What does the enquiry into unexploited sources reveal about the capacity of Jewish women and men to become active on the political stage? How did they formulate their political thought in Italy during the Renaissance (13th-17th centuries)? The Jewish condition as minority and the need for continuous political and economic negotiations set up specific processes of political participation, detectable in important documentary resources. Yet, this participation and documentation has so far been neglected by historiography. We intend to focus this Jewish political thought and agency to raise the question of the existence of a “Jewish politics” and to describe it in its particularities (pragmatism, pursuit of group interests, recourse to intercession and alliance, own institutional and documentary structuring) and in its interactions with European politics.
MONDAY 12 SEPTEMBER

9 H 30
SAPIENZA UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA
AULA A DI STORIA MEDIEVALE – DIPARTIMENTO DI STORIA ANTROPOLOGIA, RELIGIONI, ARTE, SPETTACOLO, FACOLTÀ DI LETTERE E FILOSOFIA

Arianna Punzi - Preside della Facoltà di Lettere e Filosofia, Sapienza Università di Roma
Alessandro Saggioro - Vicedirettore Dipartimento SARAS, Sapienza Università di Roma
Ruth Dureghello - Presidente della Comunità Ebraica di Roma

Greetings

Lab 1. Making Jewish History Political: a question of sources?
Chair: Tamar Herzig - Tel Aviv University

Guido Bartolucci - Università di Bologna
Theory or practice? Jews and politics in the Early Modern period: a historiographical review

Asher Salah - Bezalel Academy – Hebrew University
lay Leadership and Rabbinical Authority in the Ghetto of Florence: an Alternative Model for the Beginning of Jewish Modernity

Discussion

15 H 00
Lab 2. Uncommon Sources: images, imagination and self-representation
Chair: Caterina Volpi - Sapienza Università di Roma

Francesco Freddolini - Sapienza Università di Roma
Jews in Cesare Vecellio’s Habiti antichi et moderni: self-representation and imagination

Massimo Moretti - Sapienza Università di Roma
Pesach: representations and self-representations of Jewish identity in Early Modern Age

Transfer to the Jewish Museum of Rome (via Catalana / Largo 16 ottobre 1943): special visit led by Olga Melasecchi (Director of the Jewish Museum of Rome)

TUESDAY 13 SEPTEMBER

9 H 30
ÉCOLE FRANÇAISE DE ROME, SALA CONFERENZE, PIAZZA NAVONA 62

Brigitte Marin - École française de Rome
Noemi Di Segni - Presidente dell’Unione delle Comunità Ebraiche Italiane

Greetings

Lab 3. Making Responsa Political: new approaches on Jewish History
Chair: David Malkiel - Bar Ilan University

Pinchas Roth - Bar Ilan University
Isaiah ben Mali’s responsa and Jewish political agency in Southern Italy (13th century)

Jeffrey Woolf - Bar Ilan University
Rhetoric and Rabbinic Authority in Italian Responsa

Bernard D. Cooperman - University of Maryland (online)
Are Non-Members Subject to Taxation? A Case Study in the Rise of Modern Jewish Self-Government

14 H 30
Lab 4. Inside Out: looking for Jewish political agency in External Sources

Chair: Laura Pettinaroli - École française de Rome

Marina Caffiero - Sapienza Università di Roma
La politica dei Memoriali. La retorica della fedeltà e il linguaggio della protesta

Alessandra Veronese - Università di Pisa
Trial as local politics in 15th century Volterra

Germano Maifreda - Università degli Studi di Milano
Enticing the outside, self-governing the inside: papers on “ethnic” conflicts mediated by Christians as sources on Jewish agency

Pierre Savy - Université Gustave-Eiffel
Conclusion

Walk to the Archivio Storico della Comunità Ebraica di Roma “Giancarlo Spizzichino” (Lungotevere Cenci Tempio). Visit led by Claudio Proccacia (Director of the Archive) and Silvia Haia Antonucci (Responsible of the Archive)

Legend: Jews attacked in Verdun-sur-Garonne, end of the 14th century (British Library)