

THE TOPICS OF THE CONVENTION

Let's imagine that in 2060 someone wants to find out something about the years that we're living through now. They'll probably have access to certain depictions of the beginning of the millennium: something will remain in the collective memory, there'll be witnesses; they'll know something from the education they received, a little more from the media of those times. But let's imagine that this is a scholar. On which sources will he or she base their research? This involves an exercise of imagination which concerns the future on one side and the present on the other.

As far as the future is concerned, what will constitute a "source" for the scholar will depend on the questions for which answers are required (that's how sources are when dealing with a research inquiry), and on the overall situation in which the scholar finds himself or herself (totalitarian regimes and democracies, for example, have very different relationships with the past). Assuming that the overall situation and the general thrust of study are not too different from those of today, our scholar may well look at official documents, industrial remains, the forms of the buildings, materials and sources of energy that we use today; he or she may analyse objects of domestic use, packaging and refuse; perhaps the research will have something to do with our waste products; they will be able to read the written material we publish or view our television news programmes, see our films, track down our toys.... If they want to investigate our daily lives, they may dig out emails or blogs, or daily journals tucked away among the files stored on some obsolete pen drive...

We possess a huge quantity of paper documents about those who lived fifty years ago, from private papers (letters, personal diaries etc.) to public ones (circulars, newspapers, specialist publications etc.). Today, these types of documents are often replaced with internet communications, since a large part of daily activities (financial transactions, work, entertainment, interpersonal communications, professional communications, scientific publications, political confrontation and debate, research activities etc.) pass through digital equipment and data transmission, not to mention the complication that today's software programmes rapidly become obsolete. To an increasing degree, ours is a networking society.

To this material created in digital form, a growing number of analogue texts and documents is being added (paper, stills and moving pictures, books and films) produced and stored by public and private institutions (archives and libraries) which are digitised retrospectively (meta-sources), and put on the internet. What unusual problems might this "digitised past," of seemingly easy access, pose for professional historians and other social scientists? What past are we consigning to our future? What is - and what will be - the impact of the Internet and the new digital media on the creation of public discourse on history? What are the implications for the communal sense of history and on the process of constructing shared memories?

Indeed, an immense mass of other data and information trails are deposited inside and shared between our computers. What will remain of all this? Which protagonist or institution will ensure this information is still available? What criteria will be adopted for its selection?

The reflections that the convention intends to stimulate concern both what we intend to leave to posterity as "worth remembering," and what we leave behind unwittingly. Therefore, this concerns our attitude to memory and to the future, our methods of archiving data, the faith we place in the future and the ways in which we imagine it (or refuse to imagine it). To consider what may constitute a source for socio-historical research in fifty years, we are forced to ask questions that are not obvious on our way of life, on the undercurrent of change in which we are caught up, but also about the practices and methodologies applied today in the world of innovation and the economy, as well as scientific research in the field of social sciences.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Fabio Di Spirito - *General Secretary, Telecom Italia Foundation*

Luca De Biase - *Editor-in-chief, Nova-Il Sole 24 Ore*

Tommaso Detti - *Professor of Contemporary History, University of Siena*

Paolo Jedlovski - *Professor of General Sociology, University of Calabria*

Vittorio Marchis - *Professor of the History of Science and Technology, the Polytechnic of Turin*

Serge Noiret - *History Information Specialist, European University Institute, Florence*

Chiara Ottaviano - *Cliomedia Officina, Turin*

www.fondazionetelecomitalia.it

E-mail: convegno-fondazione-telecomitalia@segreteriaeventi.com

Telephone: 331 7521150

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2060: WHAT WILL BE THE SOURCES FOR THE HISTORY OF OUR TIMES?

A comparison of techniques, practices and social sciences

Turin, April 8-9, 2010

G. Agnelli Auditorium - Polytechnic of Turin, Corso Duca degli Abruzzi, 24

An academic convention promoted by the **Telecom Italia Foundation** in collaboration with the **Polytechnic of Turin** and with **AIS**, the Italian Sociology Association, **SISSCO**, the Italian Society for the Study of Contemporary History and **Cliomedia Officina**.

APRIL 8

- 9:00** Registration
9:10 – 9:30 Start of business
9:30 – 9:50 **The topics of the convention**
Introductory remarks by Chiara Ottaviano – *Cliomedia Officina*

1st SESSION

9:50 – 11:10 Plenary session

Digital archives. Comparing projects and practices

Inge Angevaare – *Coordinator of the project, the Netherlands Coalition for Digital Preservation* and Stefano Vitali – *Director of Archive Superintendence for Emilia Romagna* in conversation with Serge Noiret – *European University Institute and Luca De Biase – Nova-Il Sole 24 Ore*

11:10 – 11:30 Coffee break

11:30 – 13:30 Parallel work groups

Digital documents: what to conserve, where and how?

- **The digital collections of institutional storerooms**
Anna Maria Tammaro – *University of Parma*
- **What should be conserved for the history of enterprise and by whom?**
Tito Menzani – *University of Bologna*
- **What should be conserved for the history of the media and by whom?**
Gabriele Balbi – *University of Italian Switzerland at Lugano*
- **What should be conserved for the history of economics and by whom?**
Matteo Troilo – *University of Bologna, Rimini campus*
- **The central State Archive and National Archives**
Deborah Sorrenti – *PhD, Roma Tre University*

New sources for investigating the imagination

- **The success of Facebook and the “investments in the imagination”**
Valentina Grassi – *PhD, Sorbonne University - Paris*
- **The production of television series and the “imagination dimension”**
Fabio D’Andrea – *University of Perugia*
- **Fragments of science fiction online and the imagination of the future**
Luca Giuliano – *La Sapienza University of Rome*
Gevisa La Rocca – *University of Palermo*
- **Blob: visual archive and prefigurations**
Maria Francesca Martinez Tagliavia – *PhD student at EHESS in Paris*

13:30 – 15:00 Lunch break

2st SESSION

15:00 – 16:30 Plenary session

Personal memories, web businesses and cultural projects

Paolo Jedlowski – *University of Calabria* and Gabriella Gribaudo – *Federico II University of Naples* in conversation with Luca Novarino – *Organiser of the Memory Bank*
Camillo Brezzi – *University of Siena and Scientific Director of the National Diary Archive of Pieve Santo Stefano* and Duccio Demetrio – *University of Milan-Bicocca and founder of the Free University of Autobiography of Anghiari*

16:30 – 18:30 Parallel work groups

Research theory and practice: new methodologies and instruments

- **Digital space-time: the analysis of visual evidence and representations**
Davide Bennato – *University of Catania*
- **The scientific web and digital media libraries**
Annalisa Buffardi – *Federico II University of Naples*
- **Extended newspaper libraries: beyond the press review**
Gennaro Carotenuto – *University of Macerata*
- **Academic workshop**
Erika Cellini and Barbara Saracino – *University of Florence*
- **Text Mining for the organisation and analysis of large quantities of data**
Valentina Pappalardo and Cristiano Tessitore – *PhD students at the University of Florence*

Personal memories, Facebook and other sites

- **The first studies on social network sites as records of the present**
Laura Iannelli – *University of Sassari*
- **Records of “generational events” on web 2.0**
Sara Monaci and Simona Tirocchi – *University of Turin*
- **Personal documents on the Internet**
Laura Arosio – *University of Milan-Bicocca*
- **A surplus of records and unstable archives**
Elisa Soncini – *Vita-Salute San Raffaele University of Milan*
- **The transmission of memory from Guccini to Avatar**
Enrica Salvatori – *University of Pisa*

Future archeology: technological artefacts, objects, refuse

- **Archeology of devices and multidisciplinary epistemology**
Enrico Schirò – *Syzetis Association*
Luca Peretti – *Agency of Time Association*
- **The refuse of cyberspace as traces of the present**
Antonio Tursi – *Senior Fellow, McLuhan Program in Culture and Technology, University of Toronto*
- **Garbology. The analysis of refuse, “bare” objects**
Pierluigi Musarò – *University of Bologna*
- **Technological media and mediated sources**
Giuseppina Pellegrino – *University of Calabria*

APRIL 9

3st SESSION

9:15 – 9:45 **The persistence of material memory**
Keynote lecture by Vittorio Marchis – *Polytechnic of Turin*

9:45 – 11:45 **In the Time Machine in order to study our present**
Navigated by the contemporary historian, Tommaso Detti – *University of Siena*
The sociologist, Antonio De Lillo – *University of Milan-Bicocca*
The philosopher, Maurizio Ferraris – *University of Turin*
Coordinated by Fabio Di Spirito – *Telecom Italia Foundation*

11:45 – 12:00 Coffee break

12:00 – 13:00 **Close of business**