

Dr Francesca Carnevali (1964 ó 2013)

It is with great regret and sadness that we announce the death of our colleague Dr Francesca Carnevali. She died peacefully on the morning of Saturday 18th May 2013 after a long illness that she faced with great courage and fortitude. Francesca, born in Italy on 15th February 1964, was amongst the most talented of her generation of business and economic historians. Having taken her PhD at the London School of Economics Francesca went on to obtain a post in Department of History at the University of Birmingham. She published many books, chapters, and articles on a range of subjects, from European banking to industrial districts, trade associations, social capital, and the British and American jewellery industries. Most recently she had been working with Dr Lucy Newton of the University of Reading on the production, marketing, and consumption of household goods in Britain. Her work always displayed the highest qualities of historical scholarship; rigorous, clear-sighted and elegantly written.

Francesca also always showed great collegiality, serving for many years on the Council of the Economic History Society and on its Executive Committee as Chair of the Women's Committee. She was responsible for organizing the annual conference of the Economic History Association in 2002 and of the Association of Business Historians in 2008. She was at the time of her death Reviews Editor at the *Economic History Review* and had served as Associate Editor at *Enterprise and Society*. In so many ways her passing will be a great loss to the international business and economic history communities

Much more importantly Francesca was a wonderful friend. I vividly remember the first time I met Francesca, when we were programmed together in the same session at the 2001 conference of the Association of Business Historians, held at the University of Portsmouth. I already knew and admired her work but was completely unprepared for the vibrant presence

she brought to the room. Sharply intelligent, wickedly funny, bracingly honest, with a finely-honed sense of justice, and fiercely loyal, she was the best of friends to many people, all of whom gladly repaid the warmth and commitment she showed to them. For this she will be truly missed.

Francesca is survived by her beloved husband Paolo Di Martino, also a business historian at the University of Birmingham, her mother Ann, her brother Massimo and two much doted-upon nephews.

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