

## SILVANO MONTALDO

He is an Associate Professor of Contemporary History at the Faculty of Letters and Philosophy at the University of Turin, and director of the “Cesare Lombroso” Museum of Criminal Anthropology. He has published a number of papers on Italian 19<sup>th</sup>-century history.

### Scientific and Teaching Activities

Born in Alba (Cuneo, Italy) in 1966, he graduated in Modern Literature at the University of Turin in 1992. From 1992 until 1995, he was part of an operational unit entitled “Experimental Cataloguing of the C. Lombroso Museum of Criminal Anthropology”, working as a researcher and cataloguer within the scope of a project managed by the National Research Council. He won the 1993-94 edition of the *Award for Historical Studies on Piedmont in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries*, organised by the Turin Committee of the Institute for the History of the Italian Risorgimento and the Region of Piedmont’s Department of Culture. Between 1995 and 1997 he attended a doctorate course entitled *History of Political Movements and Parties* at the University of Urbino. In 1998, he achieved the status of Doctor of Research and he obtained a post-doctorate study grant at the University of Turin. He has been a researcher at the Faculty of Letters and Philosophy for the scientific discipline sector M-STO/04 (contemporary history) since 2000, and Associate Professor in the same faculty since 2005, where he teaches Social History of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

### Institutional Posts

- Secretary, since 1999, of the Turin Committee of the Institute for the History of the Italian Risorgimento;
- Permanent representative, from 2006 to 2009, of the University of Turin on the Executive Board of the Camillo Cavour Foundation;
- Head of the Specialist History Degree Course in the Faculty of Letters and Philosophy at the University of Turin from 2007 to 2010
- Director of the “Cesare Lombroso” Museum of Criminal Anthropology since November 2009.

### Scientific Activities

The main branches of his research activities demonstrate a particular focus on political, institutional, social and cultural phenomena, with specific regard to the cultural, formative, associative and productive aspects of the initiatives, projects and activities of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century middle classes, as well as to the history of scientific culture on an Italian and European level. After an original period of training on the job, carrying out cataloguing and research work within the scope of a targeted CNR project on the C. Lombroso Museum of Criminal Anthropology, he began to study Cesare Lombroso and the era of positivism, publishing a number of essays and

carrying out editing work on a number of books. The essays which appeared in the Einaudi *Storia di Torino*, dedicated to the science faculties and to an analysis of the composition and origin of the University of Turin's student population, the study of Giulio Bizzozzero, the biography of Doctor Bartolomeo Sella and the publications relating to it and the contribution to *Annali Einaudi* on science and culture in a united Italy have all faceted and enriched the aforementioned general contexts. Furthermore, his research into innovation and technological transfer was an attempt to gauge the close relationships between science, innovation, technology and manufacturing in the development of pre-unification Piedmont.

In yet another aspect of his work, that of teaching activities carried out by the Italian ruling classes between the unification and the first world war in order to spread new values and ideals to the masses, one can cite the biography of Tommaso Villa and the study of the early awareness-raising campaigns for the inclusion of divorce in Italian legislation, with two further contributions relating to Masonic associations in the Italian colony of Eritrea and to the organisational structures of the professional classes. Specifically, with the biography of Villa, an extraordinary mediator for the values of the middle classes in Italy, a reconstruction of the political actions of the professional classes was carried out, with the aim of creating a consensus for the period 1861-1915 through initiatives such as expositions, female education institutions, the management of honours for chivalry and the organisation of voluntary work to cope with natural disasters. Moreover, in this regard, the author yet again tackled the biography, after his previous book on Bartolomeo Sella, with the multitude of methodological and historiographical practices that such a genre brings.

His interest in the post-Risorgimento ruling classes was furthered with an essay which appeared in the *Annali Einaudi* on the Parliament at the time of Giolitti, while in recent years he has stepped up his collaboration with a number of Turin's museums. Indeed, he participated in the research, study and design phases of the display at the "Fruit Museum", which opened in February 2007 in the Anatomical Institutes Building at the University of Turin; he also helped design the "Cesare Lombroso" Museum of Criminal Anthropology, for which he oversaw the production of the catalogue; he was responsible for the 19<sup>th</sup> century section of the "*Museo Torino*" and collaborated on the reorganisation of the National Museum of the Italian Risorgimento.

In his position as member of the editorial committee of the "*Il Mestiere di Storico. Annale SISCO*" magazine, from 2004 to 2008, he oversaw together with Giancarlo Monina the first national investigation of the teaching of contemporary history in Italy after the implementation of the reforms. This was done through a questionnaire which was sent in 2005 to the entire teaching staff belonging to the scientific discipline sector M-STO/04.