

Statement on the Election of Professor John Foot as Chair of the Association for the Study of Modern Italy (ASMI)

The Association for the Study of Modern Italy (ASMI) was founded in 1982 by Christopher Seton-Watson, to bring together individuals and organisations from the UK and abroad with teaching, research, professional or general interests in modern Italy from all disciplinary angles. Today, ASMI's membership is international and includes scholars and others from a wide range of disciplinary backgrounds including history, political science, languages, geography, literature, film and anthropology. The association is established to advance public education in the UK about Modern Italy. ASMI organizes annual conferences and sponsors other events in the UK and abroad. We also publish the journal *Modern Italy*. With four issues a year and international peer-reviewed articles, *Modern Italy* is one of the leading English-language journals of Italian studies. The aim of ASMI is to promote the study and knowledge of Italian history, politics, culture and society from the eighteenth to the twenty-first century from whatever discipline.

At ASMI's 2024 Annual General Meeting, held at the Institute of Languages, Cultures and Societies (University of London) on 29th November, Professor **John Foot** was unanimously elected as the new Chair of the Association, in succession to Professor **Phil Cooke** who was standing down. Many thanks to Phil for his exceptional leadership over the last six years, and a warm welcome to John in his new role!

John Foot is Professor of Modern Italian History in the Italian Department at the University of Bristol. He has been a member of ASMI since the 1990s and has served as Secretary of the Association, as well as co-editor of *Modern Italy*. He also organised or co-organised a number of ASMI conferences and events. He is the author of numerous books and articles linked to contemporary Italian history, culture and politics, many translated into Italian and other languages. These include *Calcio: A History of Italian Football* (2006, 2010); *Italy's Divided Memory* (2009); *Milan since the Miracle* (1999); *The Man who closed the asylums. Franco Basaglia and the Revolution in Italian mental health care* (2015, 2023); *Blood and Power. The Rise and Fall of Italian Fascism* (2022); *The Archipelago. Italy since 1945* (2019). His *Red Brigades. The Terrorists who brought Italy to its knees* will be published by Bloomsbury in 2025.

Here a statement from our new chair:

I am delighted and honoured to be appointed Chair of the Association of Modern Italy. I have been a member of the association since the early 1990s and have served as Secretary in the past. Professor Phil Cooke and his team have left an extraordinary legacy and I hope to be able to continue in their footsteps (no pun intended!). ASMI is a crucial organisation in terms of promoting Italian history and Italian studies in the UK and Italy, and in connecting scholars working on Italy across the world. The journal linked to ASMI, Modern Italy, goes from strength to strength. I look forward to working with scholars through ASMI across the globe and I am excited about the prospects for the future, despite the difficult current climate in the UK in particular. One of my first priorities will be to organise an event linked to the work of the past President of ASMI, Paul Ginsborg. It is in his spirit, and that of all those who have worked with ASMI over the years, that I hope to work as Chair.

The election of Prof. Foot as Chair is an exciting development for ASMI. With his extensive experience and long-standing involvement in the association, he will help strengthen ASMI's role as a hub for the study of Italian history and culture, fostering connections among scholars worldwide and continuing its tradition of interdisciplinary collaboration

London, 13 December 2024