**Chronica Mundi**

# Chronica Mundi

## Recovering Women's Voices

JEAN-YVES FRÉTIGNÉ

Université de Rouen (France)

VALERIE MCGUIRE

European University Institute (Italy)

MARÍA NOGUÉS BRUNO

Università degli Studi di Roma "La Sapienza" (Italy)

STEFANO ORAZI

Istituto per la storia del Risorgimento italiano (Italy)

ANA MARIA RODRIGUES

Universidade de Lisboa (Portugal)

EDUARDO ROZO ACUÑA

Università degli Studi di Urbino (Italy)

MAURICIO SÁNCHEZ MENCHERO

UNAM (Mexico)

ROLAND SARTI

University of Massachusetts Amherst (USA)

ROY SMITH

Nottingham Trent University (United Kingdom)

ROSA NELLY TREVINYO-RODRÍGUEZ

Tecnológico de Monterrey (Mexico)

ANA VÁZQUEZ HOYS

UNED (Spain)

# Contents

4

5

# English abstracts

## Helen, Before Troy: Recovering the Prototype of the Abducted (and Dangerous) Woman in Greek Mythology

Elena Duce Pastor

**Abstract:** In this article, I study mythological references to Helen before she was carried off to Troy. Specifically, I focus on two episodes: her childhood abduction by the Athenian hero Theseus; and the competition between suitors to marry her, described in the archaic source *The Catalogue of Women* in Pseudo Hesiod. Whilst less well-known, these episodes are narrated in the Trojan Cycle, before the account of the ten-year war. It is possible to identify patterns of behaviour that accompanied Helen of Troy throughout her life. She was repeatedly abducted, raped, and rendered invisible to her family. The majority of sources represent her as a male prize. In this analysis, by contrast, I draw on other references to make some reflections on Helen's role as it is portrayed in alternative sources in parallel versions of the original myth. Not only a beautiful heroine touched by divinity, Helen was also a model of a dangerous woman, desired and feared by men: a reference point in the ancient Greek world. Accounts of Helen carried a message: supernatural beauty was not desirable for real women. Further, men should take caution with extremely beautiful women.

**Keywords**: Gender studies, Women of ancient Greece, Helen of Troy, Greek mythology, Trojan Cycle

## Private and public acts: Marie Armande Gacon-Dufour's identity, from the French Revolution to the Empire

Erica J. Mannucci

**Abstract:** One of the important legacies of the French revolutionary period is that both men and women became committed to defining

radical political change with their words and actions. French writer Marie Armande Gacon-Dufour was a full participant in the changes and struggles of her times, which forged both her private and her public identity. Reconstructing women's biographies in this period is not an easy task, as their memory is not well preserved. This paper retraces the paths of Gacon's personal and intellectual life, focusing on her attitude towards divorce. The revolutionary law of 20 September 1792 which legalized divorce was considered a breakthrough for women. Gacon took advantage of it in February 1793, but she also wrote on divorce years later, when Bonaparte, as First Consul, was readying to revert to patriarchal family policies.

## Families Between Two Seas: Sentiments from the Letters of Italian Migrants in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries

Maria Federighi

**Abstract:** This article focuses on Italian family relations in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and specifically the expression of the bond between Italian emigrants and the family they left behind. The documents examined are preserved at the Cresci Archive in Lucca, and are principally letters written by emigrants or by a literate close contact. In some cases, a proper exchange of correspondence to/from Italy could be tracked. Poverty and lack of prospects drove many Italians to emigrate far from home, leaving behind wives who had to raise families without their husband. Letters became the locus where states of mind were voiced, health and working conditions described, and where, at times, feelings of sadness and insecurity about the future, or happiness and stories of wellbeing and success, could be expressed.

**Widows and Wealth: Surviving Alone in Nineteenth-Century Sardinia**

Monica Miscali

**Abstract:** Through the use of parish books and notarial documents, this article studies the condition of widows in rural Sardinia during the nineteenth century and analyses models of economic survival after widowhood. Questions addressed include: After widowhood, how did these women organise their life and that of their family? Where did they go to live, and with whom? What were their rights? Was widowhood always a state of hardship and poverty, or did some widows experience a different fate? The death of a husband often changed the structure of the household. For some, this meant becoming part of a larger unit accommodating other components necessary for the material support of the wife, and sometimes family, left behind. For others, the widow found herself living alone, living out the last years of her life in solitude with no family unit to speak of. However, this was relatively rare and, indeed, widowhood did not always invoke a state of need.

**The Debate on Divorce in the Long Nineteenth Century: State, Church and Public Opinion in Southern Italy**

Angela Carbone

**Abstract**: The introduction of divorce into the Italian legal system dates back to 1970, but the history of this legislation, as seen with

210

many other laws, is characterised by lengthy, lively and complex debate animating not only Italy's constituted powers – Church and State – but also the consciences of individuals. This study seeks to retrace the principal stages of this history, with particular reference to nineteenth-century southern Italy. Material preserved in Apulia's main archives, much of it unpublished, has facilitated reconstruction of the arguments of both the detractors and the supporters of the legal institution designed to reverse the indissolubility of marriage, thereby enriching an understanding of the relationship between familial law and the historiography of gender.

## 'A Female Army': Upbringing, Education and Nation Building in Late Nineteenth-Century Italy

Morena Corradi

**Abstract:** This essay analyses the relationship between women's education and nation building in Italy in the second half of the nineteenth century. By exploring a wide range of characters, from *la Pisana* to Isabella Diaz in Serao's *Scuola normale femminile*, to the teachers in De Amicis' famous novels, and by engaging with the post-unification debate on women's education hosted by some popular and progressive newspapers of the time, this essay aims to show how women's new role was shaped by the limits as well as the potentialities of the interaction between education and nation building.

**Hidden in Papers: The Reception of International Women Intellectuals in the Italian Journal *La Chiosa* (1919-1927)**
Valeria Iaconis

**Abstract:** The examination of large-scale sources can provide new data and perspectives on the historical influence of women beyond and across nations. By combining the methodological framework of Women's and Gender Studies with a quantitative approach, this article investigates the transnational material of the Italian women's magazine *La Chiosa* (Genoa, 1919-1927) and addresses the underrepresentation of women in the Italian literary canon. Data about the women mentioned by *La Chiosa* are analysed according to three criteria: main activity, nationality, and historical period of existence. The article provides an insight into women's transnational activities that were considered worthy of visibility in 1920s Italy. Furthermore, through an examination of selected articles from *La Chiosa*, it sheds light on the conflicting female role models transmitted by women's magazines to their audience.

**Keywords:** Digital Humanities, Fascism, Gender Studies, Transnational Reception, Women's Magazines


**Laudomia Bonanni's Narrative: Voicing Silenced Women**
Martina Pala

**Abstact:** This paper will focus on the work of Laudomia Bonanni both in terms of the proto–feminist representation of the female condition in her published works and in terms of being outspoken in the public sphere about the challenges faced by women in the field. The objective of this paper is threefold. Firstly, this paper will show how Bonanni challenged the stereotypes associated with women's characters at the time, such as that of their attitude towards domesticity, their loyalty and love for their husbands, their calm, sweetness and tranquility as well as their hysteria and physical

illnesses. Secondly, this paper will assess the ways in which Bonanni conceptualised the women of her stories in relation to the private and public sphere, their individuality, and their relations with society. Thirdly, this analysis will consider a further dichotomy between their rejection of obedience and command of men, whilst being outrageously rebellious and subtly subversive.

Chronica Mundi

All views or conclusions are those of the authors of the articles and not necessarily those of the editors.
Chronica Mundi is indexed on America: History and Life, Historical Abstract, Historical Abstracts with Full Text, Google Scholar, EBSCOhost Discovery Services.

Chronica Mundi

Le opinioni o le conclusioni espresse negli articoli sono quelle degli autori degli articoli e possono non riflettere la posizione della rivista. Chronica Mundi è indicizzata su America: History and Life, Historical Abstract, Historical Abstracts with Full Text, Google Scholar, EBSCOhost Discovery Services.

Chronica Mundi

Todas las opiniones o conclusiones expresadas son las de los autores de los artículos y no necesariamente reflejan los de los editores.
Chronica Mundi es indexada por America: History and Life, Historical Abstract, Historical Abstracts with Full Text, Google Scholar, EBSCOhost Discovery Services.

**Publication Ethics and Publication Malpractice Statement**
Our publication ethics and publication malpractice statement is mainly based on Elsevier recommendations and COPE's Best Practice Guidelines for Journal Editors.
Chronica Mundi is committed to ensuring ethics in publication and quality of articles. Conformance to standards of ethical behaviour is expected of all parties involved.

In particular,
**Authors** should be accurate and give sufficient details and references of the research work undertaken. Fraudulent or knowingly inaccurate statements are considered unethical behaviour and, therefore, unacceptable. The authors should ensure that their article is entirely original works. If the works and/or words of others have been used, these have been appropriately cited or quoted. Plagiarism is unacceptable in all its forms and constitutes unethical publishing behaviour. Manuscripts should be unpublished in any language and should not be under consideration for publication by any other journal. Submitting articles describing essentially the same research to more than one journal is considered unethical behaviour. The corresponding author should ensure that all co-authors have approved the final version of the article and given their consensus for submission and publication.

**Editors** should evaluate articles exclusively for their academic merit and relevance. Editors will not disclose any unpublished information from a submitted article without the express consent of its author. Any information or idea obtained through the peer review process should be kept confidential. Sections of the journal which are not peer reviewed are clearly identified.

**Reviewers** should treat any manuscripts received as confidential. Any information or idea obtained through the peer review process should be kept confidential and not used for personal advantage. Reviews should be conducted objectively. Observations should be formulated clearly with supporting arguments in order to be used by the authors to improve their article. Reviewers who feel unqualified to review the manuscript or know that their prompt review will not be possible or have conflicts of interest connected to the article should notify the editor and excuse themselves from the review process.

COPE website
http://publicationethics.org/resources/guidelines