

Call for Papers
ASMI Annual Conference 2025

Justice and Trials in Contemporary Italy

28 & 29 November 2025
ILCS, Senate House, University of London

This conference will draw on interdisciplinary research into the history, politics, and cultural significance of Italian justice and trials in contemporary Italy. It will accept papers looking at individual trials as well as broader reflections around the justice system, actors in that system including lawyers, magistrates, judges, the accused, witnesses. Specific attention will be also paid to the social, political, and cultural impact of trials, and to the ways in which they have shaped and reflected Italian society (representations of that system in cinema, television, fiction, sport and comparisons between Italian justice and that seen in other nations). Trials have played a key role in Italian history – from the trials linked to the murder of Emanuele Notarbartolo in the 1890s, to those linked to political violence in the 1920s, to the trials of fascists in the 1940s, up to the Montesi case in the 1960s, the Red Brigades trials in the 1970s and 1980s and the Mafia maxi-trial in the 1980s, up to *Tangentopoli* and its numerous related trials in the 1990s. Different kinds of trials and investigations have also captured the popular imagination and dominated the media – from those linked to ‘the monster of Florence’, to the Cogne case, the Kercher murder in Perugia and numerous other cases of *cronaca nera*. Papers which investigate the methodologies of looking at trials and justice are particularly welcome, and/or the role of judicial archives. In so doing, the conference aims to foster a dialogue between historians, legal scholars, cultural critics, sociologists, journalists and practitioners.

Confirmed keynote speakers: Prof. John Dickie (UCL) & Dr Benedetta Tobagi.

Panels might include, but are not limited to the following conference themes:

- Trials And Italian History
- Archives and Trials
- Figures within the Judicial System: Lawyers, Magistrates, *Collaboratori*, etc.
- The Mafia and Justice
- Political Violence and Italian Justice
- 'Women in the Dock': Gender, Violence And Justice
- The Representation of Justice in Cinema, Literature, Photography, etc.
- Trials and Justice on Television
- *Cronaca Nera*
- Corruption and Italian Justice
- Specific Trials or Legal Processes
- Architecture of The Court and the Setting of Italian Justice

The conference will be **in-presence**. The keynote speeches will be live-streamed online.

Papers can be presented either in **English or Italian**.

All proposals for papers or panels (300 word abstract per 15/20 minutes presentations, plus a brief biography) should be sent to asmiconference2025@gmail.com by **Monday July 7th 2025**.

Acceptances will be communicated by Monday, 28th July 2025.

Accepted speakers **will be required to join ASMI** (<https://asmi.org.uk/membership/>) and register for the conference by 1st November 2025.

Registration details will be announced no later than September.

Organising committee: John Foot (Bristol University, coordinator); Karen Bertorelli (Pisa University); Amy King (Bristol University); Gianmarco Mancosu (Macerata University); Rossella Merlino (Messina University); Milena Sabato (Salento University).