

Laura Guidi, Annamaria Lamarra

Introduction

Ten years ago, a group of women, professors, senior and junior researchers, started *La camera blu*, the first gender studies review of the University of Naples Federico II. The War and the women's involvement was decided to be the first topic to deal with. The choice was due to two main considerations: a) the difference that crucial historical moments, wars and revolutions particularly, meant for men and women; b) the conspicuous absence of women's experience in literature and history accounts. The idea that war is "men's business, not ladies" was at the heart of it. In not a surprisingly way, new aspects were pointed out such as the split between national and private history, the complex way the cultural memory of a nation is developed, the separation between individual ideology and national ideology. These questions are resumed in this issue, number 13, that is totally dedicated to the Great War in occasion of its anniversary. The different approaches highlight a counter-history: events and texts unconsidered or scarcely examined; they question the traditional view of History as something neutral and women's involvement as something occasional, not bound to last. The Great War is read through experiences to which only a superficial attention has been attached; they reveal significant aspects of the relationships between sexuality and cultural authority, private memories and general history.

Laura Guidi, is associated professor of Gender History and Contemporary History at the University of Naples Federico II. She has published many essays on various issues of social and cultural history of XIXth and XXth century. She is a member of the editorial board of the international Gender Studies review "La camera blu. Rivista di Studi di Genere" dell'Università di Napoli Federico II, and of the Società Italiana delle Storiche review, "Genesis". She is founder member of the Società Italiana delle Storiche.

Annamaria Lamarra is professor of English Literature at the University of Naples Federico II. Her research fields include: gender studies, modernism, Restoration literature. Her publications include *Aphra Behn*, *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Women in*

World History (2008. Oxford: Oxford University Press); *L'invenzione del romanzo. Il caso Aphra Behn* (2012. Napoli: Filema); *Jessie White Mario, Louise Colet and The Italian Risorgimento*, in A. Lamarra, E. Federici (eds.), *Nations, Traditions and Cross-Cultural Identities* (2010. Oxford, Bern, Berlin, Bruxelles, Frankfurt am Main, New York, Wien: Peter Lang).