Collaborationism with Nazi Germany. A European Controversy

The German invasion of Poland in September 1939 and the occupation of other European countries in the following years generated new military, economic and social constellations. The conflict areas were on the one hand characterized by fear, violence and terror; members of the resistance and people stigmatized by the racial policies were arrested, tortured and killed by the Nazis.

At the same time, different agents and individuals became interdependent; in this extreme state of emergency, people were confronted with new alternative attitudes and behaviors.

Collaboration, i.e. the pragmatic, at times open, cooperation of governments, military and political organizations, as well as individuals with the German overlords, the Gestapo and the Nazi authorities became the norm in the occupied countries and satellite states. The consequence was the wide-scale surrender particularly of the Jewish population and the rapid implementation of their deportation to concentration and extermination camps.

The international conference “Collaborationism with Nazi Germany. A European Controversy” brings together academics to the University of La Sapienza in Rome, where they will discuss the forms taken, motives, spectrum of actions and other facets of European collaboration with the Nazis. State authorities, local military organizations and individual players in different countries and areas including France, Scandinavia, Lithuania, Poland, Ukraine, Romania, Italy, Hungary, Portugal, the Netherlands and the countries of the former Yugoslavia will be discussed. In this time of increasing historical revisionism in Europe, such elucidating discourse has a special academic relevance.
7 May, 2019
Aula Magna, Unitelma Sapienza
Viale Regina Elena 295

10:00 am  Greetings
Antonello Folco Biagini
Rector of Unitelma Sapienza

10:30 am  Key note speech
Jan T. Gross, University of Princeton
Collaborationism in Europe: A Complex History

11:30 am  Coffee break

12:00 am  Collaborationism in North and Central Europe between Past and Present
Chair: Julius H. Schoeps
Moses Mendelssohn Center, Potsdam

12:15 am  Brunch – Rectorate Building

5:00 pm  Coffee break

5:30 pm  European Countries between Neutrality and Collaborationism
Chair: Elke-Vera Kotowski, Moses Mendelssohn Center, Potsdam
Fernando Clara, New University of Lisbon
“Collaborating Neutrality”? Fascist Networks and the Ambiguous Portuguese Neutrality
Gideon Botsch, Moses Mendelssohn Center, Potsdam
Propaganda, Foreign Cultural Policy, and the Establishment of pro-German Elites. The Deutsches Auslandwissenschaftliches Institut as a Coordinating Center for European Collaborationism
Valentina Sommella, University of Perugia
France Between Collaboration and Resistance. The Armistice Decision and the Montoire Meeting in the Gaullist Propaganda

3:00 pm  Axis Partners, Resistance and Collaborationism in Eastern and South Eastern Europe
Chair: Lars Rensmann, University of Groningen
Ivo Goldstein, University of Zagreb
Why Were the Chetniks Collaborators?

7:30 pm  Dinner at Casa dell’Aviatore
Viale dell’Università, 20

8 May, 2019
Aula Organi Collegiali, Rectorate Building
Sapienza University of Rome

10:00 am  Greetings
Eugenio Gaudio
Rector of Sapienza University of Rome
Alessandro Saggioro, Director of the PhD program in History of Europe
Giovanni Solimine, Director of the Department of Modern Literature and Culture

10:20 am  On the Eve of the Second World War
Chair: Alessandro Vagnini, Sapienza University of Rome
Ester Capuzzo, Sapienza University of Rome
Italian Racial, Laws and the Jewish Community of Fiume
Roberto Sciarrone, Sapienza University of Rome
Fascism and the Racial Laws. The Historical Debate in Italy Today
Gabriele Mastrolillo, Sapienza University of Rome
Italian Communists and the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact

12:15 am  Brunch – Rectorate Building

12:45 am  Jews as Holocaust Victims and as “Traitors”
Chair: Ivo Goldstein, University of Zagreb
Serge Klarsfeld, Klarsfeld Foundation, Paris
The Most Extreme of all of the French State’s Collaboration: The Surrender of the Jews
Julius H. Schoeps, Moses Mendelssohn Center, Potsdam
Collaboration and Betrayal. A Dark Chapter in the History of European-Jewish Relations

5:00 pm  Coffee break

5:30 pm  European Countries between Neutrality and Collaborationism
Chair: Elke-Vera Kotowski, Moses Mendelssohn Center, Potsdam
Fernando Clara, New University of Lisbon
“Collaborating Neutrality”? Fascist Networks and the Ambiguous Portuguese Neutrality
Gideon Botsch, Moses Mendelssohn Center, Potsdam
Propaganda, Foreign Cultural Policy, and the Establishment of pro-German Elites. The Deutsches Auslandwissenschaftliches Institut as a Coordinating Center for European Collaborationism
Valentina Sommella, University of Perugia
France Between Collaboration and Resistance. The Armistice Decision and the Montoire Meeting in the Gaullist Propaganda

6:00 pm  Exposition opening
“Silent heroes. Rescuers in Europe during WWII” - Villa Sciarra