Italy’s Margins

*Italy’s Margins* explores how certain places and social groups in Italy have been defined as marginal or peripheral since unification. This marginalization involves not only concrete policies but also ways of perceiving people and places as outside society’s centre. The author looks closely at how photography and writing have supported political and social exclusion and, conversely, how they have been enlisted to challenge it. Five cases are examined: the peripheries of Italy’s major cities after unification; its East African colonies in the 1930s; the less developed areas of its south in the 1950s; its psychiatric hospitals before the reforms of the late 1970s; and its ‘nomad camps’ after 2000. Each chapter takes its lead from a symptomatic photograph and is followed by other pictures and extracts from written texts. These allow the reader to examine how social marginalization is discursively performed by cultural products.

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Italy’s Margins

_Social Exclusion and Nation Formation since 1861_

David Forgacs
For Rachele
## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>List of illustrations</td>
<td>viii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgments</td>
<td>xii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction: looking at margins</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Urban peripheries</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Colonies</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Souths</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Asylums</td>
<td>197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Nomad camps</td>
<td>263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusion: understanding margins</td>
<td>290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bibliography</td>
<td>296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Index</td>
<td>318</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
List of illustrations

Where an illustration has an original title or caption I have placed it in inverted commas; where the original image is untitled the title here is either mine or is that supplied by the picture archive.

1.1 Courtyard of apartment block in San Lorenzo district, Rome (c. 1905). Source: _La Casa Moderna nell’opera dell’Istituto Romano di Beni Stabili_, Rome, 1910, Tav. XXXI (detail). page 15

1.2 Courtyard of apartment block in San Lorenzo before (c. 1905) and after improvement (c. 1909). Source: _La Casa Moderna nell’opera dell’Istituto Romano di Beni Stabili_, Rome, 1910, Tav. XXXIX. 16

1.3 ‘Close, No. 118, High Street, Glasgow’ (1868–1871) by Thomas Annan. Source: _Glasgow Improvements Act, 1866: photographs of streets, closes &c. taken 1868–71_ (Glasgow, 1872), Plate 15. Department of Special Collections, University of Glasgow Library. 17

1.4 ‘New district outside Porta San Lorenzo updated to end of October 1886’. Source: Archivio Storico Capitolino, Rome, Piano Regolatore, Posizione 57. Busta 572, Fascicolo 20. 22

1.5 Agricultural day labourers seated in Piazza Montanara, Rome (c. 1870) by Ettore Roesler Franz. Source: Raccolte Museali Fratelli Alinari (RMFA), Archivio Roesler Franz, Florence. 27

1.6 ‘Abyssinian village, Asmara’ (c. 1885–1890) by Francesco Nicotra. Source: Biblioteca Reale Torino, item no. P. 6.5 Tav. 1, by permission of Ministero per i Beni e le Attività Culturali. 33

1.7 Old shops in Via Rua in the Rome ghetto (c. 1860–1870) by Ettore Roesler Franz. Source: RMFA, Archivio Roesler Franz, Florence. 47

1.8 ‘Via della Lungaretta, Trastevere’, watercolour (1880) by Ettore Roesler Franz. Source: Museo di Roma in Trastevere. 48

1.9 Beggar on church steps, Rome (c. 1890) by Giuseppe Primoli. Source: Fondazione Primoli, Rome. 50
List of illustrations ix

1.10 ‘The lamplighter’ (c. 1863) by Antonio Trombetta. Source: Archivi Alinari, Florence, Donazione Trombetta. 51

1.11 ‘Chicchignola, or Nano Baiocco’ (‘Shilling Dwarf’), Rome (c. 1860). Source: Istituto Centrale per il Catalogo e la Documentazione–Gabinetto Fotografico Nazionale, Fondo Collezione Becchetti, inv. 2962. 52

1.12 ‘Children in working-class district of Rome’ (1937) by Cesare Barzacchi. Source: Estate of Cesare Barzacchi. 54


1.14 Acquedotto Felice, Rome (1956) by Franco Pinna. Source: Archivio Franco Pinna, Rome. 57


2.1 Unidentified woman, sailors and two men, Massawa (1935) by Mario Fiore. Source: Laboratorio di Ricerca e Documentazione Storico-iconografica, Dipartimento di Scienze Politiche, Università di Roma Tre. 68


2.3 Leopoldo Rizzo and family at their house in Mekele (1940). Source: Laboratorio di Ricerca e Documentazione Storico-iconografica, Università di Roma Tre. 88

2.4 Alfredo Rizzo (left) with unidentified boy, Qorbeta (February 1940), possibly by Leopoldo Rizzo. Source: Laboratorio di Ricerca e Documentazione Storico-iconografica, Dipartimento di Scienze Politiche, Università di Roma Tre. 88

2.5 ‘Arusi type from Shashemene region’ (southern Ethiopia) (1938–1939) by Lidio Cipriani. Source: Archivio Fotografico Toscano, Prato, Fondo Lidio Cipriani. 94

2.6 ‘Taking anthropometric data in Zululand’ (c. 1927). Figure 38 in Lidio Cipriani, In Africa dal Capo al Cairo (Florence: Bemporad, 1932), p. 34. 95
List of illustrations

2.7 ‘Janjero woman from Fofa region’ (southern Ethiopia) (1939) by Lidio Cipriani. Source: Archivio Fotografico Toscano, Prato, Fondo Lidio Cipriani.


2.9 Front cover of La Difesa della Razza, 1, 3 (5 September 1938). Source: Collection of Luigi Goglia.


2.11 Undated postcard (c. 1936–1941). Source: Laboratorio di Ricerca e Documentazione Storico-iconografica, Dipartimento di Scienze Politiche, Università di Roma Tre.

2.12 ‘Head of Dejach Hailu, 24-9-37’ by Angelo Dolfo. Source: Laboratorio di Ricerca e Documentazione Storico-iconografica, Dipartimento di Scienze Politiche, Università di Roma Tre.

2.13 Italians with severed heads of Ethiopians, undated (c. 1936–1941). Source: Institute of Ethiopian Studies, Addis Ababa, Photographic Archive, Box W1, Serial number 943/942 A+B.


2.15 Jagema Kello (left) and Tankesa Kello, studio photograph (1941). Source: Private collection of General Jagema Kello.

3.1 ‘Weeping woman from Pisticci’ (1952) by Franco Pinna. Source: Archivio Franco Pinna, Rome.


3.3 Enlargement from contact strip showing Carmela Palmaverde in reconstructed ritual mourning (Montemurro, August 1956) by Franco Pinna. Source: Archivio Franco Pinna, Rome.

3.4 La strega e il bambino (The witch and the child) (17 January 1936). Oil on canvas, 100 cm × 73 cm by Carlo Levi. Source: Artists Rights Society, New York / SIAE, Rome.

3.5 ‘Matera, the Sassi’ (1950) by Marjory Collins. Source: Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University.
List of illustrations

3.6 Maria di Nardò (right) during final stages of *taranta* ritual in the church of Galatina (June 1959) by Franco Pinna. Source: Archivio Franco Pinna, Rome. 174

4.1 Psychiatric institution, Gorizia (1968) by Gianni Berengo Gardin. Source: Collection of Gianni Berengo Gardin. 197


4.5 Patients at work, San Salvi Hospital, Florence (1928) by Fratelli Alinari. Source: Archivi Alinari, Florence, Archivio Fratelli Alinari. 234

4.6 Hands of patients in Materdomini Psychiatric Hospital, Nocera Superiore (Salerno) (1967) by Luciano D’Alessandro. Source: Collection of Luciano D’Alessandro. 236

4.7 Patient in Materdomini Psychiatric Hospital, Nocera Superiore (Salerno) (1966) by Luciano D’Alessandro. Source: Collection of Luciano D’Alessandro. 238

5.1 Camp at Tor di Quinto, Rome, after being cleared by police on 1 November 2007 by Stefano Montesi. Source: Stefano Montesi. 263

5.2 Casilino 900, Rome (2009) by Alessandro Imbriaco. Source: Alessandro Imbriaco. 264

5.3 Casilino 900, Rome (2009) by Alessandro Imbriaco. Source: Alessandro Imbriaco. 265

5.4 Casilino 900, Rome (2009) by Maria Stefanek. Source: Maria Stefanek. 267

5.5 ‘Senada and Jonathan’ (2000) by Marco Delogu. Source: Marco Delogu. 268


Acknowledgments

This book is one of the outputs of a project I undertook during my tenure of a Research Professorship in Modern Studies at the British School at Rome (BSR) in 2006–2009, the last year of which included a six-month residence in Addis Ababa. I am very grateful to the BSR and to the British Academy, which made available the funding for this post, for providing me with an exceptional opportunity for concentrated research. I am equally grateful to University College London for agreeing to relieve me of my teaching duties for three years. The other main outputs have been the conference ‘Language, space and otherness in Italy since 1861’, held at the BSR on 24–25 June 2010, my co-edited special issue of Modern Italy (19: 2, 2014) on ‘Disability rights and wrongs in Italy’, and the exhibition of photographs and films, ‘Italy’s Margins’, shown at the BSR in June–July 2010 and at the NYU Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimò in New York in March–April 2012.

I want to thank to the staff and residents of the BSR for their support and critical engagement with my research findings and ideas, which I originally presented there in a series of public lectures and seminars in 2006–2009. I am particularly thankful to the former Director, Professor Andrew Wallace-Hadrill, the Assistant Director (Fine Arts) Jacopo Benci and the Librarian Valerie Scott. I am also grateful to the friends and colleagues who took part with me in some of the seminars: Maria Grazia Giannichedda, Luigi Goglia, Alessandro Portelli, Mario Sanfilippo and Amalia Signorelli. Thanks also to Silvia Stucky, to Dr Susan Russell, former Assistant Director of the BSR, and to the present Director, Professor Christopher Smith. Geraldine Wellington, Renato Parente, Giuseppe Pellegrino, Antonio Palmieri, Fulvio Astolfi, Donatella Astolfi and Marisa Scarsella all provided invaluable practical support and friendship during my time in Rome. I am equally grateful to my former students at the University of Cambridge and at University College London who took the courses where I first taught some of the material to be found herein and whose responsiveness in seminars gave me the initial push to develop it into a bigger project.

Many individuals in Rome helped me with the practical conduct of the research and granted me access to special collections and materials. I should like to thank in particular Celestino Spada, Stefano Nespolesi and Barbara
Acknowledgments

Scaramucci at the RAI, Edoardo Cecchi at the Istituto Luce, and Valentina Contessi at the Videoteca of the Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia. Giulia Baldi provided invaluable assistance in tracking down photographic material. For the research conducted in Ethiopia I am grateful to Nicola Labanca, Richard Pankhurst, Shiferaw Bekele, Denis Gérard and Ian Campbell, as well as to the former British Ambassador to Ethiopia, Norman Ling, and to Sandy Wade, former Defence Attaché to the African Union, Ethiopia, Djibouti and Somaliland at the British Embassy in Addis Ababa. Luisa Gatteschi introduced me to her grandfather, General Jagema Kello, and to General Wassihun Negatu. Carla Zanoli, former Country Director of Comitato Collaborazione Medica in Ethiopia, kindly gave me space in which to work. For the later stages of research and writing I benefited from the assistance provided by staff at the Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale and the Biblioteca di Storia Moderna e Contemporanea in Rome, the Biblioteca di Storia Contemporanea Alfredo Oriani in Ravenna, the British Library in London, the New York Public Library and the Library of Congress in Washington. Laura Di Bianco and Sarah Morgan helped obtain further high-resolution copies of photographs and copyright permissions. I should also like to thank Giovanna Lucarini and Mario Lucarini for their wonderful hospitality at various stages of the research.

For permission to reproduce images I should like to thank the following individuals and institutions: Luciano D’Alessandro, Marco Barzacchi, Gianni Berengo Gardin, Marco Delogu, Franco Ferrarotti, Annamaria Greci, Franz Gustincich, Alessandro Imbriaco, General Jagema Kello, Maria Antonietta Macioti, Livio Mancini, Stefano Montesi, Maria Stefanek; Andrea Amatiste and Patrizia Cacciani (Archivio Storico Cinecittà Luce), Alessandra Biagianti (Alinari Archives, Florence), Diana Carey (Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University), Giuseppe Castelli (Museo di Roma in Trastevere), Ato Demeke Berhane (Photographic Collection, Institute of Ethiopian Studies, Addis Ababa), Silvia Fasoli (Fondazione Primoli, Rome), Luigi Goglia (Laboratorio di Ricerca e Documentazione Storico-iconografica, Dipartimento di Scienze Politiche, Università di Roma Tre), Oriana Goti (Archivio Fotografico Toscano, Prato), Robert MacLean and Niki Russell (Department of Special Collections, University of Glasgow Library), Maria Letizia Melone (ICCD-Gabinetto Fotografico Nazionale, Rome), Giuseppe Pinna (Istituto Superiore per la Storia della Fotografia, Rome), Hannah Rhadigan (Arts Rights Society, New York), Giovanni Saccani (Biblioteca Reale Torino), Mariarosaria Senofonte (Archivio Storico Capitolino, Rome).

I am very grateful to the friends and colleagues who read and commented on parts of the manuscript: Ian Campbell, Paul Connerton, Frederick Cooper, John Foot, Mariagrazia Giannichedda and Alessandro Triulzi. At Cambridge University Press I should like to thank my editors Chloe Dawson and Elizabeth Friend-Smith as well as Gillian Dadd, Maartje Scheltens and Michael Watson.
The feedback from my two anonymous readers and the series editors of Cambridge Social and Cultural Histories was also very valuable. I also want to thank Jenny Slater, project manager for the book at Out of House Publishing, and my copyeditor Victoria Chow. None of these people, naturally, shares any responsibility for errors or limitations that may remain in the book. My wife, Rachele Tardi, has lived with this project in four continents and I could not have completed it without her intelligence, her understanding and her love.