

THE BRITISH SCHOOL AT ROME

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Studying at the British School at Rome

The British School at Rome has significantly raised the profile of modern and contemporary studies in recent years. In 2006 the British Academy approved funding of the first three-year Major Research Fellowship in Modern Studies to be held at the School. The first Fellow is David Forgacs, Professor of Italian at University College London, who is carrying out a project on "Language, space and power in Italy since 1800". The research has several strands, including fieldwork on current patterns of movement and settlement within Rome of migrants from eastern Europe, work on linguistic minorities and marginalised languages in Italy, analysis of ethnographic documentaries about peasant communities and the urban working class, and Fascist and Christian Democrat propaganda newsreels. As a consequence of the Fellowship there is now a greater number of seminars, discussions and lectures on modern topics in the annual events programme and a much stronger sense of a modern studies research community within the School. Applications for Fellowships and Awards by scholars working on modern and contemporary topics are particularly welcome. With its many libraries and public and private archives, the film collection of the Cineteca Nazionale and the Teche of the RAI, Rome provides an ideal base for research on modern Italy and the British School is very conveniently located for access to these resources.

David Forgacs, University College London

In 2005-2006 I had a Rome Award to begin a project entitled *News and current affairs on RAI: television, language and politics in the first ten years of Italy's Second Republic*. This project, which aimed to define the relationships between language, politics and television in contemporary Italy, required access to resources held in RAI's three archives in Rome and in the Biblioteca Nazionale, all of which are easily accessible from the BSR. My period of residence there enabled me to carry out the first phase of this research in a congenial and scholarly atmosphere. The support offered by the BSR allows researchers to make the most of the time available to them, and provides a stimulating interdisciplinary research environment, whereas the BSR staff were always ready to facilitate any aspect of research, and were highly expert in obtaining access to all manner of resources.

Kate Litherland, University of Leeds

As a former Rome Scholar (2003-2004), I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to spend nine months in a unique environment where artists and academics live and work under one roof, coming together daily to share meals and discussions. The regular guest lectures as well as the visiting scholars from all over the world and from a range of disciplinary backgrounds make for an atmosphere of vibrant intellectual exchange. As if that were not enough, the setting of the British School – with Villa Borghese on its doorsteps – is superb, as are the purpose-built Lecture Theatre and recently refurbished library.

Jane Dunnett, University of Swansea