



DisComPoSE - Disasters, Communication and Politics in Southwestern Europe

*Report of the DisComPoSE Seminar **Forme e reti di comunicazione nell'Europa del Cinquecento: informazione, censura, dissimulazione** (Forms and networks of communication in 16th century Europe: information, censorship, dissimulation)*

Elena BONORA, Università di Parma
Brendan DOOLEY, University College Cork

21st January 2019, at 3.00 p.m.
Department of Humanities - Via Porta di Massa 1 – Naples

The Department of Humanities of the University of Naples Federico II hosted the seminar organized by the ERC-funded project *DisComPoSe* and the STAR project *Tales of Four Cities*, devoted to *Forms and networks communication in 16th century Europe: information, censorship, dissimulation*, with the participation of **Elena Bonora** (University of Parma) and **Brendan Dooley** (University College Cork).



The intervention of Bonora started from the difficult relationships between Popes and Emperors and in particular between Paul III and Charles V, a conflict that was radicalized in the Forties of the sixteenth century which led to the emergence of a particular type of communication, a communication always in danger, almost always secret, often simulated and disguised. The *gramuffo*,



encrypted code used for secret communications, is one of the most interesting and valuable evidence of the level of complexity and importance achieved by communication during the sixteenth century. Encrypted messages, shared codes, uncovered, changed and shared again with extraordinary speed: the *gramuffo* brings out the centrality of the time of circulation of news, and of the relationship between secrecy and sharing in the sixteenth century.

The intervention of Brendan Dooley started instead from some fundamental questions for the theme of the seminar: how was the sense of contemporaneity experienced in the early modern age? How was it distinguished from other perceptions of space and time? What were the phases of its development and its diffusion? How is it possible to track them down? How did the new media of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries

generate new notions about the shape of Europe? How did a new sense of contemporaneity come to form? What do the crowds tell us waiting for news of Minelli's recordings?

Dooley emphasized the importance of reconstructing the relationship between center and periphery in the dissemination of news and in the perception of a shared "hour", the attention to be devoted to political and economic institutions and the way in which they become the main actors of a new media dimension.

