

Abstract

The aim of this research is to analyse how the Fascist dictatorship employed gender stereotypes to construct a normative behavioural model that legitimized both its political authority and its violent policies, such as the promulgation of the racial laws in 1938. Fascism developed a new paradigm of femininity, shaped by mystical and primordial archetypes that had long underpinned the cultural conception of womanhood.

My PhD dissertation, entitled *La stampa femminile durante il Ventennio fascista: un'indagine intersezionale di genere*, adopts an intersectional gender approach to examine a wide range of women's magazines and periodicals published from the late Nineteenth century to the first half of the Twentieth century, with particular attention to those that circulated during the Fascist regime in Italy. The research aims to investigate not only how these publications conveyed and reinforced ideological models of female identity and social roles, but also how women themselves engaged with and responded to these representations.

Furthermore, the study explores the long-term cultural consequences of these constructions, which continued to shape gender relations and the perception of women's roles in postwar Italy, contributing to the persistence of sexist narratives that remain, to some extent, embedded in contemporary society. In this sense, the work sheds light on one of the historical roots of the discriminatory and patriarchal frameworks that have influenced Italian social and cultural contexts from the Fascist period to the present day.