

## **Crimes of Honor in a Mobile World, Past and Present: An Interdisciplinary Research Project**

In 2005, Linda Reeder, University of Missouri (History), Donna Gabaccia, IHRC, and Jason Pine, SUNY Purchase (Anthropology) began circulating emailed newsletters to facilitate communication among scholars studying crimes of honors among Europe's migrant populations, past and present. Readers of Italian newspapers will know that crimes of honor remain a frequent occurrence in Italy, as they were in the past, too, wherever Italians migrated. Yet most European coverage of crimes of honor focuses instead almost exclusively on Europe's contemporary Moslem migrant populations. In rather sharp contrast, the international community views honor crimes as violations of human rights and forms of domestic violence, suggesting that public policy can empower those against whom violence is perpetrated.

In early September the three scholars convened an interdisciplinary group at the Bellagio Conference Center for four days of intensive debate and discussion: <http://www.rockfound.org/bellagio/bellagio.shtml> Attending were specialists on Italy, Italian and Moslem migrants, past and present, and public policy specialists. The questions addressed were complex and troubling ones. What are the distinctive qualities of honor killings, and how are they related to crimes of passion and domestic violence? How do honor crimes within migrant communities compare to crimes within non-migrant European worlds? Do honor crimes emerge from potent conflicts between systems of justice and gender, conflicts that arise specifically in the context of transnational migration? And finally, what can be done to stop the violence?

A list of participants and the conference draft agenda can be viewed below. In 2010 Reeder, Pine and Gabaccia will meet at the IHRC, report to the University of Minnesota Community on the project and plan publication of the conference proceedings.

## **Sept 8**

### **Day 1 Honor past and Present**

Welcome and Introductions

#### **Morning: How we have thought about honor and mobility**

In this session we could consider how honor has been studied in the past: who possesses honor, how honor is accrued, measured and lost, and the ways in which migration altered ideas of honor.

Caroline Brettell: "The Curious Case of Honor and Shame in the Mediterranean"

Donna Gabaccia: "Honor and Shame in a Mobile World"

Giovanna Fiume: "Family Groups in 19<sup>th</sup> century Sicily"

#### **Afternoon: Honor and Migration in the Contemporary World**

This session focuses on how honor is understood in recent times. We could consider here the ways honor has been fused with Islam in the Europe, and the impact of globalization on cultures of honor.

Rana Husseini: Honor Crimes in Jordan and the Media

Hilde Bakker Migration and honor in the Netherlands

Unni Wikan, "Honor Killings in Contemporary Scandinavia"

## **Sept 9**

### **Day 2 Honor, Gender and Sexuality**

#### **Morning: Honor and Gender**

In this session we could explore the ways honor is a gendered system, defining notions of masculinity and femininity. Crimes of honor reveal the ways in which family and kin networks shape and discipline the meaning and practice of gender. This could include historical or contemporary cultural analyses (music, literature, film), ethnographies, institutional/structural studies.

Erdal Gezik "The Adventures of Anatolian namus in Western Europe: The many faces of honor and Shame in a Transcultural World"

Aysan Sev'er: From Social Voyeurisms to Deadly Outcomes: Cultural obsession about women's sexuality, virginity and honour in South-Eastern Turkey

## Marjo va Dijeken: Family Honor and Parenthood in Immigrant and Multi-Cultural Families in Finland

### **Afternoon: honor and sexuality**

Here we would like to think about honor killings as forms of intimate/familial violence, and ways of regulating sexuality. Some of these presentations could look explicitly at the performative nature of honor crimes.

Francesco Pepe: A Life Full of Honor

Jason Pine: “Violent Performances in Naples and its Diasporas”

Cecila Jarl-Åberg and Eduardo Grutzky Interviews with LGBT Youth in Honour Based Value Systems

Katherine Pratt Ewing Honor, Islamic Law, and Gay Rights

## **Sept 10**

### **Day 3 Justice and Legal systems**

#### **Morning: Migrants, honor and justice**

In this session we would like to focus on how migrants and their families negotiate hybrid justice systems. Work focusing on court cases in the past and present could offer insight into the workings of honor among migrant communities.

Kristin Ruggiero: Foreign Contagion and Honor in Late 19<sup>th</sup> and Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Buenos Aires

Julia Clancy-Smith: The Trial of Giovanna Tellini, 1868 Tunis”

Linda Reeder: Gender, Honor and Migration in 19<sup>th</sup> century Southern Italy

#### **Afternoon: Honor and the Law**

In this session we would like to consider how honor crimes reflect colliding legal systems. Honor crimes seem to reveal the ways that migration creates hybrid or dual legal systems that incorporate principles of individual rights and collective notions of honor.

Christian Giordano Honor and Honor Crimes Between Different Legal Systems

Tahira Khan: “Love and Law”

Closing: Where do we go from here?