



Università
Ca'Foscari
Venezia

PROJECT ACRONYM AND TITLE: Occupational Health – Ill health, Work and Occupational Health in Early Modern Italy (ca. 1550 -1750)

FUNDING PROGRAMME: H2020 Excellence Science – Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships

CALL: H2020-MSCA-IF-2019

SCIENTIFIC FIELDS: SOC – Social Sciences and Humanities

HOST DEPARTMENT: Department of Philosophy and Cultural Heritage

SCIENTIFIC RESPONSIBLE: Prof. Marco SGARBI

FELLOW: Marie-Louise Leonard

FINANCIAL DATA:

Project total costs	Overall funding assigned to UNIVE
€ 257209,92	€ 257209,92

ABSTRACT:

The project investigates the relationship between ill-health and working life in early modern Italy (c.1550-1750). The objective is to analyse how workers communicated health problems to employers and, in turn, how employers responded. It provides a ground-breaking perspective on the cultural history of ill-health, taking an occupational health approach to experiences of illness, health in the domestic environment, and public health. Ill-health is broadly conceived, encompassing chronic illness, bouts of ill-health, and injury. Work is defined as 'the use of time with the goal of making a living.' Therefore, both paid and unpaid activities are considered, and particular attention is given to women's work. Italy is a crucial site for analysis as it had a diverse workforce in highly urbanised areas while also being at the forefront of developing public health procedures in Europe, including the regulation of dangerous jobs. Concerns about the health consequences of working practices grew during this period, as demonstrated by a widely circulated treatise on the diseases of workers first published in 1700. The project will apply methodological approaches from the history of epistemology to neglected sources including manuscript 'sick notes' found in letters, physicians' notebooks, medical treatises, and regulations created by employers. The project examines how concerns about work activities were integrated into medical discourse and diagnosis, how workers understood and shared health problems, and how occupational health shaped early modern society. The results will be disseminated through peer reviewed, open access journals, a project website, a museum exhibition and via academic and public talks.

Planned Start date

1st October 2020

Planned End date

30th September 2023

PARTNERSHIP:

1. Università Ca' Foscari Venezia

Italy

Coordinator
