



In collaboration with



CALL FOR PAPERS

HISTORIES OF ITALIAN ORAL HISTORY

RESEARCH EXPERIENCES, GROUPS, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS

FROM THE 1970s TO THE NEW MILLENNIUM

Conference

Turin, 10–11 December 2026

Abstract submission deadline: 15 July 2026

Associazione italiana di storia orale (AISO) and **Associazione culturale Vera Nocentini**, in collaboration with the **Department of Historical Studies of the University of Turin**, are organising the international conference *Histories of Italian Oral History: Research Experiences, Groups, National and International Networks from the 1970s to the New Millennium*. The conference aims to promote and support the study of the history of oral history in Italy since the 1970s. Notably, the conference intends to examine the international influences and exchanges that occurred between Italy and the broader international oral history community, and to discuss the directions, trends and research questions that characterise contemporary scholarship, highlighting both continuities and discontinuities with the past.

Italian oral history was characterised by a clear interdisciplinary approach in terms of contributions, theoretical perspectives and methodologies. Such richness was informed by a distinctive geographical dimension and by a great heterogeneity of studies – most of which are only partially known. Several scholars and their biographies, a variety of research approaches, as well as books, scholarly articles and non-academic publications still need to be recovered and contextualized, beginning with the pioneering and foundational studies launched in the 1970s. The work of many individuals and research groups contributed to reshaping paradigms and interpretations, and to building a broad field of experimentation, involving scholars inside and outside the universities, with the significant participation of local institutions, cultural institutes, and research centers. This work has left a wide range of legacies, many of which remain largely unexplored.

On the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Italian Oral History Association, founded in Rome in 2006, AISO has launched a research initiative on the history of Italian oral history. This project intends to build upon and expand the ongoing efforts to reconstruct the establishment of oral history groups, and their approaches, publications, networks, collaborations and exchanges – both national and international, as well as intergenerational – across different regions of Italy since the 1970s.

Scholars from various disciplines are invited to submit proposals aimed at reconstructing oral history research projects and interview-collection initiatives carried out by different research groups, often rooted in specific local contexts. The topics that attracted researchers' attention were numerous: fascism and antifascism; participation in the First and Second World Wars; deportation; the Resistance;

women and feminisms; labor; political cultures; neighborhoods; popular cultures; and more. Such a broad range of interests led to the creation of heterogeneous networks and collaborations that involved very different actors across the country. These included the presence of influential mentors, the publication of newsletters, journals, monographs or book series, as well as the collaborations with cultural institutes or university departments, and local and national networks. Alongside many innovative research projects and endeavours, these pioneering oral historians contributed significantly to theoretical and methodological debates, to broadening the role of public dissemination activities, and developing new strategies for training younger generations. Most of these groups operated over a limited period of time, making it necessary to reconstruct their composition, transformations, outputs and reasons for dissolution, as well as their legacies and the forms of intergenerational transmission and reciprocity they fostered.

The conference aims to address both the past and present of Italian oral history by: documenting and analyzing the various contexts in which individuals, groups, and institutions began collecting oral testimonies; examining the outcomes of these research projects and their impact on historiography and public opinion; investigating how their oral history approaches developed, which social networks they engaged with, and how they contributed to national and international historiographical debates; assessing their influence on discussions surrounding oral history; reflecting on the medium-term theoretical, methodological, and historiographical legacies of these experiences; considering how contemporary scholarship on oral history has evolved in comparison with previous decades; and exploring the new research questions that animate oral history studies today.

By way of example, the papers could focus on:

- Past and present oral history researches, including their interdisciplinary dimensions (history, anthropology, ethnomusicology, geography, sociolinguistics, etc.);
- Oral history research groups and the reconstruction of their histories and memberships;
- Individual and collective trajectories and biographies;
- Interviews with key protagonists;
- Oral history networks and international circulation?;
- Topics and subjects investigated by individuals or oral history groups;
- Interview collections, oral archives, publications (monographs, journals, newsletters, interview collections, etc.)
- Seminars and conferences organised or attended;
- Publications, forms of dissemination and intended audiences;
- The political, social, personal and collective motivations behind oral history research projects;
- The relationship between political activism and oral history, and between feminisms and oral history;
- The preservation and enhancement of oral archives.

One output of this research initiative will be the creation of an **AISO archive on the history of Italian oral history**, organised by geographical areas.

How to Participate

Scholars interested in participating are invited to submit their proposals by **15 July 2026** to aisoitalia@gmail.com and davide.tabor@unito.it, with the subject line **“CFP AISO Torino 2026”**

Proposals should include:

- The title of the paper;
- An abstract (maximum 2,000 characters);
- A short curriculum vitae of the author(s).

Proposals will be evaluated by the Scientific Committee, and the notification of acceptance will be sent by **August 2026**.

Papers that have been duly revised and evaluated by the Scientific Committee will be published in an edited volume.

Scientific Committee:

Daniela Adorni, Antonio Canovi, Alessandro Casellato, Giovanni Contini, Marcella Filippa, Gabriella Gribaudo, Lidia Piccioni, Davide Tabor, Giulia Zitelli Conti.

Organising Committee:

Alice Mandracci, Chiara Paris, Laura Rossi.

AISO Executive Committee 2025–2028:

Simone Colangelo, Chiara Paris (secretary), Lidia Piccioni (chair), Giovanni Pietrangeli, Giovanni Rinaldi, Laura Rossi (treasurer), Luca Santangelo, Chiara Spadaro, Davide Tabor (vice-chair).