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"Il Dolore, il Lutto, la Gloria. Rappresentazioni Fotografiche della Grande Guerra fra Pubblico e Privato, 1914-1940" a Conference on the First World War and its Representations

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On the occasion of the First World War Centenary, the Department for Cultural Heritage of the University of Bologna in Ravenna together with the SISF Italian Society for the Study on photography, promoted the conference *Il dolore, il lutto, la gloria. Rappresentazioni fotografiche della grande guerra fra pubblico e privato, 1914-1940* between 26-28 May, 2016. The conference was organised in collaboration with the University of Padova, the Foundation of Historical Studies Filippo Turati of Florence and the Institute of the History of Italian Risorgimento of Rome.

The scientific meeting was dedicated to the photographic representation of sufferings during the years of the First World War and, in a wider sense, the first half of the 20th Century. The aim was to focus on key issues from different point of views and study approaches moving the interest from the event itself to the protagonists involved in the war. Such topics have gained attention also by tourism researchers since cultural tourists interested in war heritage wish to gain in depth knowledge on people's everyday life in wartime, the topic widely addressed at this conference.

The proposed themes were about visual representation of social living conditions during the war: from the private sphere to the public one.

A reconstruction made from the storytelling of the soldiers' survival strategies to those of the families in the homeland, according to the redesigned roles by the conflict; from the subjective construction of the memory of the war by the subjective point of view to the structuring of the visual rhetoric of the event.

The remarkable development in the utilisation of photographic image in war consensus building was another issue considered.

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Furthermore, the use of pictures for the construction of a photographic memory devoted to grief and glorification of sacrifice, during the decades after the conflict, until the Second World War was taken into account.

Other aspects were the utilisation of photographic images in the representation of the goriest and violent character of the conflict and the question of the "visibility" degree of suffering and pain created by war, in its various aspects and its different forms of access to public and private spaces.



The conference speakers were highly recognised scholars from different countries, experts in various disciplines such as history, sociology, anthropology and museology. The conference was structured in four sessions: photographic devices and narratives storytelling of war and pain, the trauma and uprooting subject, the grieving process and the glory, representations and memory issues through archives and past and present photography. Different sources were taken in consideration, from the picture of French soldier photographer to the images of self-mutilation conserved in the School of Militar health of Florence. The archives consulted for the research were both public and private, such as Fulcieri Paulucci De Calboli family archive or the photographic fund of the Museo Centrale del Risorgimento in Rome.

During the meeting an exhibition titled "Con Dio, per la Patria. Fede e propaganda religiosa nella Grande Guerra", curated by the student of the bachelor degree course in Cultural Heritage of Bologna University-Ravenna Campus, was presented. It displayed

various documents on the theme of war, photographs, artifacts, letters and devotional objects as well as postcards, booklets and mourning pictures from the private fund of the collector Enzo Giorgetti and from various photographic archives and online archives selected by the students.

Further information can be found on the dedicated web sites:

<https://eventi.unibo.it/il-dolore-il-lutto-la-gloria>

<https://eventi.unibo.it/con-dio-per-la-patria>