Winter Seminar
The Archives of the Holy See and the Roman Catholicism:
instructions for use and new research perspectives

Period: 23rd - 27th January 2023

The Sangalli Institute for the religious history and cultures of Florence is pleased to announce its second workshop on the archives of the Holy See and on the Roman Catholicism, which will be held in Rome from 23rd to 27th January 2023.

This workshop is addressed to young scholars in Humanities (students enrolled in graduate and Ph.D. programs in Early Modern, Modern and Contemporary History and History of Art but also archivists, museum curators, anthropologists and established scholars who are currently working on global Catholicism). The participants will be introduced, through a multi-disciplinary approach, to the study of the Papal Curia, to its archives and to the sources for the history of the Catholicism and will learn how to know, read, and understand the different kinds of documents preserved therein.

The seminar will consist of morning lectures on the history of the Roman Curia and the Catholicism, archival research, and palaeography. Participants will be encouraged to introduce their current or future research in order to have useful feedbacks from the archivists and professors involved in the seminar. The afternoon sessions will be devoted to visit a selected group of archives. The morning classes will include practical exercises and reading/comprehension of the documents and will be held at the Sala Achille Erba in the Barnabite complex of San Carlo ai Catinari, Piazza Benedetto Cairoli 117, in the very centre of Rome.

During the seminar the following archives will be visited:

1) State Archives of Rome
2) Archives of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith
3) Historical Archives of the Congregation for the Evangelization of People (formerly known “de Propaganda Fide”)
4) Archives of the Apostolic Penitentiary
5) Archives of the Fabbrica di San Pietro

The seminar’s list of lectures will include:

Introduction to Archival Research in Rome; The State Archives of Rome: Brief History and Structure; Archival Research in the Archives of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith; The Historical Archives of the Congregation for the Evangelization of People: Brief History and Structure; Archival Research in the Archives of the Apostolic Penitentiary; Archival Research in the General Archives of the Fabbrica di San Pietro; Laboratories on Manuscripts & Documents: Language, Scripts, Conventions, Dating & Documentary Typologies.

The lectures and the laboratories will be held, among the others, by Proff. Benedetta Albani (Max Planck Institute, Frankfurt am Main); Giorgio Caravale (University Roma Tre); Luca Codignola (Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism, University of Notre Dame); Enrico Flaiani (Vatican Apostolic Archives); Massimo Carlo Giannini (University of Teramo); Vitale Zanchettin (University IUAV, Venice)

A basic knowledge of Italian is recommended, but no previous archival and palaeographic experience is required. Students will be encouraged to develop and improve their current research by meeting with the archivists and the professors in order to plan future research-trips to Rome, and more broadly to Italy.

Perspective applicants should send to the following e-mail address: segreteria@istitutosangalli.it

1) a one-page CV
2) a brief statement letter (no more than one A4 page) in which they explain how this seminar will improve their research.

The above e-mail address should also be used for any queries pertaining to administrative details, course tuition and general information.

Information about possible accommodation in Rome will also be provided.

Cost of the seminar (including the morning lectures and visit to the archives): 1.000,00 € (one thousand euros).

Up to a maximum of 5 registrations amounting at € 600,00 (six hundred euros) each will be reserved to master students, not yet graduated nor enrolled in a Ph.D. program. The selection will be made on the basis on their motivations to the participation to the workshop and the relevance of their research.

The registrations will be closed as soon as the number of 15 participants will be reached. We invite therefore, if interested, to send the applications as soon as possible, in order to book ahead flights and accommodations in Rome during that week.

Deadline for application: 30th November 2022

Scientific coordination: Matteo Binasco (University for foreigners of Siena), Massimo Carlo Giannini (University of Teramo/Sangalli Institute), Maurizio Sangalli (University for foreigners of Siena/Sangalli Institute)