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## RESEARCH ARTICLES – ABSTRACTS AND KEYWORDS

Edoardo M. Barsotti

**Race and National Genealogies in the Italian *Risorgimento***

This article investigates the relationship between nationalism and race-thinking in the process of construction of national genealogies during the Italian *Risorgimento*. By examining a diverse array of sources, this study formulates some hypotheses on the relevance of the ideas of race in reconstructing the biological and historical continuity of the Italian nation and, therefore, in reinforcing its legitimacy as a sovereign political body. By doing so, this paper focuses not only on the cultural dimension of racial discourse – that is, the circulation of ideas of race and their use in the construction of the image of the nation – but, also, on the political dimension of race as the biological and corporeal foundation of political sovereignty.

Keywords: Risorgimento, nationalism, racism, ethnography

Serena Presti Danisi

**Rome, 8 February 1849: republicans in the making**

On 9 February 1849, in Rome, the Constituent Assembly, elected by universal suffrage, abolished the papal temporal power and proclaimed the republic: this article examines the debate that preceded that historical vote. Rather than analysing the arguments for or against the republic, the paper focuses on the background factors that contributed to the final vote, such as the influence of an invasive audience, and the psychological and emotional aspects of the debate. Moreover, it investigates the relevance of this consultation to the future work of the Assembly. Since most of the deputies were inexperienced with parliamentary institutions, this debate was their first opportunity to form political alliances and practice parliamentary procedures and rules.

Keywords: 1849, Rome, republic, parliament

Mariamichela Landi

**Extraordinary military courts during the war on brigandage (1863-1865)**

The article focuses on the war on brigandage conducted by the Italian Kingdom in the *Mezzogiorno* in the aftermath of the unification, and in particular on the implementation of a regime of exceptional legislation and on role played by military courts. Between

1863 and 1865, when the Pica law had been passed, a war of justice took place and the conflict was for the first time regulated and brought within the bounds of legality. The article thus analyses the role played by extraordinary military courts, the discrepancies between the norm and its application, and the representation of brigandage emerging from extraordinary legislation.

Keywords: Risorgimento, war, brigandage, military courts