*The gender relationships in postal, telegraphic and telephonic service in Italy from XIX Century to Second World War.*

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**Abstract:** Only from few years, the gender history and labour history have turned to the examination of gender relations in the world of offices and professions. The postal, telegraphic and telephonic sector was an important support for the development of the whole economy, and played a crucial social and political role. However, only recently, scholars focused on the labour relations in this strategic area of white collars’ job. Melis emphasized the early Italian union’s activity, but also its difficulty in holding together different categories of workers and in drawing a program, at the same time, effective- the right to organize and strike- and consciousness of the civil servants’ responsibility in the good performance of the service. A few years later Bachrach, in her article, *La féminisation des PTT au tournant du siècle* (France), pointed out that the States and private companies considered convenient to hire as soon as possible a minimum educated women. Like employees in central offices, as well as in the direction of local ones, women showed certain qualities that men appeared lacking: lower claims in income and career, more grace and discretion, less interest in the local quarrels.The gender perspective proved to be especially productive for the examination of labour relations in this area, and the professional identities of female clerks, since Norwood and Borderias researches on switchboard girls. Our researches on postal telegraphic and telephonic female staff pointed out the importance of these workers in the feminisation of clerical work: a job not related to the maternal function, and, in the small cities, a social presence unusual for women. Our contribution wishes to emphasize the battle of the Italian postal telegraphic and telephonic female workers in the feminist ranks and in trade union movement, for the achievement of their rights as workers, civil servants and women. The same battle carried on their companions in other nations. From the end of the 800th and beginning 900th, female clerks fought mainly for stability and freedom of occupation- particularly against the obligation to spinsterhood- , for equality in rules and wages, for the right to career. In the period between the two world wars, the postal telegraphic and telephonic female workers took a significant part within the union International PTT, and added new issues: occupational diseases and health at work, maternity protection, family benefits for women employees and pension for their children, also in the case of single mothers.