

Sounding (Out) 19th-Century Italy

Despite the countless sounds and noises that have characterised the region and its people over the centuries, Italy is still largely associated, in both the popular and scholarly imagination, with the 'soundtrack' that supposedly accompanied its birth as a nation-state: opera. *Sounding (Out) 19th-Century Italy* will bring together seventeen talented young scholars and five senior academics with an aim to challenge the pervasive cultural misconceptions—the myths of Italian distinctiveness and exoticism—that have thrived on this orthodox sonic marker of Italianness. The working group will reappraise the multifaceted phenomenon of sound during Italy's 'long' 19th century from cultural, historical-scientific and ethnographic perspectives. Two forums will facilitate dialogue across disciplines and with a non-scholarly audience: an academic workshop; and an outreach panel and performance. A launch talk, an interim reading group and a website gathering multimedia material will further enhance the project's impact on the global scholarly and public community.