

## **Giulia Amoresano**

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To the Attention of:

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My name is Giulia Amoresano and I am a PhD Candidate in the Department of Architecture and Urban Design at the University of California, Los Angeles and a Lecturer in the Department of Architecture at the California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. As a faculty member and a scholar of Architectural History, I write about histories of modernization in the built environment, and more specifically about how discourses and projects of infrastructural modernization have transformed Italy from its inception in 1861 to the late 1980s when the Cassa del Mezzogiorno was foreclosed. For an upcoming article, I focus on the construction of the Santa Chiara Dam complex on the Tirso River in Sardinia, where I trace how the making of the dam and the hydroelectric plant built within the structure, along with the relocation of the village of Zuri and his church speak about the ‘technical’ and industrial solutions adopted to solve the Southern Question in the aftermath of WWI and before the rise of the Fascist Regime. This research has been supported by the University of California, Los Angeles.

The Archivio Storico ENEL conserves the visual and textual documentation of the dam complex from its preliminary inception in 1911 to the late 1990s, when a larger dam partially submerged

the Santa Chiara *sbarramento*. I will be visiting the archive in a couple of weeks, traveling from Los Angeles to Naples for it. While in my visit I will focus on the Santa Chiara Dam I have come across the Archivio Storico ENEL many times during the past years. By consulting the online archival inventory, it is clear that the ENEL archive does not simply record the history of electrification in the nation, but preeminently it traces Italy's path towards modernization. What makes the ENEL archive even more meaningful is that its materials highlight not only technical and engineering aspects of modernization, but also the social and humanistic components that large infrastructural projects create. The archive thus has tremendous historical value for the history of the Italian nation-state, and I believe efforts should be spent to invest in highlighting its importance making it as accessible as possible to the scholarly international community.

It is with this in mind that I write to you. I am writing to express my concern and that of my esteemed colleagues who have signed this letter below, regarding the exploratory decision to close the Archivio Storico Enel in Naples, currently located in the Mostra d'Oltremare complex, and relocate the archival holdings to a new site in Pastorano. As I mentioned earlier, the archive should have increased accessibility and locating its holding in a not-so-easy to reach site will do exactly the opposite. My suggestion, and that of the signatories of this letter, is to reconsider the decision and instead to invest in preserving the archive in its current location – Naples is served by an international airport and the site of the Mostra d'Oltremare is easily reachable via subway. In addition, we hope that you will consider promoting the archive's collection internationally so that scholars like us will not only be able to use the archive but also collaborate with it.

We thank you in advance for hearing our concerns and we hope to be able to visit the Archivio Storico ENEL at the Mostra d'Oltremare many more times in the future.

In solidarity,

Giulia Amoresano



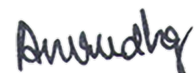
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