

# THE CHURCH OF SANTA MARIA GLORIOSA DEI FRARI

Space of devotion  
Images of piety

INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE

Venice  
9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> May 2013

Scuola Grande  
San Giovanni Evangelista



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Basilica dei Frari  
San Polo 3072  
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proposals  
by 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2012

## PROJECT

The Frari is not an art museum but a sacred building – even if it houses numerous celebrated works of art. It forms a crucial element in the history of Venice with a distinct religious, social and economic identity, represented through the ages in its works of art and architecture, in its own liturgy and devotional practices, and in its intellectual life.

This research project, therefore, seeks to formulate a new, interdisciplinary perspective, through which to interconnect the religious, social, cultural, economic and religious factors that moulded its history.

We intend to explore the connections between the Frari and the other Franciscan churches of Venice, both in architectural and in terms of social geography. The church's rivalry with the great Dominican church of Santi Giovanni e Paolo and its place with the Mendicant orders of the Veneto in general will also be considered.

A better understanding of the Franciscans' identity within the Republic will throw new light on the relationship of works of art to devotional life. We plan to explore the church's interactions with different social groups, such as patrician families and lay confraternities (*scuole*), as well as with single individuals, from doges, military leaders and great artists to ordinary worshippers.

Thus we shall seek to bring to life the day-to-day activities of the Frari, which involved not only the education of novices, university examinations and intellectual study, but also the celebration of religious feast-days (with musical performance and processions), commemorative masses for the deceased, the seeking of indulgences, and the cult of saints and relics.

An advisory committee representing the different aspects of the research will help to develop an appropriate interdisciplinary methodology to underpin the project.

co-ordinated by  
**Carlo Corsato and Deborah Howard**



Università degli Studi  
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[www.frariculture.it](http://www.frariculture.it) >> project

## CONFERENCE

The understanding of such a complex institution as the Frari needs to be informed by an ambitious range of skills and methodologies.

Debate between researchers from different disciplines is the best channel for opening up new perspectives, constructing new avenues of enquiry and disseminating the research.

This debate will take the form of an interdisciplinary conference, through which to share and exchange knowledge.

The organisers therefore encourage proposals for papers that set the church within its broader intellectual, artistic, religious and social framework, with the intention of fostering a dialogue between different approaches and perspectives.

Areas for consideration include:

- Franciscan traditions in Venice and the Veneto, and in Europe
- competition with the Dominican order
- relationships with the Venetian Republic
- theology, preaching and intellectual life
- liturgy, ritual and music
- the administration of the Frari's property and endowments
- charitable works and the role of the devotional guilds (*scuole*)
- relics and devotional cults
- architectural and artistic traditions
- the patronage of art and architecture
- funerary monuments and the commemoration of the dead
- the post-Napoleonic designation as a parish church
- modern restoration of buildings and works of art.

Further information on the organisation of the conference and how to attend is available on the website.

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## CALL FOR PAPERS

Proposals are invited for papers to be presented at the forthcoming interdisciplinary conference in Venice, 9th-11th May 2013.

Submissions are limited to **1 individual and 1 joint proposal per author**. The conference languages will be **English and Italian**.

Papers that offer **new insights, cross-disciplinary connections and/or fresh critical readings** on the areas considered by the conference are particularly encouraged.

Contributions are welcome from **representatives of any discipline**: cultural, institutional, economic and religious historians; historians of art and architecture; musicologists; theologians; heritage curators.

Submissions from **post-graduate, doctoral or post-doctoral** students are particularly welcome, but we are also keen to involve established scholars.

Proposals for papers, including a brief abstract (200 words = 1200 chrs. max) and an one-page CV, may be **submitted using the application form on the website**, by 22nd October 2012.

Applicants will be notified by 31st October 2012.

For further details of the submission of the CFP please contact [info@frariculture.it](mailto:info@frariculture.it)

[www.frariculture.it](http://www.frariculture.it) >> call-for-papers