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23 settembre 2024
Ore 16.30

Sala Bortolami
Palazzo Jonoch Gulinelli
Via del Vescovado, 30 - Padova

Seminario PRIN

Work, workplaces and mobility in Preindustrial Italy: a gender perspective

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Servanthood and the European Marriage Pattern, 1500-1900

The presence of servants, workers who resided in the households of their employers, is a central feature of the European Marriage Pattern, a demographic system sometimes viewed as favouring economic growth. This paper compiles available data on servanthood in a wide range of European societies between 1500 and 1900. These enable comparisons with other features of the European Marriage Pattern – marriage age, lifetime celibacy, and household complexity – across space and time. Both theoretical and historical considerations suggest that servanthood responded not just to demographic systems but also to many other factors.