

The making of colonialism through law and other fictions

“I Pomeriggi” series

Biographies

Izabel Barros is a historian, doctoral researcher and teaching assistant at the University of Lausanne. Under the supervision of Professor Bernhard Schär, she is pursuing a PhD with a dissertation entitled *A Global Micro-History of a Swiss-Owned Plantation in Bahia (1820-1888)*. Active in both Brazil and Switzerland, Izabel is a committed decolonial feminist and anti-racist activist. Her work critically examines the influence of gender and race within narratives of global capitalism, integrating her academic research and activism.

Erica Moretti is the 2024 Millicent Mercer Johnsen/National Endowment for the Humanities Rome Prize Fellow in modern Italian studies and associate professor in the Department of Modern Languages and Cultures at the Fashion Institute of Technology, State University of New York. Her current book project, *Across the Colonial Sea: Family Reunification, Vatican Humanitarianism, and the End of Empire (1943–1950)* counters a top-down view of humanitarianism by using untapped archival sources to center the experience of the thirty thousand children of Italian settlers throughout North Africa who had been repatriated to Italy because of the impending war, and who in its aftermath wanted to go home.

Carla Panico is a doctoral candidate in Postcolonialism and Global Citizenship at the University of Coimbra (CES/FEUC). She has been a fellow for Fundação Ciência e Tecnologia (FCT) (2018-2022) and a research fellow at the University of Pisa (2022-2024), where she previously graduated in Contemporary History. Her main research interests include nationalism, Italian emigration and the Southern question. Passionate about public history, she has been a member of the Italian Society of Historians since 2020 and, in parallel to her academic publications, has written for *Il Manifesto*, *Dinamo Press*, *Jacobin Italia*, the *Feltrinelli Foundation*, and other outreach platforms.

Veronica Pecile conducts research between law, critical theory and theories of spatio-temporality. Since 2023 she has been an affiliated researcher at the *Lucernauris-Institut für Juristische Grundlagen* of the University of Lucerne. Previously, she was a Postdoc Fellow at the *Collegium Helveticum* (Zurich) and at Harvard Law School. She holds a PhD in Law and Social sciences from EHESS (Paris) and a Master's degree from Sciences Po (Paris). In Rome, she will work with institutions and artistic platforms to investigate the legal techniques and discourses through which the Italian colonies were established.

Galadriel Ravelli is a Lecturer in Italian Studies at the University of Bath, where she teaches Italian and European history, politics and culture. After studying at the University of Pisa, she completed a PhD at the University of Bath. Between November 2021 and July 2023, she was a Visiting Fellow at the Institute of Languages, Culture and Society at the School of Advanced Studies (University of London). Her current research project looks at the legacy of colonialism in Italy, with a focus on remembrance of colonial deportations from Libya to Italy.

Neelam Srivastava is Professor of Postcolonial and World Literature at Newcastle University, UK. Her research interests include the cultural history of Italian colonialism, postcolonial South Asian literature, anticolonial and antifascist writing (Antonio Gramsci, Sylvia Pankhurst, and Frantz Fanon in particular), and postcolonial print cultures. In 2016, she co-founded the Postcolonial Print Cultures International Network with Rajeswari Sunder Rajan. Her most recent publications include *The Bloomsbury Handbook of Postcolonial Print Cultures*, co-edited with Toral Jatin Gajrawala, Rajeswari Sunder Rajan and Jack Webb (London: Bloomsbury, 2023) and *The Form of Ideology and the Ideology of Form: Cold War, Decolonization, and Postcolonial Print Cultures*, co-edited with Francesca Orsini and Laetitia Zecchini (Open Book Publishers, 2022). She is also the author of *Italian Colonialism and Resistances to Empire, 1930–1970* (London: Palgrave, 2018) and co-editor, with Baidik Bhattacharya, of *The Postcolonial Gramsci* (London: Routledge 2012). She is the author of *Secularism and the Postcolonial Indian Novel: National and Cosmopolitan Narratives* (London: Routledge, 2008).