

however, both decided to open those boxes, to confront those papers, and vestiges that accompanied them from the childhood. They both succeeded and Egon Rheinberger's Italian journey emerges here as a humble and beauty masterclass about how the lives of the ancestors can be told and integrated to our own work, not only as part of the conditions of possibility of the present but also as another knot of the great chain of the history of knowledge.

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PATRIZIA GUARNIERI, *Intellettuali in fuga dall'Italia fascista. Migranti, esuli e rifugiati per motivi politici e razziali / Intellectuals Displaced from Fascist Italy. Migrants, Exiles and Refugees Fleeing for Political and Racial Reasons* (Florence, Firenze University Press, 2019-): <https://intellettualinfuga.fupress.com/en>.

In 1939, one hundred years after the first daguerreotype, the photos documented daily life to the point that the photographer Lucia Moholy affirmed that "they are in our lives, just like our lives in them" (*A Hundred Years of Photography*, 1939). In the academies, as well as in the educational institutions of the Kingdom of Italy, the purges of the Jews represented daily life. These purges began in 1938 with the enactment of the racial laws, and are witnessed by the many passport photos taken to fill in the expatriation documents from Italy. In 2018, the 80th anniversary of that administrative act, Patrizia Guarnieri, historian of the University of Florence, launched the "Intellectuals displaced from fascist Italy" project, and since 2019 she transformed her studies in a web portal. She wanted to study those purges as a migratory movement of "brain drain" that brought many intellectuals to move abroad with consequences on the Italian science and cultural environment.

The web portal (<https://intellettualinfuga.fupress.com/>), therefore, came about as a historical memory and a valuable cultural heritage. His aim is important digital initiatives such as, for example, the site of the collection of interviews in Italian including witnesses to the Shoah of the USC Shoah Foundation The Institute for Visual History and Education (www.shoah.acs.beniculturali.it).

The portal opens access to a very wide audience to the large and complex database of documents that Guarnieri compiled like a bloodhound, following the traces left here and there by the protagonists during their hasty escape from Italy. The sources are varied: manuscripts, photos, expatriation documents, personal correspondence, and assistance requests. The researcher has placed them alongside the series of regulations issued before and after the racial laws. Starting from 1925, in fact, through the governmental devices it is possible to retrace the progressive subtraction of individual freedoms up to the racist turning point of the Fascist regime.

Guarnieri's research, however, had begun years earlier from the focus on the causes of the marginalization of Psychology in Italy until the end of the Second

World War (*Italian Psychology and Jewish Emigration under Fascism*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2016).

The investigation of the wider “Intellectuals displaced” project started from some of the major international organizations archives, as Bodleian Library, University of Oxford, Oxford, Central Archive of the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, New School of Social Research, New York, and archives of relief agencies, as Emergency Committee in Aid of Displaced Foreign Medical Scientists, Emergency Committee in Aid of Displaced Foreign Physicians, Emergency Committee in Aid of Displaced Foreign Scholars, and Friends of Refugee Teachers, who helped the scholars fleeing “dal nazismo e dal fascismo.” The outcome of this investigation expanded the list of academics scientists, students, and scholars forced to look for a new job outside Europe to the largest number of non-academics from the Tuscan to whole Italy. For each of them, Guarnieri tried to reconstruct the cultural context of departure and arrival after expatriation, as if it was a microcosm of internal and external interactions representative of what was happening in the rest of the nation. Reconstructing all the movements has proved a quite difficult task because, as the author explains, many names were not included in the institutional documents, or because they did not have a permanent academic position or because the refugees changed their surnames for security reasons.

Starting from the four-hundred entries proposed in alphabetical order by the portal, the reader can reconstruct the “lives in motion” of the so-called “displaced scholars” (as the welfare agencies classified the scholars who had lost their jobs). Among them are scientists, artists, teachers, students, and professionals who are Jewish or considered as such by the law. Along with them, even those who did not agree to join the Fascist party and were disqualified from professional registers. As the author recounts, in many cases there was no connection between the activity carried out in Italy and that carried out abroad in the Americas, in England, in Palestine (‘Eretz-Yisra’el). For this the extensive research had the institution’s patronage – The New York Public Library, The Council for At-Risk Academics of London and the Central Archives for the History of Jewish People, Jerusalem –, and the contribution of individuals and archives from all around the world, which allowed Guarnieri to compare data and consult registers to fill, for the first time, the missing pieces to the puzzle of lives after exile. The investigation revealed the ability of the scientific world to build solidarity networks, but also to be able to exploit the opportunity to recruit high-quality, low-cost workforce for American institutions, which until before the war did not boast the same prestige of the European ones.

In many cases, the archive provides useful biographies of the protagonists that serve to give unity to the digital fragments. In the background we can read the metamorphosis of the Italian academic world, the decline of some scientific fields and the contamination that these mobility experiences produced in the way of doing science. A valuable element of the research is the attention given to “minor” characters of the Tuscan and non Tuscan cultural context, who, followed after expatriation, reveal success stories. Thus, it turns out that some scholars brought prestige to the new homeland by obtaining prestigious prizes such as the Nobel

Prize, others founded new areas of research, such as Cesare Lombroso's nephew of the same name, who specialized in childhood neurology. Others had the courage to look at the previous homeland with a benevolent gaze and attempted the reconstruction of a national identity, such as Enrico Fermi. The engineer Eugenio Fubini, for example, lost his teaching at the Polytechnic of Turin, in the US he became one of the leading experts in electronic technologies directly at the highest levels of the nation that hosted him as assistant secretary of defence of the US Federal Government (Stefano Luconi, *Eugenio Fubini Ghiron* (2020), in Patrizia Guarnieri, *Intellectuals displaced from fascist Italy*, Firenze University Press, 2019).

The project has also turned a spotlight on women, who supported husbands, fathers, and brothers in the difficult choice of starting an even modest life in unknown places. Some, such as Flora Aghib Levi D'Ancona, carefully guarded the memories, scientific works of their husbands and family correspondence. Others found some more space to express their scientific potential, such as clinical psychologist Renata Calabresi.

The documents found and published in the portal after a long selection process by Guarnieri also identify the dynamics that distorted Italian educational institutions, depriving them of people and ideas. Rivalry and jealousies also characterized the return to "normality" after the war, despite the restorative rules – also shared in the portal – which were not enough to bring the old teachers back to their professorships. Exiles such as the doctor Giuseppe Levi and the physicist Bruno Rossi had difficulty resuming their jobs.

After the war, international collaborations resumed strengthened by new references in American academies and the experience of adaptation led to the enhancement of the applications of science. The way of being together also changed, as visualized from the friendliest photographic poses of the scientific meetings, which show the new values: respect for identity rather than the institutional role. The photographic archive stored onto the portal, indeed unique, provides an added value to the original historical researches on scientific European emigrants making them icons of their time.

An appreciable novelty of the portal curated by Guarnieri is the graphical-temporal visualization of the transfer paths of the protagonists that makes use of an interactive geographical map, whose nodes are the inhabited places, and a timeline connected to the mobility important events. The portal, therefore, also assumes the function of a visual synthesis tool, which clarifies the complexity and implications of this migratory movement.

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