



Università  
Ca'Foscari  
Venezia

**PROJECT ACRONYM AND TITLE:** Political prisoners: a transnational question in 19th century Italy

**FUNDING PROGRAMME:** H2020 Marie-Sklodowska Curie Actions Individual Fellowship

**CALL:** H2020-MSCA-IF-2018-Global Fellowship – Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships

**SCIENTIFIC FIELDS:** Social Sciences and Humanities

**HOST DEPARTMENT:** DSU – Department of Humanities

**SCIENTIFIC RESPONSIBLE:** Simon Levis Sullam

**FELLOW:** Elena Bacchin

**FINANCIAL DATA:**

Project total costs	Overall funding assigned to UNIVE
€ 251.002,56	€ 251.002,56

**ABSTRACT:**

This research project is a transnational historical investigation which examines the international role and representations of Italian political prisoners during the 19th century. Its goal is to investigate how and to what extent political prisoners were key figures not only in the construction of an Italian nationalist discourse, but equally in the foreign understanding of and commitment for the Italian Risorgimento. Moreover it will delineate how humanitarian debates operated in the commitment towards a national political cause. The project will place political detainees beyond legal and political history, and insert them in the context of the new questions raised by transnational and cultural history, and by the history of humanitarianism. I argue that political prisoners acted as political and patriotic agents at home as well as abroad. Not only did the experience of imprisonment influence the detainees' political activities and identities, and help to create a sense of national community; but it influenced the representation of the Italian national movement abroad. The project will offer a new approach in studying political imprisonment emphasising its international and humanitarian dimension and will challenge the current state-of-the-art, highlighting how political prisoners were an international concern already in the 19th century. Finally the research will help to understand the historical evolution of a European sensitivity and a commitment towards political detainees, refugees and people persecuted for political opinions and the evolution of international protection and humanitarian discourses. There is a running thread between these historical issues and questions concerning political prisoners in the world today and the international awareness and concern about them. The research project is a multi-lingual and multi-archival study that will employ an interdisciplinary and a transnational approach.

Planned Start date	Planned End date
1 <sup>st</sup> September 2019	31 <sup>st</sup> August 2022

**PARTNERSHIP:**

<b>1.</b> Ca' Foscari University	Italia	Coordinatore
<b>2.</b> University of Columbia (NY) - Trustees of Columbia University in the City of New York	Stati Uniti D'America	Partner