**Themed issue for the history journal**

**Chronica Mundi**

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# Women Writing History: Practices, Sources and Authority in Italy and Beyond, c. 1400–1900

Edited by
Milena Sabato and Sara Delmedico

For centuries, the writing of history was a predominantly male intellectual practice. Yet women also participated in the production, preservation, and transmission of historical knowledge. Some wrote chronicles and other historical narratives, recorded the histories of their communities, or recounted events they had witnessed; others engaged with the past through biographical, religious, political, or memorial forms of writing. Their works raise broader questions about the boundaries of historical practice and about the ways in which women gained access to historical knowledge and claimed authority to interpret the past and the events of their own time.

This themed issue of *Chronica Mundi* seeks to explore women's participation in historical writing between c. 1400 and 1900, with particular attention to Italy and its connections with wider European and Mediterranean contexts. Rather than starting from a fixed definition of historiography, we ask what it meant for women to write history in a period when access to education, archives, political information, and established forms of historical authority was strongly shaped by gender.

We invite contributions addressing questions such as:

- What forms did women's historical writing take, and how did these relate to established historiographical genres and conventions?
- How did women acquire knowledge of the past and of contemporary events, and what use did they make of archives, documents, books, oral testimony, correspondence, and other sources?
- How did women establish their credibility and authority as narrators and interpreters of history?
- How did women record and interpret events they had witnessed or experienced, and where was the boundary between testimony, memory, and contemporary history?
- For whom did women write history, and how did their historical works circulate in manuscript and print?
- What roles did families, courts, religious communities, academies, patrons, and networks of information play in enabling or constraining women's historical practices?
- How did women use the past for political, religious, dynastic, familial, or other purposes?
- How did women's historical practices change from the Renaissance to the nineteenth century, particularly in relation to the emergence of professional historiography?
- What can comparative and transnational approaches reveal about women's historical writing and the circulation of historical knowledge between Italy and other European and Mediterranean contexts?

We particularly welcome contributions on little-known or unpublished texts and authors, alongside new approaches to better-known figures. Papers may focus on lay or religious women and on manuscript or printed texts.

By bringing together different forms and sites of women's historical writing, this themed issue aims not simply to recover neglected female historians, but to reconsider the boundaries of historical practice itself

and to explore how gender shaped the production of historical knowledge and the construction of historical authority across five centuries.

**Submission details**

Please send an abstract of approximately 300 words, outlining the proposed article's main argument and the primary sources on which it will be based, together with a short biographical note (maximum 150 words), to the Guest Editors, Sara Delmedico (sara.delmedico.2023@gmail.com) and Milena Sabato (milena.sabato2@gmail.com), by 31 January 2027.

Authors will be notified of the outcome by 28 February 2027.

Full articles will be due by 30 September 2027 and will be subject to the journal's standard peer-review process.

Publication of the themed issue is planned for 2028.