

A long wave of globalization

Maize diffusion in the northern Mediterranean

International workshop

Koper - Capodistria, February 15th 2019



Picture: Martin Jonaš, <http://naive-art-kovacica.com>

The workshop aims at examining one of the most important and yet little studied aspects of the Colombian exchange: the introduction and diffusion of maize in Mediterranean Europe. While the potato and its impact has been studied in quite some detail thanks to a great number of articles and monographs, the same cannot be said for maize, despite the incontrovertible importance this plant took on as a crop and as foodstuff in many rural areas of Mediterranean Europe. The workshop concentrates on the northern Mediterranean area comprising the Alpine and south-eastern European regions and examines the following aspects from a comparative perspective:

1. Chronology and geography of the diffusion of maize in the northern Mediterranean and south-eastern European regions;
2. Ways in which the diffusion took place, examining the reasons for its success or lack of success;
3. Links between greater (or lesser) success of maize and land ownership and tenancy;
4. Impact and consequences of the spread of maize on grain markets and on peasant diets;
5. Possible link between the increased cultivation of maize and the diminishing cases of famine.

Venue: University of Primorska, Faculty of Humanities, Titov trg 5, lecture room Maestral 1.

Picture: Martin Jonaš, <http://www.gorenjskiglas.si>



Programme

9:45 – 10:00 **Welcome**, Aleksander Panjek
Introduction, Luca Mocarelli

10:00 – 12:00 **Session 1: West of the Adriatic**

- 1) **Allen J. Grieco**, Villa I Tatti, The Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies:
Marketing maize cultivation in mid-16th century Tuscany: Siena
- 2) **Alessio Fornasin**, University of Udine, University of Trieste:
Agricultural innovations and population growth: An empirical verification in north-eastern Italy (17th c.)
- 3) **Giulio Ongaro**, Department of Economics, Management & Statistics, University of Milano-Bicocca:
Maize prices and varieties in the Venetian Mainland: A village by Vicenza (1587-1708)
- 4) **Ida Fazio**, Department of Humanities, University of Palermo:
Maize in Sicily: the Valdemone (18th c.)

12:00 – 13:00 **Lunch break**

13:00 – 15:00 **Session 2: East of the Adriatic**

- 1) **Werner Drobesh**, Faculty of Humanities, Alps-Adria University, Klagenfurt:
Innovation in the eastern Alps: Maize as a crop in Carinthia until the 19th c.
- 2) **Aleksander Panjek**, Faculty of Humanities, University of Primorska:
Tracing maize in the Slovenian regions: From the Adriatic coast to Stiria until the 18th c.
- 3) **Hrvoje Petrić**, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb:
Maize along the eastern Adriatic coast and in the inland: The Croatian regions (16th-20th c.)
- 4) **Žarko Lazarević**, Institute for Contemporary History, Ljubljana:
Maize in Slovenia and Serbia from the 19th c. to WW II

15:30 – 16:00 **Closing discussion**, chair Luca Mocarelli

Organisers: Luca Mocarelli, Aleksander Panjek.
Organisation: University of Primorska, Faculty of Humanities, Department of History and Institute for Intercultural Studies, with the support of the Faculty of Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Information Technologies.

