

Vittoria Feola

The aim of The Bartolomeo Project is twofold. First, it seeks to facilitate knowledge exchange between COST partners, the Cultures of Knowledge Project, Oxford (CofK); the Austrian National Library (ONB); the Medical University of Vienna (MUW); the Bassano City Museum, the History of Medicine Unit, Padua University. Secondly, the Bartolomeo Gamba Project aims to provide a case study in intellectual history of Padua University alumni in the Republic of Letters, 1550-1800. This will entail the first scholarly analysis of the Bartolomeo Gamba collection of correspondence of eminent Italians, which is partly kept in the library of the Bassano City Museum and partly in the Austrian National Library in Vienna, Austria. As will be explained below, the Gamba collection has a strong focus on Padua University alumni, most of whom had ties to the Vienna Medical Faculty. It is made up of a total of 1350 letters. In order to work on the entirety of the Gamba collection, its digitisation will be the preliminary step that will equip me with the relevant primary sources. Through a co-operation agreement between the Cultures of Knowledge Project at the University of Oxford, the Medical University of Vienna, the Austrian National Library, and the Bassano City Museum, the History of Medicine Unit, Padua University, the digitisation of both branches of the Gamba collection will start as of 1 October 2014. As a Digital Fellow I will be in charge of inputting the metadata of the Gamba letters into Early Modern Letters Online, a new Oxford Bodleian Library free online catalogue which is set to becoming the primary research tool for intellectual historians working on the Republic of Letters, <http://emlo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk>. While inputting the metadata, I will carry out the scientific analysis of the Gamba collection, for which I have a one-year research contract with the Medical University of Vienna. Travelling between Rome, where I am based this year as Visiting Fellow at the University of California, Rome Center, to Padua and Bassano, and to Vienna, will be crucial to the co-operation agreements between COST partners CofK, MUW, ONB, Bassano City Museum, the History of Medicine Unit, Padua University. It will also help me fulfill my research goals.