ÉCOLE FRANÇAISE DE ROME
Histoire, Archéologie, Sciences sociales

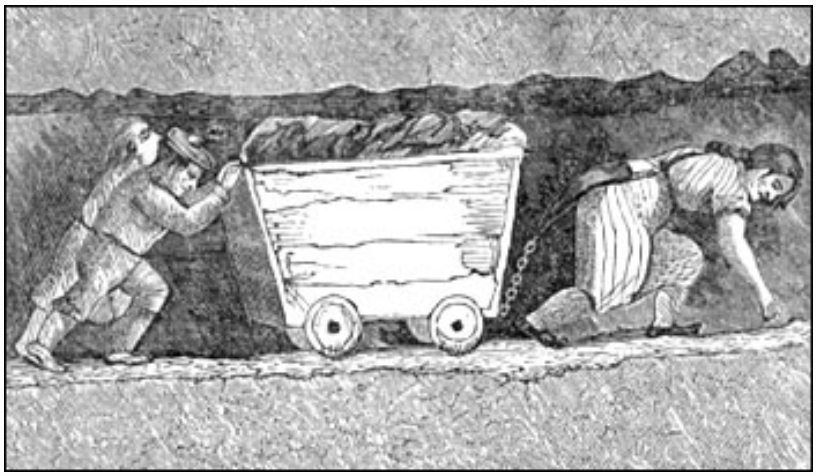
L'ECOLE DES HAUTES ETUDES EN SCIENCES SOCIALES

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

INTERDISCIPLINARY DOCTORAL WORKSHOP

ECOLE FRANÇAISE DE ROME – ECOLE DES HAUTES ETUDES EN SCIENCES SOCIALES

The Mediterranean: a laboratory of global history and globalization



2016: "Forced labour in the *longue durée*, from the Mediterranean through the world"

Rome, École française de Rome, 24th-28th October 2016

According to the International Labour Organization, forced labour in today's world concerns 21 million people (11.5 million of women and 9.5 million of men), 1.5 million of whom work in Western countries. The Global Slavery Index fixes the number even higher, at 36 million. Thought and theorized as a right since the Middle-Ages, placed at the centre of political debates of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries with the emergence of the working class, labour raises new questions in post-industrial and liberal societies, such as job training, unemployment; even the eventual disappearance of wage labour altogether. The question at the heart of this interdisciplinary doctoral workshop, co-organized by the EFR and the EHESS, will be the shifting relationship between labour and freedom - the variety of its legal statutes – across the *longue durée*.

What does "forced labour" mean? How does it differ from "free labour"? Which forms of labour can be identified in the variety of historical and economic situations encompassing Greek and Latin antiquity, Christian Middle-Ages, or the industrial era: slavery, dependence, bondage, forms of institutionalized domestic serfdom, forced marriages, etc.?

Beyond these fundamental questions, new interrogations arise if one attempts a global approach, which refers not only to other modes of socio-economic developments, but also to other temporalities. The gender dimension is crucial to these issues, not only because labour is one of the most powerful markers of gendered identities, but also because it is one of the most visible social places in which gender inequalities are made.

The grand narrative of a gradual but triumphant progress towards modernity and freedom, starting in the late eighteenth century with the first abolitionist legislations, has been profoundly challenged in the last twenty years: on the one hand, slavery is no longer considered as a homogeneous and uniform phenomenon, but as an unstable and composite one, characterized by different forms of dependency and bondage; on the other hand, recent historiography has stressed the continuities in the forms of slavery, after its official abolition, and has highlighted how forms of unfree labour could be perfectly integrated into capitalist market systems. Current historiography thus examines the relationship between free labour and forced labour as a multifaceted relationship which has to be placed in its specific context.

Following such a historiography, which lies at the crossroads of history, anthropology, sociology and law, this workshop addresses the issue of "forced labour" in the *longue durée* and through a global perspective. It aims to identify some specific criteria of bondage by examining normative constructions and concrete practices. With no claims of being exhaustive, this workshop proposes a reflection on situated forms of forced labour, their actors, places and spaces.

The workshop is organized around three main themes: *"Categorizing labour: legal, economic, and social aspects"; "Slavery: a debate and its recent reappraisals"; "Labour and gender".*

The seminars and presentations can be held in French, Italian or English. The workshop is open to PhD candidates and students in M2 (second year of Master's) from all disciplines and all nationalities. Lectures in the morning will be followed by workshops based on presentations of students' work in the afternoon. Participants are asked to send to the organizers, by September 12th, 2016, 5 to 6 pages of presentation of their own research emphasizing the role plaid by forced labour and including a short bibliography.

Please send your application to the following address, **before May 30th, 2016**: secrmod@efrome.it

It should contain:

- A letter of motivation;
- A *curriculum vitae* (max. 3 pages), including a description of the ongoing research and its timetable;
- An abstract (min. 4000 characters) of the proposed paper;
- A letter of recommendation.

The candidates admitted are requested to participate in all the seminars and lectures.

The cost of the workshop, including lunch and accommodation, will be covered by the École française de Rome and the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales. Participants must cover the cost of their own travel to and from Rome.

For further information, please contact Claire Challéat, scientific referent for the early-modern and modern period at the École française de Rome, Piazza Farnese 67, Roma, e-mail: secrmod@efrome.it

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