

Disastro! Disasters in Italy since 1860: culture, politics and society.

**Friday 18 and Saturday 19 June 1999, Yale
University, New Haven, USA**

A two-day International Conference to be held at Yale University, organized by the Association for the Study of Modern Italy, the Department of History, Yale and the Department of Italian, Yale and *Modern Italy. The Journal of the Association for the Study of Modern Italy.*

There is no European society whose modern history has been more deeply marked by disasters, both natural and social, than has Italy's. The recent earthquakes have highlighted once again the geographical frailty of the peninsula. Italy is a land with active volcanoes, seismic zones from North to South (only Sardinia has been free of earthquakes) 1,000 miles of vulnerable coastline, river basins which flood frequently, forests which burn every Summer, land which is vulnerable to slips and snowfalls. Disease, both epidemic and endemic, from cholera and malaria to AIDS, has haunted Italy insistently. Italy has not been free of man-made disasters, such as the Vajont dam flood of 1963 (where over 2,000 people were killed) or the Seveso chemical leaks of 1976. Terrorism created its own traumatic disasters, such as at Piazza Fontana and Bologna Station. Military defeats—Custoza and Lissa, Dogali and Adowa, Caporetto and the Second World War—have sent profound shocks through Italian society. The 1990s saw landslips engulf whole towns near Naples, whilst thousands of prospective immigrants risked death on a daily basis attempting to reach Italy in flimsy craft.

The response to many of these tragic events can tell us much about Italy. Disasters test the social fabric and the political system to their limits; survival and re-building draw on the deepest cultural reserves. In the past, historians and social scientists have worked on these phenomena in isolation. This conference is the first attempt to bring together scholars whose research has encountered the diverse Italian experience of disaster from unification to the present day.

Speakers and contributors include: Roger Absalom, David Alexander, Judith Chubb, John Dickie, John Foot, David Forgacs, Stefano Magistretti, Marco Paolini, Giuliana Procacci, Frank Snowden, Paolo Valesio.

Papers include: The history of malaria; Caporetto; The earthquakes of 1908, 1968, 1974 and 1980; The development of disaster response policy; The monarchy and disaster; The Albanian refugee crisis; Il racconto del Vajont;

Piazza Fontana; Peasants and the Second World War; The Bologna bomb, 1980;
Disasters in the contemporary media; Images of the Second World War

For registration contact Yale Conference Services using the form overleaf

*For further information on the conference itself contact John Dickie
(j.dickie@ucl.ac.uk) or John Foot (j.foot@ucl.ac.uk)*

REGISTRATION FORM

Disastro! Disasters in Italy since 1860: culture, politics and society
18–19 June 1999, Yale University, New Haven, USA

Registration Deadline: 1 June 1999

Name

Male

Female

Mailing Address **Business** ____ **Home** ____

Address

City **State** **Zip**

Country

Phone **Fax**

Email

Social Security Number–US Citizens (necessary for refund)

Name, Title (Professor, etc.) for conference badge

University or Institutional Affiliation

Registration Fees: Regular Rate: \$110 Student Rate: \$80
Students, please submit copy of valid student ID with registration

The conference fee includes a year's subscription to *Modern Italy, The Journal of the Association for the Study of Modern Italy*. It also includes all sessions, coffee breaks, and two lunches and one dinner.

Campus Accommodation

Single-room accommodations in the new residence hall at Yale are available at a cost of \$55 a night. The hall is air-conditioned and fully accessible. Parking in a nearby security garage will cost approximately \$7.00 a day.

Please check nights required: Thursday 17 ____ Friday 18 ____ Saturday 19 ____

Check-in hours are: Thursday 17 June, 5:00–10:00pm and Friday 18 June, 8:30–11:00am.

Registration fee \$ _____
Accommodation \$ _____
Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Please make check drawn in US dollars from a US bank payable to YALE UNIVERSITY or provide credit card information below. Registration will be confirmed only if accompanied by paymentCard

Number

Expiration date Send to:

Disastro! Disasters in Italy Since 1860
 Yale University Conference Services
 246 Church Street
 Suite 101
 New Haven, CT 06510
 Fax: 203–432–7345
 Email: [HYPERLINK mail to:roberta.hudson@yale.edu](mailto:roberta.hudson@yale.edu)
<http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Rhodes/6652>

Refund Policy

Registrants who cancel on or before 11 June will receive a refund of the total amount paid less a \$25 administrative charge. Registrants who cancel after 11 June will not receive a refund.