

## 'Good' archives

eabh workshop

eabh in cooperation with Fondazione 1563 per l'Arte e la Cultura della Compagnia di San Paolo and UPIER (Uses of the Past in International Economic Relations) <sup>1</sup>  
14 June 2018, Torino, Italy

This one-day workshop is designed for financial institutions' archivists, researchers and potential users. How can archives prepare their collections of information in a way that puts them to their best use? How do researchers use archive collections? Are there new ways that they can be used by financial institutions themselves as they face challenges of the present and future? How can the historical records be made accessible to and exploited by a wider audience? How can archives help us to reflect on legacy of the social purposes that inspired the origins of many financial institutions and the role of banks and finance in society?

Many banks in Italy, the Netherlands, Germany and presumably other countries had social business models in the 19<sup>th</sup> century which they gave up in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and which now seem to be making a re-appearance. The public banks of Italy for example originated in the 16<sup>th</sup> century models of *Monti di pietà* (pawnshops) in order to prevent usury or *luoghi pii* (a charitable institution by statutes). These charities were their shareholders and contributed to maintain their social orientation and independence until the 1990s.

The archives of these institutions are often huge and hold immense treasures of information from extended periods of time. Periodically these treasures become obscure to most researchers, known to a handful of specialists alone. This workshop aims to present materials of financial institutions whose businesses aimed at a wider social goal beyond profit – or originated in the social needs of their regions at the time. Ultimately, we want to trace down materials that can show successes and/or failures of social enterprises over the course of history. Can their unique lessons be learned?

What is the legacy of these 'good banks' records? What their relevance today? Can the use of these records raise public awareness of a 'new' way of banking? Can it eventually lead to the re-development of ethical and social finance?

What are the business benefits of these records? What is their PR potential? Can they contribute to increasing the public reputation of an institution? Can they lead to the repositioning / to a better positioning of the Historical Archives within the company itself?

In short, we would like to encourage presentations of archive materials of the following businesses:

- non-profit banking and finance models with social or environmental goals in their statutes
- public banks
- banking foundations
- banks with philanthropic business lines

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- microfinance, Grameen banks
- mutual insurance companies
- cooperative financial institutions, Raiffeisen banks (rural credit banks)
- saving banks
- institutional investors as social financiers
- building societies
- etc.

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**Selected participants will be asked to:**

- submit an abstract and a short linear CV no later than 31 January 2018
- deliver a full paper 1 month prior to the conference
- give a 10 – 15 Minutes presentation in Torino in June 2018
- for submissions and questions please <mailto:c.hofmann@bankinghistory.org>

Academic paper givers will have the opportunity for their papers to be considered for peer reviewed publication in the Financial History Review.