

# What do we speak about when we speak about Italy?

**Wednesday evening from 10 February 2016**

**Room 1 Villa Raimondi**

**18.00-19.00**

## **Eight introductory lessons on the general history, politics, and cultures of Italy**

Not only the cradle of Western civilization, but also one of the most troubled countries in the history of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Italy boasts a cultural heritage that has no equal in the Western world, and, arguably, in the whole world.

The land of an empire that unified countries from the Atlantic coast to Siria, and from England to Libya, the Italian Peninsula became the land of city-states that stood up to the Emperor, gradually becoming a small-scale Europe, with regional states divided by politics, culture, art, and literature, but unified by a common language.

Italy. The land of the Renaissance movement that still inspires our culture. The land where permanent diplomatic residence was invented. The land of the Vicar of Christ. The land of opera. The land of a late unification. The land where political and cultural unification is still a controversial issue.

This series of eight lessons aims to introduce the **geography, history, and culture** of Italy, historical events, protagonists, and social and cultural movements, to multi-national doctoral and post-doctoral students who may have little knowledge of the country where they will spend several important and formative years. The timeframe covered by the lessons stretches from the Middle Ages to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The lessons are based on audio-visual material, and lectures that help students finding their bearings in a fascinating, rich, and complex culture.

By the end of each lecture (50 minutes with time for Q/A), students will have learned key dates, the names of protagonists, illustrative stories, and anecdotes related to the subject of the day.

The dates and lesson topics are listed on the next page.

Note that this class meets fortnightly, i.e. once every two weeks.

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1	10 February 2016	Local versus Global: City-states defy the Emperor in the Middle Ages: the Lombard League.
2	24 February 2016	The Italian regional states, the Renaissance movement, its networks and its consequences.
3	9 March 2016	An unusual city: Rome, from capital to capital.
4	23 March 2016	The Italian courts: Naples, Florence, Mantua.
5	13 April 2016	The Italian republics: Venice, Siena, Genoa.
6	27 April 2016	The language.... or languages... of Italy.
7	4 May 2016	<i>Italy from Garibaldi to Berlusconi</i> introduces main themes of 19 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> century Italian history, politics and culture. This is a documentary featuring, among other scholars, EUI professors Luisa Passerin, and Lucy Riall.
8	18 May 2016	Italy today: finally global?