Visiting Professors
Academic year 2018/2019

2nd term

COURSE TITLE
History and Gender. Marriage, persons, things in the ius commune (XIIth-XVth centuries)

Scientific area
Medieval History/ Gender History

Department of Historical Studies

Language used to teach
Italian-French

Teaching Commitment: 24 hours

Course summary
The course is meant to provide an update on this field of studies and will therefore adopt an interdisciplinary approach to reconstruct in a complex perspective a new legal anthropology of marriage.

Learning objectives
The structure and concepts of civil legislation on the field, until the 18th century and even beyond, borrow largely from the Roman-Canon system. The most essential trait of the ensuing doctrinal construction is the setting of the sexual relationship at the centre of the law on marriage. The resilience of that construction means that (even today) law struggles in conceiving elective bonds among persons without a reference to their sexual substratum, as well as forms of parenthood that do not obey to biological data. The course – methodologically based on A- a casuistic approach; and B- an anthropology of legal thought – intends to contribute to an essential interrogation in European legal thought: that of the limits between persons and things. Medieval law offers many examples of the treatment of the relationship between humans as if they were relationships between things, or between persons and things. This strategy of ‘reification’ seems to have been the par excellence way to conceive relations of power and submission for centuries.

Visiting Professor Profile
Candidates must:
- have a tenure-track position at an academic institution; have an outstanding record of scholarship
- have an interdisciplinary profile, with a background in Medieval history, and expertise both in the methodology of Gender history and the use of legal sources
- have a thorough acquaintance with the recent international literature on marriage in late medieval Europe, the debates on its legal value and on the relationship ‘man-woman’ and ‘man-objects’ in 12th-14th century legal thought
- have a good mastery of both Italian and French in order to work with the students of the bi-national master programme in partnership with the Université Lyon 3.
Contact person at the Department
Prof. Massimo Vallerani
massimo.vallerani@unito.it