

Judges and Historians: A comparative perspective

With Carlo Ginzburg (*Scuola Normale di Pisa*) and Iris Agmon (*Ben Gurion University*)
Multidisciplinary Research Workshop organized by the HEC MWP fellows
Wednesday, Feb. 3, 15.30-18.30, Villa La Fonte

In Carlo Ginzburg's 1999 book "The Judge and the Historian," the author presented a general reflection on the scientific method used by a historians and its similarity to the work of the judge, who also has to correlate testimonies with material evidence in order to deduce what happened.

In this workshop we shall re-examine Ginzburg's hypothesis in a more comparative and diachronic perspective. The event will start with a presentation by Ginzburg on "The judge and the historian: some retrospective perspectives," followed by a presentation by Agmon on "The Ottoman Muslim judge: between social and legal historians." After responses from Prof. Steve Smith (HEC) and MWP fellows Valentina Calderai, M'hmed Oualdi, Seda Unsar and Shikeb Farooqui, the floor will be open for general discussion.

All welcome.

Essential readings:

C. Ginzburg, *Checking the Evidence: the Judge and the Historian*, «Critical Inquiry», 18, n. 1, Autumn 1991, pp. 79-92

I. Agmon, "Attorneys and the Justice of the *Qadi*", chap. 6 in *Family & Court*, New York, Syracuse University Press, 2006

Further readings:

C. Ginzburg, *The Judge and the Historian*, London: verso, 2002

A. Sofri, *La notte che Pinelli*, Palermo, Sellerio, 2009

C. Ginzburg, "Aristotle and History, Once More", in *History, Rhetoric, and Proof*, Hanover, N.H., and London, University Press of New England, 1999, pp. 38-53; in Itailan, *Rapporti di forza. Storia, retorica, prova*, Milano, Feltrinelli, 2000, pp. 51-67

A. Molho, *Carlo Ginzburg: reflections on the intellectual cosmos of a 20th-century historian*, «History of European Ideas», 30, 2004, p. 121-148