

In the three months I spent in Rome, I managed to scrutinize all the newspapers and journals in my corpus at the Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale and get reproductions of the materials I need for the publication growing out of this research. In February 2024, I presented the first findings of this research at a roundtable seminar at the University of Warwick, with Jennifer Burns, Philippe Le Goff and Luca Peretti. Moreover, in March 2024 I contributed to a podcast and newspaper article, commenting on how different sectors of the periodical press approached and discussed the Congress. While in Rome, I also consulted the archives currently hosting the documents of Istituto Italiano per l'Africa and obtained some of the documents that have already been catalogued.

In addition, most significantly for the future development of this research, I attended conferences and events during which I engaged with researchers and artists currently working on the Second Congress of Black Writers and Artists. This led me and former BSR fellow Luca Peretti to plan a workshop on *The Second Congress of Black Writers and Artists, 65 years later*, hosted by the Royal Netherlands Institute in Rome (KNIR). The workshop gathered the community of scholars and practitioners who are exploring the Congress as a research object but also as a source of inspiration for experiences of collaboration and engagement with the problematic Italian colonial and anticolonial legacies. It included research and practice presentations and an open discussion on how to mark the 70th anniversary of the Congress in 2029.

After my months in Rome, thanks to my current fellowship, I had the opportunity to consult another key archive for my research on the Congress: that of *Présence Africaine*, stored at Institut Mémoires de l'édition Contemporaine at Caen (France). This research trip granted me access to essential materials to document not only the actual making of the Congress but also the power dynamics behind it.

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#### ROME FELLOWSHIPS

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#### *Political misfits in the Adriatic, 1918–1947*

I dedicated my time at the BSR to the initial research for my postdoctoral project on extra-parliamentary political groups in Dalmatia between 1918 and 1947 entitled *Political misfits in the Adriatic, 1918–1947*. I am primarily interested in the ways in which unions, Italian irredentist groups and Jewish refugee organizations understood and negotiated their position during the turbulent decades of the first half of the twentieth century when Dalmatia was at the core of tensions between the Italian and Yugoslav kingdoms and a topic of international politics. Before arriving at the BSR, I was aware that this topic would require a new reading of Dalmatia in Italian politics at that time and Italian irredentism. For this reason, my research in Rome focused on understanding the place of Dalmatia in the Italian imperial and colonial system of that period. To that end, I conducted research in the Central State Archives, the Archive of the Senate and the Archive of the Società Dante Alighieri, among others. In addition, I consulted various publications and newspapers in the National Central Library.

Historicizing ‘Italian Dalmatia’ requires cultural, political and social interpretations. Despite the numerous scholarly publications on this topic (from the 1910s to the current day), an inclusive and comprehensive interpretation of the place of Dalmatia in the political imagination of the expanding Italian state in the twentieth century has not yet been offered. Scholars still often categorize this province as a part of inherent Italian national, historical and cultural claims in the Eastern Adriatic. However, deeper research into the propagandist, irredentist texts produced, beginning in the 1910s, reveals that Dalmatia served as a training ground for colonial claims within and beyond Europe. In comparison with, for example, Trentino, Istria and Trieste, the narratives on Dalmatia highlight its strategic and economic importance, an aspect that scholars have yet to explore.

In the future, I aim to investigate the economic and cultural explorations of Dalmatia in this period and the ways in which this focus of Italian politics shaped political organization. This research will culminate in two articles: the first will historicize and compare the economic and cultural significance of Dalmatia in publications in Italian in the period immediately after the First World War; the second will highlight the importance of Dalmatia for Italian domestic politics between 1916 and 1922.

In closing, I wish to emphasize that my research experience and life in Rome would not have been the same without the supporting, caring and genuinely interested community of the BSR. I am very thankful for this experience and look forward to continued collaborations with my BSR colleagues.

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### *Splendid isolation? Mobility and economic marginality in the Alps during the Roman era*

During the 2023–2024 academic year, I held a nine-month Rome Fellowship at the British School at Rome to pursue a project entitled *Splendid Isolation? Mobility and economic marginality in the Alps during the Roman era*. The project aimed to examine the economic potential of the Alps during the Roman period, using a multidisciplinary approach to explore how these complex spaces were navigated and exploited, alongside how they were integrated into the wider Roman economy.

Building on work initially undertaken as part of my doctorate, I created the Material Data in Northern Italy (MADINI) dataset to answer questions on the economy and trade within the region. It consists of three relational databases of amphorae, finewares and decorative stone and marble: 58,743 individual entries are recorded across the MADINI dataset from 39 urban sites within Northern Italy and the Alps, synthesizing quantified data from 137 publications. The BSR library and other libraries under the auspices of the Urbis network proved invaluable in the data-collection phase of the project, with many publications and excavation data having limited circulation outside of Italy. The MADINI dataset will be published open access online via GitHub and Zenodo, allowing other researchers to use the data and opening up opportunities for future collaboration.