INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGES CULTURES AND SOCIETIES | SCHOOL OF ADVANCED STUDY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Reverberations of the Pre-Modern Past: Italy's Imaginaries of Nation and Empire

7th December 2026

Room 243, Second Floor, Senate House, Malet Street, London, WC1E 7HU

9:30 - 10:00 **Registration and Morning Coffee** *(Served in 2nd Floor Lobby)*

10:00 - 11:00 **Nationalist Receptions of Dante's Works**

Tristan Kay, "The National Dante: Roots, Limits, Implications"
Martina Piperno, "Dante, Etruscan remnant? A genetic and pseudo-scientific myth from Carducci to Fascism"

12:00 - 13:00 **National Traditions and Critical Comparison**

Kate Travers, "Who is an Italian Poet?: Movement and Nation in Troubadour Scholarship"
Julia Hartley, "Pre-Modern Literatures in Comparison: Oriental Studies and Alternative Histories of Italy

13:00 - 14:00 **Lunch, Senate House Canteen**

14:00 - 15:00 **Forging Modern Identities from the Medieval Past**
Federica Coluzzi, "Forging the New Nation: Identity, Morality and Literary Heritage in Nineteenth-Century Italian Women's Writing"
Sean Wyer, "Nostalgia against Nationalism?"

15:00 - 15:30 **Break for Tea and Coffee**

15:30 - 16:30 **Material Recoveries: Monuments, Ruins, and Memory**

Gianmarco Mancosu, "Clearing the debris: Archeology, Empire and Fascist Imaginaries of Rome's Return" (hybrid session)
Charles Leavitt, "'Foreigners in flesh and bone': Restoring a Medici Monument, Resisting Allied Occupation"

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16:30 - 17:30 Reuses of the Past in Italy's Fascist Imperialism

Sam Agbamu, "Petrarch's *Africa* and Fascist Imperialism"
Charles Burdett, "The Manipulation of the Past in the Imperial Rhetoric of Italian Fascism"

17:30 - 18:30 - Closing Reception