

TRACCE LIBERE



THE MEMORIES OF ANTIMAFIA
BETWEEN RESEARCH, TESTIMONY,
AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Over the past thirty years, scientific, literary, and media production on the subject of mafias and antimafia has significantly expanded. The body of knowledge that has developed includes books, films and TV series, theater productions, and investigative journalism. In the academic field, numerous studies and research projects have been conducted across various territories and levels of analysis, both in Italy and abroad, leading also to the establishment of specialized degree programs and postgraduate training courses.

In this context, Libera has consistently promoted studies and research on particularly pressing and relevant issues, producing in-depth reports and perception studies, either indepen-

dently or in collaboration with associations, media outlets, universities, and research centers. The objectives have remained constant over time: to foster the dissemination of data-driven knowledge in order to stimulate public awareness and to bring the experiences of communities engaged in combating mafias into educational and training settings.

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of its founding, Libera seeks to strengthen the dialogue between knowledge production hubs and civil society, providing opportunities for discussion and exchange regarding the future challenges in studying mafias and corruption and in developing strategies to counter them.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

OCTOBER 10-11, 2025
ROMA

TRACCE LIBERE

CALL FOR ABSTRACT

In line with the spirit and themes central to the association's mission, Libera is organizing a conference entitled "Tracce Libere. The Memories of Antimafia between Research, Testimony, and Civic Engagement".

At the core of the discussion lies the concept of memory, intrinsically connected to truth and justice: memory stemming from the individual stories of innocent victims of the mafias, memory of mafia actions, but also memoirs removed, manipulated, object of oblivion of the mafia and anti-mafia, and memory of antimafia initiatives.

Submissions are welcome from both empirical approaches—addressing the complex relationship between judicial truth and historical truth, including through the reconstruction of victims' biographies—and theoretical perspectives revolving around concepts such as shared memory, collective memory, social memory, and cultural memory. Special consideration will be given to original contributions focusing on lesser-known cases, stories that have received limited media attention, or contexts traditionally not associated with mafia presence, including those outside Italy.

By way of example, the conference invites reflection on questions such as:

- > What are the forms through which the collective memory of antimafia is constructed, preserved, and transmitted?
- > How do public narratives affect the social perception of mafias?
- > In what ways do local communities interpret and transform the memory of victims into collective action?
- > How are memory and activism intertwined in the processes of social reuse of confiscated assets?
- > What role do the media play in constructing the public memory of antimafia?
- > How are digital technologies reshaping the collective memory associated with mafias?
- > How have literature, poetry, cinema, and photography explored these themes?
- > What educational and institutional strategies effectively transmit the memory of antimafia to new generations?
- > What roles do schools and universities play in the construction of civic memory?

The conference aims to gather contributions from a wide audience—both Italian and international—including activists, members of organizations engaged in anti-mafia efforts, investigative journalists, teachers, researchers, precarious academic workers, and university faculty. The goal is to foster an open and pluralistic exchange of experiences and analyses coming from diverse, yet complementary, fields.

HOW TO APPLY

If you wish to participate, please **complete the following form: bit.ly/traccelibere**

Application deadline: June 23, 2025

Notification of acceptance: July 10, 2025

Dates: From 10:00 AM on Friday, October 10, to 5:00 PM on Saturday, October 11, 2025

Venue: Extralibera, headquarters of Libera, Via Stamira 5, Rome

Participation is free of charge and lunches will be provided to attendees.

The conference language is Italian. One or more sessions may be held in English, depending on the number of requests received.

Throughout the conference, participants will have access to the Documentation Center, and special openings of Extralibera are planned.

For more information, please contact:
universita@libera.it

