

# ABSTRACT ZOOM

**Alessandra Corrado, Oscar Greco**

## **Rural Calabria. Mobility, laborers and peasants in Agrarian Reform to date**

The analysis of migration processes in Calabria is tied up to the reading of the transformations of the rural world. The double dimension of emigration and immigration has to be taken necessarily into account to tell from the one side the deep hemorrhage of rural areas, the abandonment of agriculture, the socio-economic and demographic transition, and from the other side, since the '80s of last century, the arrival, in rural areas too, of subjects from other countries, as labourers in agricultura and as new dwellers. In this double dimension, migrations in Calabria allow to highlight changes in agriculture, especially from the process of Agrarian Reform. The article proposes an analysis on how the countryside has interpreted its own transition and which role and place migrants, as new inhabitants and labourers, play within that, by reading the present through the past, interpreting changes in agricultural labour and farms through migrations.

**Keywords:** Calabria region (Italy), migration processes, Agrarian Reform, rural world

**Laura Fossati, Guillaume Lebaud**

## **The fiction of Heritage. From Piemontese pastres to Romanian shepherds**

The immigration of Piemontese herdsmen to Provence is a fact that is often mentioned in the various studies, books and articles about Alpine pastoralism in France; however, its distinctive features remain fairly unknown. At the beginning of the 1920s, half of the shepherds working in Provence come from the Italian Piemont region. This mobility, dating back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century, has created a vast area of cross-border movement between lower Provence and Occitan-speaking Piemontese valleys – the border being close to the French valleys of Ubaye and Tinée. This movement falls within a broader context, from which it is also an inseparable part: the mobility of shepherds in the Southern Alps. It is still relevant today: as some families have settled there for generations, it comes as no surprise that a third of surnames in lower Provence are of Piemontese origin. But this migratory movement stopped in the 1960s. Nowadays, as Piemontese farmers themselves struggle to employ local herdsmen, migration originates from Romania and countries of former Yugoslavia. This kind of recruitment is more and more frequent in France, as it is a way to get low-cost workers, the majority of whom are devoid of any social protection.

It is in this context that Alpine pastoralism – and more precisely, the emigration of Piemontese shepherds – has been subject to heritage designation for about ten years. The *La Routo* project, a tourist route aiming at “enhancing the crafts, products and heritage of transhumance”, actually frames its activities on a territory that is shaped by the old mobility of the shepherds. This project shows a “migratory pastoral activity”, but it is questionable as it highlights a much glorified “golden age” ignoring the precarious conditions of contemporary pastoral migrants; they are yet the players of a pastoral culture that is put aside in favour of a staged and touristic pastoralism.

**Keywords:** Piemont region (Italy), Provence (France), valleys, rural work, pastoralism

**Michele Nani**

## **Campagne Littorie? Fascism and mobility in Ferrara**

At the end of 19<sup>th</sup> century the province of Ferrara experienced a huge steam draining and the spreading of agricultural capitalism, leading to the formation of a rural mass proletariat, engaged in class struggles and political radicalism. After First World War a strong wave of violences committed by fascists (“squadrisimo”) defeated labour movement. Fascists in power inherited all previous problems, aggravated by agricultural crisis and by population development. They spoke about converting rural labourers in sharecroppers, but they tried to manage what they called “Ferrara’s problem” using old methods (fascists trade unions, public works, equal redistribution of poor incomes). There was, however, also an attempt of innovation, namely in managing mobility: closing the province to immigrant peasants from outside, and closing also Ferrara from almost every immigrant; organizing temporary labour circulation, inside the province and all over Italy; pushing large families to settle as farmers in Sardinia, Latium and Italian empire in Africa. Finally, local fascism was unable to direct population flows, that where instead aiming to large towns and industrial areas. “Ferrara’s problem” wouldn’t be resolved, but it was dissolved through rural exodus after World War II.

**Keywords:** province of Ferrara (Italy), Fascism, agricultural policy, migration processes