

# MATERIAL DIPLOMACY IN SIXTEENTH- CENTURY ITALY

Harold Acton Library, The British Institute  
of Florence, Lungarno Guicciardini 9

MONDAY, 1st DECEMBER 2014

3PM

## WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

For decades, early modern diplomatic history (c.1492-c.1700) has languished as a stagnant field of academic research. Aloof to wider currents and trends in scholarship, the study of diplomatic history was in fast decline. In recent years, this trend has dramatically reversed. Scholars pursuing vast and varied routes of historical enquiry – from students of collections or communications to social and economic historians – have found in early modern diplomacy a shared theme in which to mutually contextualise their research. At the forefront of this change has been renewed attention to sixteenth-century Italy, arguably the place and era in which diplomacy as a statecraft matured. This workshop showcases a group of interdisciplinary doctoral students and their current research which further advances the boundaries of diplomatic history.

## WORKSHOP PROGRAM

15.00 - Welcome – Julia Race (The British Institute of Florence), Alessio Assonitis (The Medici Archive Project), Kathryn Rakich (U.S. Consulate General in Florence)

15.10 - Keynote Lecture – Professor Paola Volpini (Sapienza – Università di Roma): *The new diplomatic history: fields of investigation and interdisciplinary approaches*

15.30 - Panel One – Material Diplomacy – Chair: Luca Mola (European University Institute)

Ozden Mercan (European University Institute): *Gifts for the Sultan as salient expressions of rivalry*

Laura Mesotten (European University Institute): *Consuming splendour: the material culture of sixteenth-century ambassadors*

Samuel Morrison Gallacher (The Medici Archive Project & IMT Institute for Advanced Studies Lucca): *'La bella caccia': Diplomacy and the hunt during the reign of Cosimo I de' Medici (1537-1574)*

16.15 - Discussion

16.25 - Panel Two – Immaterial Diplomacy – Chair: Alessio Assonitis (The Medici Archive Project)

Francesco Malfatti (European University Institute): *Florence and Venice: some considerations on diplomatic interaction between two Italian states at the wane of the sixteenth century*

Marina Porri (Università di Pisa): *Choosing a royal bride: the role of ambassador in marriage negotiations*

16.55 - Discussion

17.10 - Drinks