NYU ITALIAN STUDIES PRESENTS

Negotiating Coexistence and Exclusion: Papal Inquisition and the Shaping of a ‘Jewish Economic Identity’ in Early Modern Italy

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Monday, October 2nd, 2017, 6:30pm
NYU Casa Italiana Library, 24 West 12th St

This talk takes as its case study the relationship between Jews and Christians in the early modern age. Italy is, in this regard, a strikingly important historical laboratory, since its bi-millennial Jewish presence is the oldest in the world outside the Holy Land. While often suffering various degrees of legal and social discrimination, ethnic or religious groups also derive certain ‘advantages’ from their status as a minority. How should we view these ‘advantages’ inherent in the condition of discrimination? Do they help or harm minority people? Answering these questions can help us in understanding the context, forms and effects of social discrimination itself, both in the past and in the present.