

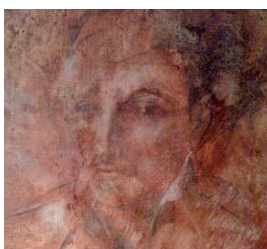
Matteo Duni



On Apr.16, at the Dipartimento di Studi Storici of the Università di Firenze, Matteo Duni held a seminar on “Giuristi e teologi di fronte alla caccia alle streghe: il *De lamiis et excellentia iuris utriusque* di Gianfrancesco Ponzinibio.”

The seminar focused on the heated debate on the reality of witchcraft that pit jurists against theologians at the beginning of the sixteenth century. Ponzinibio’s *De lamiis* was the most articulate and radical attack on the unqualified belief in witchcraft to have appeared to that date, but while noted, it has been very little studied. In fact, only recently its first editions have been discovered by Matteo Duni. His paper sought to show how *De lamiis* enables a contextualizing of the debate on witchcraft, on the backdrop of the confrontation and clash between different academic disciplines, especially law and theology, at the height of the Renaissance—and at the peak of witch-hunting in the Italian peninsula.

Marco Fallani



Marco Fallani is exhibiting his work in several international shows this spring. His work has traveled as far as Tokyo where his piece “Le Gioconde” is on display as of April 7 at the Istituto Italiano di Cultura a Tokyo. This show has already been exhibited around Italy in Florence, Bologna and Milan. In May, Marco is participating in a show in Toronto at the 133 Gallery, with three of his paintings. He will also have a solo show at the same gallery in September, featuring circa fifteen paintings and five bronze sculptures.

Sara Matthews Grieco



Sara Matthews-Grieco attended the Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting in Los Angeles (19-21 March 2009) where she presented a paper in a panel on “Emblematic Visual Culture and the Natural World,” and chaired a session on “Emblematics and Science.” The paper was entitled: “Emblems and the Natural World: Visual Literacy and the Moral Meaning of Lettuce.” This paper examines an “unsuccessful” iconographic icon—a head of lettuce—in an emblem entitled “Amuletum Veneris” in Andrea Alciato’s *Emblematum libellus*, a series of 86 new emblems published in Venice by the Aldine Press in 1546. This head of lettuce crops up only once in Alciato’s emblems before being unconditionally dismissed as an iconographic signifier by future editions. It is the reasons behind the initial use and subsequent abandonment of what seems to have been considered a “natural sign” (at least by the anonymous engraver) that constitutes the focus of this paper.

Debora Spini



In these first months of 2009, Debora Spini has been part of the network of excellence, “Garnet,” established by Framework Program VI of the European Union. In particular, Spini participated in a workshop held in Trento on February 20-21 by the Garnet Research Group on non state actors, civil society and global governance. On March 16th, Debora Spini presented the book she co-edited with Margherita Fontanella) entitled *Il Sogno e la Politica* at Villa La Pietra. The following day, she presented a communication on “The Interpretation of Calvinism in Early 20th Century Sociology” at the Colloque Internationale Jean Calvin, organized by the Centro Culturale Protestante di Firenze and by the Centro Studi sul Rinascimento.

On March 23, Debora Spini presented her paper, “EU and Immigration: Citizenship Beyond Membership” at the conference *A Transatlantic Dialogue on Migration* (see feature article page 1) at the Palazzo Vecchio. To finish up this busy spring, on April 4th, Debora lectured on, “Una genealogia dei diritti umani,” for the training course on Human Rights and Development organized by UNICEF.