

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIP IN EARLY MODERN HISTORY (16TH-17TH CENTURIES)

ROTAROM17. Delivering justice on a transnational scale in Europe. The Roman Rota and the enforcement of a legal culture of negotiation (c. 1560-1700).

ERC Grant n° 101096639

Duration: 01/09/2023 – 31/08/2028

Principal Investigator: Isabelle Poutrin

Host Institution: Université de Reims Champagne-Ardenne (France)

Beneficiary: École française de Rome (Italy)

The École française de Rome, within the ERC project ROTAROM17, is recruiting a post-doctoral student for a research on foreign Rota Auditors in Rome (c. 1560-1700)

- Start date: 1st September or 1st October 2024 (depending on the situation of the recruited person).
- Duration: 1 year, renewable once.
- Work location: Rome. Some travel to participate in team activities (spring/summer school, seminars) or for further research in archives and libraries should be possible.
- Type of contract: Fixed-term contract under Italian private law.
- Remuneration: €2,818 gross monthly (less than 3 years of experience at the time of hiring, level III F 4 of the Italian civil service pay scale) or €3,134 gross monthly (more than 3 years of experience at the time of hiring, level III F 6 of the Italian civil service pay scale). The contract provides for 36 days of annual leave, a thirteenth monthly payment and the “Trattamento di fine rapporto”.
- Supervisors: Benedetta Borello, professor at Università degli Studi di Cassino e del Lazio meridionale, and Bertrand Marceau, professor at Université de Reims Champagne-Ardenne.

In accordance with its action plan for professional equality and the fight against discrimination, École française de Rome ensures strict respect for professional equality of women and men in its hiring procedures and the conduct of career and training, as well as the prevention of discrimination.

General presentation of ROTAROM17

ROTAROM17 aims to understand the Roman Rota as one of the essential tools of the Catholic Church’s transnational governance in early modern Europe. How did this Rome-based court of appeal, which judged in the pope’s name important civil disputes involving the clergy and members of the social elites, succeed in having its authority respected outside the pontifical state? Why did men and women from Spain, Portugal, or Poland expect to find in Rome a better justice, in spite of the long, cautious and costly Rotal procedure? On which grounds did challenges and criticisms of Rota’s jurisdiction have political significance?

ROTAROM17 intends to study this institution which remains poorly known for this period, and to see law in action in the settling of disputes, as well as the way in which the court’s jurisprudence, used as a reference by legal experts and disseminated in libraries, contributed to the making of a legal culture founded on negotiation. The project’s second objective is to open a new research field on

Europe's oldest still-active tribunal and facilitate access to its massive and under-used documentation by producing essential research tools and reference works, thus laying strong foundations for future developments of scholarship.

ROTAROM17 gathers an international and multidisciplinary team and foregrounds primary research, connecting the Rota's archival funds with a large set of archival funds and libraries in Europe. By renewing approaches to the Roman Rota, its environment, personal, litigants, and jurisprudence, and by opening up access to hitherto untapped documentation, ROTAROM17 intends to make a major and original contribution to rethinking the structuring role of the law in European culture and to offer new opportunities for historians to explore their local or national fields of research from multiple perspectives in a large set of countries.

Foreign Rota Auditors in Rome (c. 1560-1700)

The post-doctoral research "*Foreign Rota Auditors in Rome*" is part of the scientific objective "Understanding the fundamental features, strengths and limits of the Rota's authority: the Rota's auditors as papal judges and diplomatic agents".

A characteristic feature of the Roman Rota is its international composition, which remained stable in modern times until 1870. It comprised eight Italian and four "transalpine" auditors chosen by their respective sovereigns (Castile and Aragon, France, the Empire). The research will be centered on the presence and role the foreign (i.e. non-Roman) auditors.

The auditors' place in the Eternal city remains very visible through their epitaphs, such as those of Jacques Emerix in Santa Maria della Pace. The Rotal college's international nature raises the question of their material circumstances and their place in Rome's urban life: locating their Roman palaces, documenting their lifestyles as well as the patronages which they exerted will therefore be a substantial contribution to the social, economic and cultural history of foreign nations' presence in Rome. A study on the place of auditors in the pontifical court's ceremonial will highlight their importance in the 'ritual city' that was Papal Rome. Another line of investigation is that of the network of relations which an auditor could build over the course of his career and mobilize later, when back in France or in Spain.

Mission and activities:

The post-doctoral student will document the place and importance of ultramontane and Italian auditors in Roman society, working in a variety of Roman archives. The main source collections are located in Rome. Experience in early modern Roman archives would be appreciated.

The post-doctoral student is expected to:

- contribute to the collective book on the Roman Rota in the modern era, currently underway within the team;
- contribute to the book prepared by the supervisors, aimed at a wider public, proposing an itinerary for visiting Rome in the footsteps of Rota's auditors.

For more information on ROTAROM17: <https://rotarom.hypotheses.org/>

Who can apply:

- Holders of a PhD in History or Humanities;
- PhD Students who will defend their thesis before 15 September 2024.

Skills:

- Early modern Latin/Italian paleography;
- A research experience in early modern Roman archives, or a consistent experience on social, political, economic, diplomatic or religious history of early modern Italian peninsula would be appreciated;
- Fluent in Italian, excellent command of Latin, good knowledge of English. Knowledge of French would be an advantage.

Documents for application (one pdf file):

- Motivation letter (max. 2 pages);
- Curriculum vitae;
- Two recommendation letters;
- Copy of identity document;
- Copies of diplomas (Master's and PhD/thesis registration certificate; if the thesis has not yet been defended, a certificate from the university stating when the thesis will be defended);
- Master's transcripts;
- Table of contents, introduction and a chapter from the thesis;
- An article (15 - 25 p.) may also be attached.

Applications should be sent to Dr Jair Santos: rotarom@efrome.it

Deadline for applications: **21 May 2024, by noon.**

Interviews with selected candidates will take place online between **24 June** and **5 July**.

For further information, please contact Prof. Isabelle Poutrin: rotarom@efrome.it