15 May: Dr Andrea Caracausi (University of Padova) and Dr Giulio Ongaro (Bicocca University Milan)

**Occupational Structures in the Republic of Venice (1780–1790)**

Occupational structures are often seen as determinant in economic growth. Shifts from agricultural to non-agricultural occupations can increase per-capita income and enhance labour market performance. The basic idea is generally a theological ‘evolution’ from agriculture to industrial occupation given to proto-industrial or industrial development. However, evidence are mainly from north-western regions or eastern Europe, while accurate analysis for southern Europe are poor.

This paper is a first attempt to reconstruct occupational structures in some districts of the Republic of Venice at the end of the 18th century. Combining general overviews from regional surveys and micro-analytical case studies from a dozen villages in the area, we will try to evaluate the non-agricultural activities with reference to other characteristics: population, village size, social structure, infrastructure, etc. The use of other quantitative sources will be useful to estimate the role of women and child labour.