



Migration History Talk

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Tuesday, 7 June 2022

**Migration as a Tool for National Homogenization:
Insights from Fascist Italy**

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Emmanuel Dalle Mulle, Universidad Complutense de Madrid

Discussant: Jean-Thomas Arrighi, University of Neuchâtel

17:30 – 19:00 h

This talk will be held in person at the University of Neuchâtel, Louis Breguet 2, Room 2.310 and on WEBEX (<https://unine.webex.com/meet/robin.stunzi>) as well as live-streamed on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eTjMrxzm1WY>).

The Migration History Talks are co-organized by the History Department of the University of Neuchâtel and the nccr – on the move. For any further information regarding our talks, please send an email to jean-thomas.arrighi@unine.ch.

Abstract

Italy has historically been known as a country of emigration. The state's laissez-faire approach towards outward migration, as well as its diaspora policies, have widely been studied. However, it is less known that during the fascist dictatorship (1922–1943) migration was used as a tool to promote the homogenization of the minority populations inhabiting the provinces of South Tyrol and Venezia Giulia. Unsure about the legitimacy of their sovereignty over these areas, fascist authorities promoted land colonization, surreptitiously encouraged emigration among members of the Slovenian/Croatian minority, and in 1939 signed an agreement with Germany that forced Tyroleans to choose whether they wanted to become German citizens and emigrate north of the Brenner or stay in Italy and become 'true' Italians. These attempts at homogenization failed. They also reflected the 'consistent ambivalence' that marked the fascists' approach to the country's national minorities throughout the interwar years.

About the Speaker

Emmanuel Dalle Mulle is a post-doctoral researcher at the Complutense University of Madrid, where he works on the Marie Curie-funded project "The Myth of Homogeneity: Majority-Minority Relations in Western Europe during the Interwar Years". He holds a PhD from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, and is specialized in the history and politics of nationalism in Western Europe in the 20th century. His research interests include welfare nationalism, majority-minority relations, separatism and the history of human rights.

Selected Publications

- Dalle Mulle, E. & Bieling, M. (2021). The Ambivalent Legacy of Minority Protection for Human Rights, *Schweizerische Zeitschrift für Geschichte* 71(2), 267–290.
- Abts, K., Dalle Mulle, E., van Kessel, S. & Michel, E. (2021). The Welfare Agenda of the Populist Radical Right in Western Europe: Combining Welfare Chauvinism, Producerism and Populism, *Swiss Political Science Review* 27(1), 21–40.
- Dalle Mulle, E. & Serrano, I. (2019). Between a Principled and a Consequentialist Logic: Theory and Practice of Secession in Catalonia and Scotland, *Nations and Nationalism* 25(2), 630–651.
- Dalle Mulle, E. (2017). *The Nationalism of the Rich: Discourses and Strategies of Separatist Parties in Catalonia, Flanders, Northern Italy and Scotland*. London: Routledge.