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Titolo Tesi

Exploring an interstitial space: Italian FOBs (*Fondazioni di Origine Bancaria*) as observatory on elites (1990-2017)

Abstract in inglese

My research examines the structuring and transformation of elites through the lenses of the great Italian banking foundations (FOBs, *Fondazioni di Origine Bancaria*). The greatest FOBs have largely gained prominence since their creation yet, their staffs have never been studied. They wield influence and have organizational, financial, decision-making power in connection with other worlds (e.g. town halls, banks, companies). They host concentrations of power, serving as venues for elites to meet. The aim of this study is to fill this gap, and look into the Fobs actors to shed light on the profile of nowadays elites which can be observed using the prism of the foundations. In particular, the study focuses on the second biggest Italian FOB, located in Turin: 'Compagnia di San Paolo (CSP)' and the actors connected to it. CSP is an emblematic case as it has a very long history that dates back to the Renaissance, a significant urban dimension and a capacity of influence on the local political agenda, though it intervenes beyond the local level too. Using an interpretive and socio-historical approach to observe elites in action from the 1990s to the present day, the study aims at drawing on the heuristic potential of the 'elite' concept to develop conceptual and analytic tools to observe them.