Assets in Beijing,
1773–1782*
- 15:15-16:00 — **Juan José Rivas Moreno** (London),
Profit in Piety: The Co-optation of Manila's Transpacific Trade into Missionary Efforts in Asia, 1733–1797
- H16:00-16:30 — *Coffee break*
- H16:30-17:15 — **Eugenio Menegon** (Boston),
*Center and Periphery: Propaganda Fide's Accounting Practices in the Eighteenth-Century China
Mission (online)*
- H17:15-18:00 — **Hélène Vu Thanh** (Lorient/Paris),
*Managing Finances at a Global Scale: Examining the Jesuit Japan Mission through its Accounting
Documents*
- H18:00-18:30 — **Gaetano Sabatini** (Rome),
Comment

THURSDAY, 25.01.2024

Istituto Svizzero
Via Liguria 20, Roma

- H09:30-10:15 **Andrew Dial** (Jefferson City),
Accounting for Failure: Investigating the Lavalette Affair

H10:15-10:45 — *Coffee break*

H10:45-11:30 — **Felicita Tramontana** (Rome),
No Global? The Global Expansion of Catholicism and the Custody of the Holy Land through Franciscan Account Books (Seventeenth Century)

H11:30-12:15 — **Nicolas Rogger** (Bern),
'Spiritual Fathers' as Secular Bookkeepers: Capuchin Accounting Practices in Europe and the Missions (1600–1800)

H12:15-12:45 — **Simon Ditchfield** (York),
Comment

H12:45-13:15 — Final discussion