

Matteo Al Kalak

Introduction

Matteo Al Kalak is Full Professor of Early Modern History at the Department of Linguistic and Cultural Studies and Director of the Interdepartmental Research Centre on Digital Humanities (DHMoRe) at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia. He is responsible for teaching in the field of history, with a focus on the history of the modern age and the history of Christianity, in a European and global perspective. His research focuses on religious history, understood in its institutional aspects and in the manifestations linked to dissent, reformism and contestation. He is responsible for research projects related to the digitisation of cultural heritage and the new methodological perspectives of the Digital Humanities. He coordinated the European project "ITHACA. Interconnecting Histories and Archives for Migrant Agency: Entangled Narratives Across Europe and the Mediterranean Region" (2021-2025).

Training

Graduated with honors at the University of Bologna, he obtained his specialization (PhD in History) at the Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa (2006-2009). In the following years, he received grants at the Scuola Normale and the University of Bologna. Since 2016, he has worked at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, he had already held teaching positions.

Research

His studies have focused on a few main themes: in particular, he has investigated the history of Christianity, understood from a social and cultural perspective, with specific reference to the phenomena of dissent, conversion, reformism and the control of moral and collective behaviour.

Since his postgraduate studies at the Scuola Normale in Pisa, he has participated in research groups, in particular on topics related to political and religious history. In connection with his studies on 16th-century heresy and inquisitorial repression, from 2008 to 2010 he was a member of the editorial board of the *Dizionario storico dell'Inquisizione* edited by Adriano Prosperi.

A substantial part of his studies has also been devoted to the scholarly tradition of the 18th century and its links with religious reformism and jurisdictionalism. In this field, he has developed numerous researches on the figure and work of Lodovico Antonio Muratori and the Este political-cultural tradition.

He is/has been P.I. of about 20 national and international projects.

He is in charge of the media library project *Lodovico*: www.lodovico.medialibrary.it dedicated to the digitisation of the cultural heritage of various institutes, in a federative and innovative key.

Roles and administrative activity

He is director of the Interdepartmental Research Centre on Digital Humanities (DHMoRe).

He is *chercheur associé* at the the Center Roland Mousnier (CNRS, Paris).

He is a deputy president of the Centro Studi Muratoriani.

He was president of the BA course in History and Contemporary Cultures, of the Department of Linguistic and Cultural Studies of the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia (2019-2021).

Within the activity carried out at the Department, he is a member of the management staff (since 2018).

As a scholar, he participates in the activities of various cultural institutes and scientific societies: he has been a member of Sisem (Italian Society for the Study of the Modern Age) since 2013, an ordinary member of AISG (Italian Association for the Study of Judaism), a member of the Centro Studi Muratoriani since 2008 (correspondent: 2008-2013, full member: since 2013; and member of the Board of Directors: 2013-current), ordinary member of the National Academy of Sciences Letters and Arts of Modena; corresponding member of the Deputazione di Storia Patria per le Antiche Provincie Modenesi (by ministerial decree 30-12-2010).

He also contributes to numerous scientific journals: he is member of the scientific board of *Rivista di storia della chiesa in Italia* (fascia A); a member of the editorial board of the journals *Ricerche di storia sociale e religiosa* and *Modernism/Modernismo* (fascia A); and a member of the scientific committee of the journal *Muratoriana on-line* of the Centre for Muratorian Studies in Modena.

He has acted as a referee for numerous national and international journals, universities and publishing series.

He collaborates with the cultural page of *Avvenire*.

In 2011 he received the National Prize of the Accademia dei Lincei (G. Borgia Foundation), Historical Sciences section.

He was supervisor, as proposer, of the project "Mutina Hebraica: Histories and Technologies for Languages Digitization, Transcription, and Annotation", awarded the "Rita Levi-Montalcini Prize for scientific cooperation between Italy and Israel", awarded to Prof. Gadi Algazi, Tel Aviv University (MAECI, CRUI Foundation and MUR).

Teaching

He teaches Cultural and Political History of Modern Europe and History of Christianity at the Bachelor's Degree in Cultural Sciences and History and Contemporary Cultures and the Master's Degree in Anthropology and History of the Contemporary World. He has held teaching positions in the courses of Tirocinio Formativo Attivo (TFA) and Percorso Attivo Speciale (PAS) aimed at training teachers of Italian, history and geography.