

ERC Starting Grant 2017

Research proposal [Part B2]

Part B2: *The scientific proposal* (max. 15 pages)

Section a. State-of-the-art and objectives

In early modern Europe, reports and accounts flourished in the aftermath of earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, floods and other calamities that marked the history of several areas (Favier, Granet-Abisset 2005; Caracciolo 2016). What kind of information did people receive about such shocking events? How did reports, accounts, images and individual memories of them amount to authoritative interpretations, and in which ways did the latter orient the recovery process? The research proposal aims at exploring the connections between the circulation of news and representations of natural disasters, the making of influential narratives of collective traumas and the development of crisis management policies and practices, from the 16th to the 18th century. By using four Mediterranean areas belonging to the Spanish Monarchy as a testing ground, it will shed new light on practices and policies set up by early modern European societies with the aim of minimising the impact of extreme events, and will investigate their development in the light of **cultural attitudes, expertise and knowledge of institutional and societal actors**. Research will contribute a novel approach to the study of the making of practices and strategies adopted by Southern European societies to respond to disruption, and will significantly advance our understanding of the factors that led these societies to develop their peculiar patterns of coping with environmental threats over the centuries. Moreover, it will provide new insights into the **social and cultural interactions in times of emergency**.

a.1. State-of-the-art

Environmental risks and disasters are subjects that per se transcend the boundaries imposed by epistemic communities created by country and discipline. Hence, the proposed methodology draws upon approaches to the study of human-environmental relationships developed across a variety of disciplines. Thus, in the planning of the scientific proposal, we considered the state-of-the-art both on the side of historical disaster studies and on the side of cultural and social history.

The **relationships between catastrophe and change** have long been a topic of interest to scholars. Over the past few decades they have become increasingly interested in natural disasters, partly as a consequence of the increase in the vulnerability – be it perceived or actual – of contemporary societies. Starting from the awareness that disasters are not merely natural occurrences, scholars have given prominence both to individual perceptions, beliefs, attitudes etc., and to social structural factors that influence human susceptibility to hazards (Blaikie *et al.* 1994; Paul 2011). Since resilience and vulnerability are determined by mutable social constructs, and by the different framing of disastrous events, a historical perspective is more and more adopted in disaster studies. Historical research on these subjects has therefore developed two main strands: 1) the representation of extreme natural events; 2) their impact on societies.

1) As regards the **cultural history of disasters**, from the obvious assumption that in the early modern age natural catastrophes were generally interpreted as scourges of God, as signs of his wrath towards sinful humanity, historians have traditionally inferred that the majority of people, especially in Southern Europe, had a passive attitude towards calamitous events and were unable to respond to them (Delumeau 1978; Muchembled 1978; Tobriner 1999). This reading seemed to be corroborated by sources in which the inhabitants of the affected areas are generally depicted as filled with fear and steeped in superstition. Moreover, many of the studies which appeared at the time of the 250th anniversary of the 1755 Lisbon earthquake have led readers think of it – perhaps against the wishes of their authors – as **a watershed event, separating “modern” from older ways of responding to hazards** and of understanding natural phenomena from a scientific rather than a theological point of view (e.g. Braun, Radner 2005; “Lumières” 2005-2; Mercier-Faivre, Thomas 2008). This implies that “rational” patterns of coping with natural disasters gained ground only in the Age of Enlightenment, in tandem with the disappearance of religious interpretations.

Recent research has challenged such images, however. Taking into account M. Douglas’s seminal works on risk (Douglas, Wildavsky 1982), a variety of historians have shown that risk perception is primarily a sociocultural phenomenon affected by social organisation and values, and that different societies develop different patterns of individual and collective response (Walter 2008; Mauch, Pfister 2009; Schenk 2010). According to some of them, people always consider the cost-benefit balance when faced with natural hazards, although the cost-benefit assessment varies according to culture, time and space (Schenk 2012). Therefore, rather than to postulate a transition from superstitious attitudes to “rational” responses in the 18th century, this highlights that different patterns of coping coexisted and overlapped, and that **societies could draw on different types of cultural resources to survive and recover**. Of course, disasters were primarily experienced and imagined as divine punishments, and their occurrence was often described following the

example of the Bible (Walsham 1999 and 2016; Rohr 2007). Nonetheless, religious interpretations did not necessarily imply the prevalence of attitudes based on fatalism, and didn't exclude the possibility of practices and policies capable of proactively mitigating the effects of the crisis, and of quickly recovering the social organisation (Quenet 2005; Walter 2008; Favier, Granet-Abisset 2009; Lavocat 2011).

2) As for the second strand, several scholars in History and Archaeology maintain that in historical times the impact of severe natural events in the Euro-Mediterranean area has been mostly micro-regional in scale: eruptions, earthquakes, floods and tsunamis cannot account for major changes, not to mention societal collapses or gaps in the sequence of civilisations (Horden, Purcell 2000: 305-327). Furthermore, historians and archaeologists influenced by functionalist and processualist theories have generally thought of cultural and social changes as mainly internally generated, unfolding slowly through time.

However, although its impact may be negligible in the long run, a catastrophic event is a turning point for survivors and for the groups affected. Thus, by changing the scale of observation, several archaeologists and historians have understood **disasters as major forces shaping historical processes** and have focused on the multiple ways in which they have transformed human societies (Massard-Guilbaud *et al.* 2002; Torrence, Grattan 2002; Mauch, Pfister 2009; Janku *et al.* 2012). In adopting this approach, historians generally chime in with influential anthropologists, geographers and sociologists that have suggested to reconsider the role of disasters as engines of social and cultural transformations (Oliver-Smith 1996; D. Alexander 2000, 2005; Vollmer 2013). Focusing on both the disruption of social interactions caused by sudden events and on the social and cultural resources mobilised by individuals, groups and institutions in the recovery process, they have shed light on the role of social and cultural factors that underlie people's capacity to adaptively respond to disruption and losses caused by disasters: some key-factors have been highlighted, such as **intra-community connections**, the **social capital** that enables people to face threats, the involvement of communities in recovery policies, the cooperation and mistrust between communities and governmental agencies etc. (Mulligan, Nadarajah 2012; Kapuku *et al.* 2013; Simpson 2014). When dealing with these issues, attention should be paid to the crucial role of the institutional framework that enables the mobilisation of certain social, economic and cultural resources in order to cope with unforeseen events (Ostrom 2005).

As far as **early modern Southern Europe** is concerned, scholars have produced some high-quality studies in the historical disaster studies (Alfano 2011). Some major lacunae are to be spotted, however:

- There's a persistent tendency in historical disaster studies to keep enquires into the representation of extreme events **separate from a study of their social and political impact**: as a consequence, the links between the perceptions of disasters and individual and collective responses have not been adequately explored;
- Historical literature has generally affected literary production and fine arts, while the links between "high" and "low" literature have often been left unexplored: on the contrary, even in literary history recent tendencies suggest to shift the gaze from the canon to "lower quality" literary products (e.g. Moretti 2005);
- To date, research has generally focused on a single event or phenomenon, and have rarely covered a long-time span. **The lack of comprehensive studies** has reinforced the assumption that in the majority of South European territories emergency response measures (apart from plague prevention) were mostly improvised, even incoherent, while the tasks of actual response and repair were *de facto* left in the hands of prominent local actors and of religious institutions;
- Finally, the prevalence of fragmented case-studies does not help one set the development of recovery strategies in a broader context, namely the Spanish Empire, nor to consider that the development of public policies was inspired, to some extent, by the circulation of policy models and of political and technical staff, as well as of news and books, among the various Kingdoms of the Empire and its colonies. On this issue, some recent studies of disaster management in Spain and its European and colonial territories (Petit-Breuilh Sepúlveda 2006; Alberola Romá 2012b; Scalisi 2013) have paved the way for more comprehensive studies, while Parker's (2013) global account of the 17th century crisis opens up new avenues for the study, on a world scale, of the impact of climate change on political power, social movements and sciences.

Therefore a **wider, transnational perspective** is needed when addressing these issues. Disasters are, in a sense, transcultural phenomena, not only because they confront people in different civilizations with largely similar tasks (Janku *et al.* 2012: 4), but also because there is abundant evidence that information about extreme natural events easily crossed cultural and political boundaries (Caracciolo 2016; also Ettinghausen 1995; Natale 2008). Here are just a few examples. In the months following the 1688 earthquake that destroyed Benevento and hit Naples as well, one of the most influential Neapolitan publishers, Domenico Parrino, circulated a newssheet entitled *Distinta e veridica Relatione dello spaventoso Terremoto accaduto nella città di Lima metropoli del Regno del Perú* (Naples, 1688), while his fellow-citizen, the chronicler Domenico Confuorto, noted in his diary that the news of the 1687 Lima earthquake spread easily among the Neapolitan populace, who had recently experienced a similar phenomenon, thus fuelling «astrological discourses» (D. Confuorto, *Giornali di Napoli*, 2 vols., Naples 1930, I: 287). Similarly, in September of the

same year, a canon of the Valencia cathedral delivered a vibrant sermon on the Lima and Naples earthquakes that had occurred some months earlier, with the aim of instilling fear into the Valencian faithful and of exhorting them to repent and turn to God (V. Noguera, *Sermón de rogativas por los terremotos...*, Valencia 1688; see Alberola Romá 2012a). His homily is a telling example of how accounts of extreme events occurred in remote, even exotic territories, could be bound together and set in ethical and theological discourses by individuals who aimed to convey political, moral and religious messages.

Accordingly, countless sources and secondary literature on historical disasters also reveal the **striking similarities** between the strategies adopted in the aftermath of cataclysms by people and governments in different periods, and in different regions. How can we account for this? This evidence suggests that immediate responses and longer-term strategies for recovery relied not only upon local knowledge and memories, but also upon the circulation of information and the sharing of experiences between different regions. Thus, although it is generally assumed that in the early modern period the process of learning from past emergencies was essentially a matter of local initiatives (Pfister 2009: 26), resulting from the recollection of the memory of local events, it is worth assessing whether the circulation of news and reports of accidents occurred in distant territories had an **impact on the formation of an imagery of calamitous events and on the development of emergency management policies**, and to what extent.

a.2. Objectives

The project proposed here aims to supersede the often descriptive and fragmented case-studies, as well as the prevailing separation between cultural and socio-institutional approaches, by: 1) adopting a wide geographical scope and a long chronological range; and b) by exploring the decision-making process and the development of recovery strategies in the light of the circulation of news of shocking events, of the making of influential narratives and of their societal relevance. Its **specific objectives** can be summarised as follows:

1. To gather and to analyse a **large corpus of texts** produced following disasters, in order to assess the intensity of cultural exchanges through which disaster experiences were communicated and disseminated. This wide-ranging survey will allow the research group to work with a large, heterogeneous and in great part unexplored corpus of texts, and to overcome the so far prevailing “atomistic” approach, by comparing texts describing different types of events at different times.
2. To undertake text analysis, in order to detect the **cultural and ethical frameworks** in which these texts set the unfolding of events, and the religious and political messages they were intended to convey.
3. To understand how individual memories, fragmented reports, accounts and images could amount to authoritative interpretations. This entails exploring the **mechanisms of information circulation**, both at the local and at a transnational scale, by analysing the means through which information was gathered, processed and propagated by secular and religious authorities and by the dominant social forces.
4. To grasp the **actual influence and the societal relevance of these narratives**. For this purpose it will be essential to combine the analysis of official information with voices and moods that circulated in the main cities of the four areas covered by the project, and with the needs and expectations of various social strata.
5. To undertake a **mapping of the institutional actors** that were actually involved in the emergency management and in the recovery process, at various levels.
6. To connect the **decision-making process** and the **making of emergency management policies** to the circulation of news, to the revival of the memory of past accidents and to the diffusion of different viewpoints. This will enable the research group to elucidate the **causes of long-lasting cultural and social specificities of some South European areas** with regard to human interactions with the environment.

a.3. Research Approach and Interdisciplinary Aspects

In order to achieve these objectives, the research team will remedy the **customary separation of different disciplinary areas**, which is one of the main reasons why studies of South European territories in the early modern age have often failed to adequately explain the connections between widespread perceptions of calamitous events (beyond the clichés circulated by much of travel literature and other similar sources), their societal relevance and their role in the recovery and reconstruction processes. The research proposal aims at improving the knowledge of these connections by taking a **novel, interdisciplinary approach to the history of disasters**, developed across a variety of disciplines.

Such an approach to these issues **has been developed and tested** by the PI as a member of a multi-disciplinary research group at the University of Naples Federico II, led by prof. Chiara De Caprio and made up of historians, literary critics, linguists and anthropologists, that has carried out a study of the disaster writings in the early modern Kingdom of Naples (*Disaster Texts. Literacy, Cultural Identity, Coping Strategies in Southern Italy*, 2014-2016). The research programme resulted in a critique and rethinking of current paradigms on chronicling, popular literacy and political communication in times of emergency in the Kingdom of Naples (a collection of essays in English is to be published by Viella [Rome] in late 2016). Not only the research has confirmed that in late Medieval and early modern Southern Italy environmental hazards

and their impact on population were among the main topics of communication between State authorities and communities, and that they were often given a prominent role in urban chronicles and local memories (De Caprio, Senatore 2016; Senatore *in press*); it has also shown that news, reports and accounts of disasters circulated widely among different social strata in the Kingdom (De Caprio 2014; Gianfrancesco 2014 and *in press*; see also Azzaro, Castelli 2013), that over the 17th century secular and religious authorities became increasingly aware that the publishing industry could represent an instrument of social and cultural control (Cecere *in press*), and that the way disasters were interpreted and shared by witnesses, priests, pamphleteers, technical experts, royal officers etc. could substantially affect the development and implementation of policies and practices aimed at coping with hazards and recovering from disruption (Cecere, De Caprio *in press*). Moreover, the research has highlighted **the necessity to adopt a wider scope** when addressing these issues, since at least from the early 16th century the formation of an imagery of natural disasters and the development of emergency policies were influenced substantially by the exchange of news, images and accounts, and by the circulation of knowledge and policy models among the various areas of the Spanish Monarchy.

The proposed methodology stems from a complex theoretical framework, which is based on evidences provided by recent studies in various fields of the Humanities and Social Sciences.

In late 1688 the Neapolitan Abbot V. Magnati published a history of the earthquakes, claiming to have been spurred by the earthquake that few months earlier had destroyed the Samnium and caused casualties and damage in Naples as well. According to him, immediately after the strong tremor «astrological discourses», which ascribed the disaster to the influence of the stars, and «fanciful prediction» of further calamities had spread among the populace. He asserted that it was necessary to re-establish the truth: those quakes were «natural motions» and the only way of preventing disasters was to repent and turn to God (V. Magnati, *Notitie istoriche de' terremoti...*, Napoli 1688: 411, 429-430). Countless sources, like this one, not only confirm the growing mistrust of astrology within the learned milieus in the 17th century (Casali 2003: 3-89, 249-270), but also reveal that rulers and their advisors were often aware that extreme events **stimulated demand for information and search for meaning**, and this could facilitate the circulation of uncontrolled news and opinions. In addition to the written and spoken word, **images of extraordinary events** were produced and circulated, with the aim of leaving evidence of danger, of celebrating human suffering and divine protection, of warning future generations (M. Juneja, G.J. Schenk 2014; Guidoboni 2015)

Much of the scholarship on past and recent disasters has shown that human relations are enhanced by the **increased levels of socialisation** that commonly occur in the aftermath of sudden and shocking events (e.g. Oliver-Smith 1999). Of course, catastrophes have the potential to interrupt communication and to weaken social interactions, since (on an individual level) silence is usually the first and most intuitive reaction to traumatic accidents, because the mind cannot keep track of happenings (Caruth 1996: 91-92; Loriga 2012), and since (on a collective level) sudden, brutal and massive deaths and damages are likely to undermine the social fabric. And yet, survivors and witnesses often feel the psychological need and the moral duty to share the memory of traumatic events. Psychological research on mental disorder developed after exposure to stressing accidents shows that adding meaning to traumatic memories helps prevent psychical distress: the very acts of gathering information and/or of writing are effective ways of reacting; sociologists too notice that rituals and commemorations, in tandem with scientific and judicial enquiries, are crucial for a return to normality (Clavandier 2004; Stock, Stott 2007; Ruiz 2011; Kuijpers, Pollmann 2013; Kuijpers *et al.* 2013). Therefore, **the sharing of information and memories** are, and were, among the most widespread needs triggered by extraordinary events: narrating their story and exploring their causes – be they natural or divine – are and were among the most widespread cultural practices aimed at making sense of them.

However, the increased demand for information could facilitate the circulation of uncontrolled news and unorthodox opinions, which could jeopardise social order and cultural values. **With reference to the 20th and early 21st century**, it has been noticed that catastrophes create a public opinion environment that permits political changes «that would be difficult or unlikely during times of normal politics», for «strong emotions felt during catastrophes [...] can be powerful motivations of public opinion and public activism» (Atkeson, Maestas 2012: 1-2). It has also been noticed, with reference to 20th century Latin America, that some shocking events can acquire political significance through literary and artistic mediation: hence, disaster narratives and other cultural representations of the event can play a role in the renegotiation of political power (Anderson 2011). Since the circulation of news and opinions and the making of disaster narratives can result in instability and in **unforeseen shifts in power structures and social relationships**, in the present time as in the past, authorities' and prominent social groups' interventions to assert their own interpretation of extreme events can (and could) be crucial for the preservation of political order.

Political communication is therefore one of the key issues of this research project. The concept of 'public sphere' to describe communication in the public space in early modern Europe is controversial. Some of its components may prove to be heuristically useful, however, as long as they undergo a critical revision

(Jürgens 2009; Wilson, Yachnin 2010; Landi 2011; Rospocher 2012; Benigno 2013). Some scholars have hypothesised a kind of contingent public sphere, that emerged in different contexts when the unfolding of extraordinary events fostered the public debates (Rospocher, Salzberg 2009 and 2012; Niccoli 2011; Bourquin *et al.* 2012). More generally, empirical studies on early modern Italy, France and Spain have highlighted the coexistence of different levels and spheres of communication and their dynamic interaction (Niccoli 2005; Amelang, Castillo Gómez 2010; De Vivo 2007 and 2012; Richardson 2014). Moreover, research has demonstrated that newsheets, leaflets and cheap books circulated well beyond the limits of official publications and could easily reach a large audience, often including illiterate people thanks to the practice of reading aloud (Chartier 1995; Darnton 2000; Bouza 2009; Harms *et al.* 2013).

On the other hand, several studies dealing with **the politics of information** in the early modern age have pointed out, amongst other findings, that: **1)** European rulers increasingly needed reliable information and attempted to gain control of distribution of news and knowledge; **2)** Government and their practices were inscribed within a wider context of information distribution and circulation; **3)** Even where central control was particularly effective, there flourished a lively clandestine market, both manuscript and printed; **4)** The interest in political news, broadly intended, extended well beyond the narrow confines of ruling élites (Dooley, Baron 2001; Koopmans 2005; Davis, Fletcher 2014; Pettegree 2014; Raymond, Moxham 2016).

Moreover, studies of popular literacy have shed some new light on the production and reception of cheap prints, intended for large-scale circulation: focusing not only on the evidence of production, but also on reading, they maintain that the public was not a passive recipient of religious, political and cultural messages and that all books could be turned to diverse use (Raymond 2011). Incidentally, it is worth noticing that some studies have shown that the **narration and representation of marvellous, dreadful and bloody events** gained ground in both high and popular literature, and in theatrical literature, between the 16th and the 17th century, for they triggered public hunger for captivating and thrilling stories (Biet 2008; Natale 2008).

With specific regard to narratives of disasters, F. Lavocat (2013) has provided a suitable method of textual analysis. She demonstrates that from the late Renaissance onward, new forms of storytelling were developed, more ‘factual’, in which the traditional allegoric and analogic approaches are combined with a chronological frame. Lavocat argues that this process is linked to the rise of the authors’ point of view that organises the narrative, which favours the development of **conflicting readings**, and advances the hypothesis that these changes are linked to the increasing involvement of authorities in disaster management.

And yet, how could individual experiences and diverse news be converted into influential narratives? Research in the fields of cultural sociology and cultural history has analysed the ways in which social groups construct their own images of the world by establishing agreed versions of the past (Fentress, Wickham 2008; Kuijpers 2013a and 2013b). The transformation of individual experiences into collective concerns by social actors is a cultural practice that requires speeches, rituals, storytelling, etc.: through the action of «cultural agents» (artists, scientists, journalists, preachers etc.) individual suffering may be framed into **collective narratives of traumatic events, orienting collective political and moral perception**. These narratives can be consensual or polarising: which one wins out is not just a matter of performative power, but also of material resources, of political and social influence, etc. (J.C. Alexander *et al.* 2011; J.C. Alexander 2012).

Memory of recent and past events is therefore another key issue of this proposal, especially since research on historical disasters has pointed out its importance when people dealt with actual threats to collective survival and identities. The recollection of the memory of previous calamitous events could be crucial to the so called «**learning process**» resulting from the persistent exposure to environmental hazards. Some studies (Quenet 2005; Pfister 2009; Favier, Granet-Abisset 2009) have shown that this collective learning process took place in several areas within networks composed of politicians, local leaders, technical experts, but also of relatives and neighbours, and led to the setting-up of regulatory frameworks and to the development of practices aimed at preventing such events or at minimising their impact. According to these studies, prior to the 20th century learning from emergencies was chiefly a matter of local initiatives; and yet, it remains to be seen whether, and in which ways, the circulation of news and reports of accidents occurred in remote territories could provide information and models to mitigate the suffering and damage caused by such events. In any case, this finding is likely to allow us to question the assumption of most studies on early modern Southern Europe, according to which it was not until the late 18th century that institutions began to launch coherent repair and recovery programmes, while previously the tasks of actual response were *de facto* left to the (supposedly incoherent and ineffective) initiative of individuals and of prominent local actors.

Section b. Methodology

b.1. Structure of the action and expected results

Stemming from this theoretical framework, the research project is composed of two main strands – that in practice will be drawn together – and adopts **a bifocal perspective**:

a) On the one hand, research will cover **the Spanish Empire, including its colonial dependencies**. The first strand consists primarily of a survey and collection of news, reports, accounts and images of accidents occurred in the European territories belonging to the *Monarquía*, as well as in more remote areas, and particularly in its overseas possessions, that were commonly thought of as more predisposed to the outbreak of natural primordial forces. The analysis of these texts will enable the research group to highlight and explore the sharing of news, knowledge and experiences between different regions that were subject to the same rulers, and to identify the fundamental mechanisms at work in the formation of an imagery of such events; textual analysis will shed light on the cultural and ethical background of these texts, and on the religious and political messages that they were meant to convey.

b) On the other hand, the project will test the connections between the circulation of reports and accounts of extreme events and the development of emergency response policies, by focusing on four South European areas belonging to the Spanish Monarchy: **Catalonia, Kingdom of Naples, Sicily and Valencia**, whose history in the early modern period is significantly marked by alternations of conflicting and cooperative relationships with the central rulers, and whose institutional arrangement within the Monarchy changed throughout the period. The history of these regions in the early modern period is significantly marked by disasters; yet the reason why we selected them doesn't lie in their supposedly exceptional proneness to natural hazards, compared to other European areas: indeed, physical magnitude of hazards is not sufficient to explain the impact of disasters, which is in part determined by the vulnerability and resilience of different societies. We selected four areas which differed from each other for a number of reasons (institutions, social structures, culture, geography etc.), but were subject to the same Monarchy and shared a fairly common cultural and religious background; moreover, their main cities were generally well connected with the other centres of the Monarchy and with other European cities. With regard to the selected areas, the project aims to understand how accounts and images of calamities occurred in different, even remote territories of the Spanish Empire amounted to authoritative interpretations, to assess the societal relevance of these narratives and to understand how they influenced the ways social and institutional actors responded to disruptive events. In order to do this, some members of the research group will carry out in-depth studies of individual cases occurred in these four areas: case studies will allow to throw new light upon the mid- and long-term effects of policies and practices developed to minimise damages and disruption, that is upon a twofold "learning process" resulting from both the sharing of knowledge and experiences between different regions and from the recurring exposure to environmental hazards.

Research will focus primarily on disasters associated with environmental hazards, namely eruptions, earthquakes, floods and violent storms, that generally have a rapid onset; instead, epidemics and famines won't be at core the proposed research (although narratives of these calamities will be taken into account for comparisons), mainly because plague prevention and shortage prevention were at the origin of complex regulatory frameworks, that have been widely studied by historians (e.g.: Alfani 2010). As regards wars, plunders, raids, upheavals, forced mass migrations etc., although in historical records natural and socio-political disasters are often referred to in similar terms and images, and although a distinction between them is rather problematic, the second ones raise other questions than the ones that interest us here.

The Scientific Project is based on an interdisciplinary methodology and consists of **six main themes**, which are intended to achieve the objectives set out above (section a.1) and are related to the outlined strands a) and b):

- **1(a). A survey of the texts** (be they print or handwritten, published or unpublished: reports, *relaciones de sucesos*, *avvisi*, gazettes, news-sheets, but also hagiographies and sermons, poems and plays, engravings and other visual representations) written in the aftermath of major calamities. This survey will shed some light on the circulation of news, knowledge and experiences between different regions of the Empire. The research team will create and regularly update a **digital archive of disaster writings**, on which will be stored summaries, transcriptions and commentaries of the gathered texts. This database will be a useful resource for meeting some of the primary objectives of the project, in that it will enable analysis, comparisons and searches through a large and heterogeneous corpus of texts written in the aftermath of different events, at different times.
- **2(a). Textual analysis** of the collected writings, through which political authorities and influential actors sought to impose their own interpretations of extreme events. This will enable researchers to compare texts describing different types of events at different times and to identify regular structures, recurring and distinguishing features, etc. It will also enable them to detect the different explanatory patterns on which accounts were based, the cultural, scientific and ethical frameworks in which these texts set the unfolding of events and, consequently, the religious and political messages that they were intended to disseminate.
- **3(b).** The gathered sources will allow the research team to undertake a study of the production and consumption of texts inspired by political and religious authorities and destined to a somewhat vast audience (see point 2a), with a particular focus on the four selected areas. This entails exploring the **mechanisms of**

news gathering and dissemination and the control procedures over printing and reading practices, with regard to the different actors involved in the publication process (authors, printers, sellers, dedicatees, censors etc.); and **linking up the analysed narratives with the individuals and groups** that developed and circulated them. Over the early modern period, the increasing awareness that the publishing industry could represent an instrument of social and cultural control, spurred competition among the different institutional bodies and within these bodies: the monarch and his representatives, the city governments, the religious authorities, the feudal lords etc., who intended to legitimise themselves by displaying their involvement in crisis management. It is therefore worth detecting the interests at stake, and examining the ways in which divergent interests and worldviews affected the production and circulation of news and accounts.

- **4(b).** The study of official narratives will be combined with the analysis of handwritten chronicles, diaries, pasquinades etc., which are valuable sources for a history of political communication that is aware of the connections between **official information and rumours**. Moreover, the study of official texts will be combined with the analysis of **pleas and petitions** addressed to political authorities, which testify to fears and expectations of various social strata. This will provide valuable data to enquire: 1) to what extent the messages conveyed by secular and religious authorities met the attitudes and beliefs of the populace; 2) and in which ways the affected communities were involved in the recovery and reconstruction processes.

- **5(b).** A survey of the **institutional actors** that were actually involved in the crisis management policies and in the recovery process. The lack of established protocols before the late 18th century has meant that the early modern Southern European states have often seemed unable to launch and coordinate aid and recovery plans: this survey will shed some new light on the institutional actors (both central and local, secular and religious) that were *de jure* and *de facto* responsible for the various tasks of the recovery process.

- **6(b).** A study of the **implementation of emergency policies**, through the analysis of administrative and judicial papers preserved in Spanish and Italian archives. This will allow the research team to explore the actual linkages between specific readings of disasters, the memory of past accidents, the revival of customary practices, the **decision-making process** and the development of practices aimed at crisis management.

The project proposed here combines archival research with a reinterpretation of the existing literature and of the edited sources. It will make use of studies of single events and of general surveys for certain types of disasters. Moreover, the first strand (a) of the research will rely on **a large corpus of newssheets, reports, accounts, plays, songs, sermons, engravings** etc. which are preserved mainly in Spanish and in Italian libraries and archives (e.g. the *Società Napoletana di Storia Patria*, whose *Fondo Sismico* holds more than 2000 prints, that date from the late 16th to the 19th century; the *Follets Bonsoms*, preserved in the collections of the Biblioteca de Catalunya, which comprise many chronicles of natural disasters occurred in the early modern age), as well as in European major libraries: research in these libraries will also enable the research group to make a survey of a great deal of reports of extraordinary events that affected different European and Latin-American areas throughout the early modern period. The second strand (b) of the research will rely, in addition to the above mentioned sources, mainly on **administrative and judicial papers** and on **corpus of petitions** preserved in Catalan, Valencian, South Italian and Sicilian public archives, and on archival and librarian holdings in the Biblioteca Nacional de España (Madrid) and in the Archivo General de Simancas (Valladolid). In order to achieve the collection of data, the research team will also make use of online resources, including the *Catalogue of Strong Earthquakes in Italy*, a databank run by the *Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia* (<http://storing.ingv.it/cfti4med/>), which provides extensive reliable information (and excerpts from sources) on almost every earthquake recorded in historical sources.

b.2. Expected Impact on the Current State-of-the-Art

Thanks to this original and interdisciplinary approach, the proposed project will **contribute new insights** in several fields, particularly to the history of popular literacy, to the history of communication and cultural interactions, and to our understanding of some of the mechanisms of historical change. Moreover, it is likely to make a major contribution to the interdisciplinary disaster studies by **providing a new, trans-disciplinary methodology** that could be adapted to different areas and periods: the idea of using the distinctive methods and tools of textual criticism and cultural history to analyse not only the perception of extreme events, but also their societal relevance and their impact on policies and practices is pioneering and unconventional, and has the potential to take the state-of-the-art further, in compliance with some issues of the **EU H2020 work pr. for Humanities**, that asks scholars «to reflect on the past to better understand the emergent instability and risks».

1. The proposed project mobilises textual analysis and the study of political communication to address the history of disasters, and relies on the analysis of a large corpus of texts over a long-time span. Hence, it is expected to yield **new insights into the making of policies and social practices** aimed at mitigating the impact of hazards on societies, by stressing **the importance of information networks, available knowledge, values and beliefs in affecting human response to natural threats** – far beyond the mere technological aspects, on which focus many present-day studies on coping with disasters.

2. Since the impact of disasters is determined by social constructs, which are subject to change, a historical perspective is crucial to the progress of disaster studies, which should abandon the prevailing event-focus and look at the human-environment interactions over a long time span. With its wide geographical scope and its long chronological range, the project will **shed light on the complex development of practices and strategies for recovery**, resulting from the interaction of local memories with knowledge and experiences from distant areas, and from the confrontation of different, often conflicting interpretations and worldviews.
3. By exploring this collective “learning process” stemming from the circulation of information and from the recollection of the memory of past events, the in-depth study of evolving recovery policies in the longer run promises to shed some new light on the implementation of safety and control devices, that had the potential to cause **shifts in institutional and social arrangements**.
4. The research project will contribute to **giving value to the European cultural and linguistic heritage**, in that it focuses on lesser-known texts which have so far received scarce scholarly attention. These documents were addressed to, or written by, ordinary people from different social milieus, therefore they reveal the circulation of different and perhaps conflicting beliefs on disasters, and testify to the exchange of words, images and worldviews among different social strata.
5. It will **improve our understanding of socio-cultural interactions** in a situation of crisis, when exceptional events increased people’s thirst for information, thereby fostering the circulation of news and opinions and undermining the ordinary mechanisms of control.
6. It will provide valuable data **on the construction and use of social memory**, by highlighting the means through which authorities and social actors attempted to shape and assert their version of past traumatic events, and to what extent they succeeded.
7. With regard to Southern European areas, the proposal will challenge the persistent tendency to reconstruct the history of these regions in apocalyptic tones (Dickie *et al.* 2002), as a consequence of their supposedly exceptional vulnerability to recurrent natural hazards and of their inhabitants’ passivity in the face of them; at the same time, it will shed new light on some of the factors that have determined, in the long run, their **specific patterns of interactions with the environment**.

Finally, the expected results of the action will contribute to two specific issues of the Horizon 2020 work programme: *European cultural heritage, access and analysis for a richer interpretation of the past* (p. 98) and *Understanding the transformation of European public administrations* (p. 102). With regard to the latter, the work programme asserts that «collaboration across government departments with [...] societal actors» is essential to good governance and to find «solutions to societal challenges». Thus, scholars are asked to enquire how the public administrations can become collaborative and stimulate the participation of civil society stakeholders, as well as to **explore cultural attitudes, expertise and knowledge of those involved in this process**. That is exactly one of the aims of this project: providing a historical enquiry into the interactions between different actors, at various levels, in order to manage risks and disruption.

b.3. Team Organisation

The research project will easily fit into the main research programmes of the **Department of Humanities** (Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici, **DSU**) of the University of Naples Federico II. The DSU has solid scientific relationships with some of the most prestigious European and American research centres and has established itself as a leading research hub in the field of Mediterranean early modern and modern history. Moreover it offers a multidisciplinary environment shared by scholars working on a wide chronological span in historical, philosophical, literary, philological and linguistic, artistic, archaeological, and social disciplines, and has developed competencies in managing major European research projects. Finally, its location in the city of Naples, whose archives and libraries host a considerable part of the sources, will significantly benefit the research activities.

The research group will make use of the **experience acquired**, of the **competencies developed** and of the surveys and preliminary work made by several members of the DSU, who were involved in the research programme *Disaster Texts* (2014-2016, see section a.3). The purpose of this research programme (STAR, funded by the University of Naples and Compagnia di San Paolo) was to enable the research team to lay the foundations necessary for a major research project, to strengthen the cooperation between scholars from different disciplines and to undertake preliminary research. Having carried out a study of the disaster writings in the late Medieval and early modern Kingdom of Naples, the members of this research group have gained familiarity with new approaches in the field of disaster studies and have undertaken joint research on historical writings, on chronicling, on pleas and petitions, on texts written in the aftermath of disasters.

The **Principal Investigator** was a member of the interdisciplinary research group *Disaster Texts*: within this project, it was his task to explore the features of political communication through the analysis of official reports and newssheets to describe some of the major natural disasters. The PI has established a solid academic profile as a **social and cultural historian** and has benefitted from carrying out research at a

number of prestigious Italian, Swiss, French and British institutions, where he experienced a diverse range of academic environments and became acquainted with different methodologies and approaches; he has established important scholarly links and has learned to work as part of a team in multi-lingual contexts, as shown by his participation in international and interdisciplinary projects and study groups.

Since the beginning of his scientific career, the PI's main research interests have focused on the **mutual interplay between State authorities and local communities** in the early modern period, especially in times of social unrest. As a PhD candidate he investigated social conflicts and popular protest in 18th century Kingdom of Naples, and continued with the study of this topic with two post-doctoral grants. The research approach used to explore the political, social and cultural issues of peasant and urban movements has led the PI to shed new light on the diverse ways in which members of the lower classes proved themselves to be able to participate in the community life in Southern Italy, even in situations of oligarchic power, and to interact with higher authorities. A second strand of his research was developed with a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Geneva (2011-2012), which gave him the opportunity to broaden his knowledge of the **history of natural disasters in early modern Europe**; in 2014-2016 he joined the research project *Disaster texts* at the University of Naples Federico II. He has already published several articles and given papers based on this research, and co-organised workshops and of thematic sessions. In 2015 he was involved in the research programme *Settling in motion* at the Aix-Marseille University – MMSH, which focuses on mobility and insertion in the cities of the Mediterranean area during the early modern age, on practices of inclusion and access to urban resources and on the participation of “ordinary people” in the city's life.

Over the years following his PhD, the PI has acquired an ability to evolve new themes from his principal research areas and to develop an original approach, by combining the distinctive **micro-analytical methods** of social history with **cultural history** and **textual criticism**. Thanks to these experiences, he has gained high-level scientific skills to engage in a research project that challenges the limitations of methodologically bounded approaches, and **the potential to lead a research group composed of specialists from different disciplines**. At this stage of his career, a ERC Starting Grant represents the ideal format to build on this experience by allowing him to adopt his original methodology in a major, ground-breaking research project.

The composition of the research group that will carry out the proposed research will comply with the interdisciplinary nature of the five-year project. Given the background of the PI as a social and cultural historian, the four senior scholars of the DSU that will join the team will be a specialists in History of Language (Prof. Francesco Montuori), a Philologist (Prof. Chiara De Caprio), a Historian of Literature (Prof. Giancarlo Alfano) and a Cultural and Social Anthropologist (Prof. Valerio Petrarca). A fifth senior scholar will be Prof. Alberto Alberola Romá, full Professor of Early Modern History and director of the Grupo de Investigación en Historia y Clima based at the University of Alicante, who specialises in the field of Environmental History and has extensively published on the history of climate and on historical disasters: he will be appointed as Visiting Professor. It is planned to appoint an **international advisory board**, whose members will complement some competencies that are not adequately represented in the research team. The research group will be integrated by six **postdoctoral researchers** (*assegnisti di ricerca*) and two **PhD students** (3 years). The postdoctoral researchers and the PhD students to be hired will specialise in different disciplines: Cultural History, Social History, History of Science, Italian Philology/Literature, Spanish Philology/Literature, History of Theatre, History of Art. A **Project Assistant** (PA) will be hired in order to deal with the overall project management and with the monitoring, evaluation and dissemination strategies – the Financial Manager (FM) will be a member of the administrative staff of the DSU.

Months	List of the personnel to be hired for research						
1 > 6	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
7 > 18	PD 1 Early Mod. Hist.	PD 2 Cultural Hist.	PD 3 - Spanish Phil./Literat	PD 4 - History of Theatre	PD 6 - History of Art	PhD 1 - Early Mod. Hist.	PhD 2 - Italian Phil./Literat.
19 > 30	PD 1 Early Mod. Hist.	PD 2 Cultural Hist.	PD 3 - Spanish Phil./Literat	PD 4 - History of Theatre	PD 6 - History of Art	PhD 1 - Early Mod. Hist.	PhD 2 - Italian Phil./Literat.
31 > 42	PD 1 Early Mod. Hist.	PD 2 Cultural Hist.	PD 3 - Spanish Phil./Literat	PD 5 - History of Science	–	PhD 1 - Early Mod. Hist.	PhD 2 - Italian Phil./Literat.
43 > 54	PD1 Early Mod. Hist.	PD 2 Cultural Hist.	PD 3 - Spanish Phil./Literat	PD 5 - History of Science	–	–	–
55 > 60	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

The **PI** will be responsible for the direction and coordination of the team and, with the support of the senior scholars, he will ensure the progress and integration of the various research themes, in order to draw them together; he will be the main responsible for the organization of academic events (workshops, conference, series of seminars) as well. Moreover, he will be personally involved in research activities in Spanish and Italian archives and libraries: his main research areas will be the implementation of emergency management

policies in Southern Italy and, more generally, in the framework of the Spanish Monarchy. One postdoctoral researcher in Early Modern History (**PD1**, 4 years), specialising in social and political history, will study the development and the implementation of emergency management policies in Catalonia and in Valencia; the Postdoc in Cultural History (**PD2**, 4 years), specialising in social and cultural history of the books and publishing in the early modern age, will study the mechanisms of news gathering and dissemination in the aftermath of disasters, and the interactions of different actors involved in the publication process. The Postdoc in Spanish Philology/Literature (**PD3**, 4 years) will collect and examine the texts intended for large-scale circulation in Spanish (mainly *relaciones de sucesos*, accounts, news-sheets, gazettes, sermons etc.), and pleas written on behalf of communities calling for help, and will perform textual analysis. The Postdoc in History of Theatre (**PD4**, 2 years) will collect and examine the theatrical literature circulated and the plays performed in the aftermath of disasters. The Postdoc in History of Science (**PD5**, 2 years) will support the PI, the PD1 and PhD1 (see below), by focusing on the production and sharing of technical knowledge in the aftermath of major disasters in both the Italian and Spanish territories. The Postdoc in History of Art (**PD6**, 2 years) will collect and study prints and engravings representing major disasters, that were circulated in the four selected areas. The PhD student in History (**PhD1**, who will be supervised by the PI and by a member of the Committee of the Doctoral School in History of the DSU) will study the development and the implementation of emergency management policies in the Kingdoms of Naples and Sicily. The PhD student in Italian Philology/Literature (**PhD2**, who will be supervised by the senior scholar specialising in Philology) will collect and study the texts intended for large-scale circulation in Italian (mainly *avvisi*, accounts, news-sheets, gazettes, sermons etc.), and will perform textual analysis.

Throughout the duration of the research project, especially during the first phases, the enquiry into Italian and Spanish sources will be integrated by research sojourns abroad. This will help the research group to carry out **a comparative study on a European scale**, as well as to gather sources from other major European libraries. Moreover, the possibility of being hosted by some foreign Universities and research centres, with which the PI has already solid scholarly relationships, will allow them to make use of other research facilities, carry out research into the collections of local libraries and test alternative methodologies.

Because of its interdisciplinary and comparative nature, **collaborations and partnerships** are inherent to the project itself. For this reason, the research team will greatly benefit from close cooperation with distinguished scholars, research units and international study groups with which the PI and the members of the team have established firm scientific relationship; further partnerships are to be established or enhanced during the early phases of the project. Partnerships will result in joint workshops, sharing of expertise, mobility of visiting scholars, collective publications, hosting the dissemination activities, creation of scientific contacts and, possibly, in further joint applications for extra funding.

b.4. Research Products and Dissemination

The research project aims to adhere to the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities (2008). The PI's and the team's publications (apart from the articles that will be published in academic journals) will be published by the University of Naples Federico II with free access and downloads from the project website. Also, the 5 print volumes could be purchased with the print-on-demand formula.

- 1) The PI's monograph.
- 2) One edited volume, edited by the PI and other team members, in which the proceedings of the final congress will be included.
- 3) One collective volume, by the PI and the other team members, in which the main results of the different research themes will be integrated.
- 4) Two books from the PhD students doctoral thesis;
- 5) A thematic issue of a major international peer-reviewed multi-disciplinary scientific journal;
- 6) Articles written by the team members in major international peer-reviewed scientific journals;
- 7) A website on which all the activities of the research team will have great visibility, containing academic data and a section with links, images, commentaries and activities for a wider public in English and Italian.

Yearly a **workshop** will be organized to present and discuss the intermediate results and the progress with the international advisory board, with other members of the DSU, with scholars from partner institutions and other international eminent scholars. The PI and the team will propose to organise the workshops both in the Host Institution and in other research centres, including the University of Cambridge, the Maison Méditerranéenne des Sciences de l'Homme (Aix-en-Provence), the Casa de Velázquez (Madrid) and the University of Alicante. In order to share the partial and interim results of the research programme with wider scientific networks before the end-of-study conference, thematic sessions will be proposed at international conferences, such as the European Social Science History Conference (ESSHC), and the European Association of Urban History meeting (EAUH).

Moreover, in order to make the interim and final results of the research available to scholars working in the

interdisciplinary field of disaster studies, and to get their feedback and advise, we will organise 3 workshops with **scholars of Environmental and Earth Sciences**, both from the University of Naples Federico II and from other research centres.

The topic of this research project and the source materials we will use are likely to arouse the interest of a wider public, not only because the studied texts describe extraordinary events, but also on account of the patent relevance of the topic itself for an understanding of today's problems and the development of adequate responses by decision-makers. Thus, it is planned to organise activities that will enable the research group to **engage with a non-specialist public**: 1) Writing short texts for a wide audience and presenting the research through the different channels offered by the University; 2) Submitting synthesising articles to general readership history and science reviews. 3) Organizing three cycles of public lectures centred on the cultural history of catastrophes in Europe. 4) Creating pages and portals in Wikipedia and releasing materials on Wikimedia Commons. While the Project's and the University's own webpages will give the research a online presence, releasing video material produced during the project (such as seminars and public conferences) on copyleft license in Wikimedia Commons website (according to Open Access criteria, a pillar of H2020) is a practical way of maximising the impact of the research and supporting the free circulation of knowledge.

b.5. Work Plan, Phases and Work Packages

The research project will last 5 years. To ensure the research feasibility, we foresee 10 work packages (WP), some of which are related to the six main themes outlined above (see section b.1):

WP1 (Months 1>60, transversal): Project management. A Coordination Team (CT), including both the research group and the administrative staff, will be established. Led by the PI and later joined by a Project Management Assistant, it will be in charge of the overall project co-ordination, of major management decisions, and of setting quality principles, review criteria, communication and administrative procedures, dissemination strategies. The CT will draw up an executive plan: it will describe project activities, schedule their timing, identify the milestones, indicate the roles and responsibilities per each different phase. In months 1>6 (Set-up phase) the CT will begin the procedures to select and take on PD1, PD2, PD3, PD4 and PD6, PhD1 and PhD2; A workspace and a specific workstation for the research grants will be set up, the equipment will be purchased. In the following years the project management will act in order to ensure the achievement of the results and the accuracy of procedures. Main outputs: CT established; Executive plan; Collection of necessary tools to deal with archive material; Selection of 4 PD and 2 PhD, 1 PA; Workspace.

WP2 (Months 1>30): theme 1(a). The PI, PD2, PD3, PD4, PD6 and PhD2 will engage in a wide-ranging survey of the texts in Italian, Spanish and other European libraries and archives, with particular regard to texts inspired or authorised by political and religious authorities, and will create and regularly update a database of disaster writings, which will be a useful resource for the subsequent WPs.

WP3 (Months 18>54): theme 2(a). The PD3, PD4 and PhD2 will process the previously gathered texts, by performing textual analysis, with the aim of detecting the different explanatory patterns on which accounts were based, and the religious and political messages that were meant to convey. They will set up a text analysis model, to discuss with the senior scholars.

WP4 (Months 7>54): theme 3(b). The PD2, PD4 and PD5 will study the mechanisms of news circulation, in order to link up the analysed narratives with the different actors involved in the publication process.

WP5 (Months 7>54): theme 4(b). The PI, PD1, PD3 and PhD1 will combine the study of official narratives with the analysis of handwritten chronicles, diaries, unofficial information etc. and with a study of petitions addressed to political authorities in the four selected areas.

WP6 (Months 1>18): theme (5b). The PI, PD1 and PhD1 will conduct a survey of the institutional actors that were actually involved in the crisis management and in the recovery process in the four selected areas.

WP7 (Months 19>54): theme 6(b). The PI, PD1, PD5 and PhD1 will carry out in-depth studies of individual cases occurred in four selected areas, through the analysis of administrative and judicial papers preserved in Spanish and Italian archives, in order to analyse the development of the recovery and reconstruction processes in the light of the contemporary readings of disasters.

WP8 (Months 1>60, transversal): Quality control. The quality control is aimed to guarantee the scientific value of the outcomes. The PI and the senior scholars will ensure the progress and integration of the various research themes, in order to draw them together, through monthly meetings of the whole team. During the five-year period, a **monthly meeting** of the whole team (except for the members who will be abroad on research mission) will take place in the Host Institution.

WP9 (Months 1>60, transversal): Dissemination. Three workshops will be organised with experts in the field of Environmental Sciences and interdisciplinary disaster studies at the beginning, halfway through and at the end of the action. A workshop will take place at the end of each year and an international conference, via call for papers, will be organised at the end of the project (see section b.4).

WP10 (Months 13>60, transversal): Public communication. This activity will run almost throughout the

fellowship. We will dedicate the 1st year to the organisation of deliverables, which will become operational in years 2 > 5. They will consist in public lectures, web contents and media presence (see section b.4).

	Months											
	1 > 6	7 > 12	13 > 18	19 > 24	25 > 30	31 > 36	37 > 42	43 > 48	49 > 54	55 > 60		
WP1				M1			M2					
WP2			M3		D1							
WP3				M4						D2		
WP4							D3			D4		
WP5				M5						D5		
WP6			M6									
WP7										D6		
WP8				M1			M2					
WP9		IW	W		W	IW	W		W	IW	FC	
WP10			PL PL			PL PL			PL PL			

M: Milestone; D: Deliverable; IW: Interdisciplinary Workshop; W: Workshop; FC: Final Conference; PL: Public Lectures

Milestones (M) and Deliverables (D): In relation to the WP1 and WP8, the PI will produce midterm progress reports (M1 and M2). They will be real milestones since this will allow the research team to check the activity and progresses of the PD and PhD students, establish the right direction for the rest of the research, solve major problems, and reflect over the publication of the preliminary results. WP2 will result in a partial inventory and collection of disaster texts (M3, which will enable some members of the research team to undertake textual analysis and to focus on news circulation), and in a wide-ranging survey and collection of these texts, which may be regarded as a major deliverable (D1). WP3 will result in the development of a model of text analysis (M4), to discuss with the senior scholars, and finally in detailed, comprehensive studies of the narrative structure, cultural background and aims of these texts (D2). WP4 will make use of the partial results of WP2 and will result in detailed analysis of the social and institutional milieus in which information was gathered, processed and disseminated (case studies D3; more comprehensive studies D4). WP5 will provide two major outputs: case studies (M5) and more comprehensive studies (D5) of attitudes and beliefs of the populace. WP6 will result in a mapping of the institutional actors involved in the recovery process (M6), which is a useful tool for WP7. Through in-depth studies of individual cases, the latter will provide a major deliverable (D6) by carrying out a study of the making of the recovery policies in the light of the results of WP3, WP4 and WP5.

Risk assessment and management

Risk assessment	Risk management
Strand a) may be kept separate from strand b)	The progress of the first strand is crucial to the research activities of the second one, therefore the research team will quickly notice possible lack of cooperation (M1, M2 and M3). The PI and the Senior Staff, who have already been part of an interdisciplinary research group and have learned to merge their specific competences, will ensure the integration of the various research themes and will draw together the strands a) and b).
The team is composed of scholars specialising in Humanities, while the topic would require the involvement of scholars of Environmental and Earth Sciences	The Project focus on issues that fall primarily into Humanities and Social Sciences, and the proposed approach is distinctive of Textual criticism, Cultural History and Social History. Moreover, it is planned to organise workshops with of scholars of Environmental and Earth Sciences, and to strengthen the cooperation with research centres specialising in environmental hazards. Finally, one Senior Scholar and one Postdoc specialise in Environmental History and in History of Science, respectively.
Overall volume of texts found in different archives and libraries, with a notable increase in volume over time, from early 16 th to 18 th century	The project does not attempt to be exhaustive, but to work on a large and representative sample of cases and documents. We would select a number of case studies that are likely to reveal the fundamental mechanisms of news production and dissemination, and of implementation of strategies for recovery.
Volume of texts to be transcribed and entered into the database	External personnel will be specifically hired and charged with the task of filing and transcribing the texts and of implementing the database. In this way the PI, the Senior Scholars and the postdocs shall be allowed to dedicate themselves mostly to textual and historical analysis.

Section c. Resources (including project costs)

The largest expense for the proposed project (€ 1.481.813) is for Personnel (964.400). The professional status of the researchers and their retributions are established on the basis of Italian legislation (law 3/7/1998, no. 210; law 30/12/2010, no. 240) and of the regulations of the University of Naples Federico II (D.R. 1452, 3/5/2012; D.R. 2894, 4/9/2013; D.R. 762, 13/3/2014).

The **PI** is a *ricercatore a tempo determinato di tipo A* (researcher on a fixed-term contract, "RTDA"). His gross annual salary is € 35.000, so the total amount at the end of the 5 years is 175.000. The **Senior Staff** is

composed of four *Professori Associati* (Associate Professors), of the DSU, and of one Visiting Professor (Full Professor) from the University of Alicante. Each of them will dedicate 100 hours per year to the project, so their total cost at the end of the 5th year is 90.000. The **Postdocs** are *assegnisti di ricerca*. Their annual cost per person is € 25.300, so the total cost per each 4-year post-doc is 101.200, and 50.600 per each 2-year post-doc. The total amount for the six postdocs is 455.400. The gross grant equivalent for a **PhD students** is 17.000, so the total amount of two PhD at the end of the three years is 102.000 (51.000x2).

Cost Category			Total in Euro	
Direct Costs	Personnel	PI	175.000	
		Senior Staff	90.000	
		Postdocs	455.400	
		Students	102.000	
		Other	142.000	
	i. Total Direct Costs for Personnel (in Euro)		964.400	
	Travel		77.250	
	Equipment		12.600	
	Other goods and services	Consumables	10.000	
		Publications (including Open Access fees), etc.	30.000	
		Other: database implementation; dissemination: website and brochure, organisation of conferences and workshops, catering, conference fees, translation costs	91.200	
	ii. Total Other Direct Costs (in Euro)		221.050	
A – Total Direct Costs (i + ii) (in Euro)			1.082.533	
B – Indirect Costs (overheads) 25% of Direct Costs (in Euro)			296.363	
C1 – Subcontracting Costs (no overheads) (in Euro)			0	
C2 – Other Direct Costs with no overheads (in Euro)			0	
Total Estimated Eligible Costs (A + B + C) (in Euro)			1.481.813	
Total Requested EU Contribution (in Euro)			1.481.813	
Please indicate the duration of the project in months:				60
Please indicate the % of working time the PI dedicates to the project over the period of the grant: The PI will dedicate 100% of his working-time to the project, over the period of the grant. He will be responsible for the direction and coordination of the team, will ensure the integration of the various research themes; he will be the main responsible for the organization of workshops and conferences; finally, he will be personally involved in research activities.				100 %

Other personnel costs 142.000: the gross salary of the FM (a member of the administrative staff of the DSU) is 32.000 (2000 working hours); the total cost for the Project Manager to be hired is 110.000.

Travel 77.250: [Note on the calculation of costs: mobility allowance € 600/month; journeys to and from a European country: € 250 (return ticket); journeys to and from Italian cities: € 150 (return ticket)] We have planned several research stays of various members of the team in Madrid, Valladolid, Barcelona and Valencia, on account of the libraries, archives and cultural institutions that preserve archival precious sources and collections (Archivo del Reino di Valencia; Archivo Nacional de Cataluña and Biblioteca de Catalunya; Archivo General de Simancas; Biblioteca Nacional de España; Casa de Velázquez, etc.), as well as in Sicily (Archivio di Stato and Biblioteca Centrale della Regione Siciliana, Palermo; Archivio di Stato, Catania; Biblioteca Ventimiliana and Biblioteca del Palazzo dell'Università, Catania). We have planned: 3 research sojourns of the PI in Madrid and Valladolid, 3 months each: tot. 6.150 (stay 5.400 + journey 750); 1 research stay of the PI in Palermo and Catania, 4 months: € 2.700 (2.400+300); 4 research stays of PD1 in Spain (Madrid, Valladolid, Valencia and Barcelona), 6 months each: € 16.400 (14.400+2.000); 8 research stays of PD2 and PD3 in Spain (Valencia, Barcelona, and Madrid), 3 months each: € 16.400 (14.400+2.000); 4

research stays of PD4 and PD6 in Spain (Barcelona and Madrid), 3 months each: € 8.200 (7.200+1.000); 1 research stay of PD4 and PD6 in Sicily (Palermo and Catania), 3 months each: € 3.900 (3.600+300); 2 research stays of the PhD1 in Sicily (Palermo and Catania), 4 months each: € 5.400 (4.800+600). Moreover, we have planned 2 research travels to UK (British Library, London; Cambridge University Library), 1 month each: € 1.700 (1.200+500); 2 research travels to France (Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Paris; Maison Méditerranéenne des Sciences de l'Homme, Aix-en-Provence), 1 month each: € 1.700 (1.200+500). Finally, participation of 7 members in 3 International Conferences ([3nights+flight] x 3 x 7): € 14.700 (9.450+5.250).

Equipment 12.600: 1 Pc 2.000; 7 laptops 7.000 (1,000x7); 8 software licences 1.600 (200x8); 1 multifunction printer 800; 3 digital cameras 1.200 (400x3). Equipment will be purchased during the 1st year.

Consumables 10,000: Digital reproductions, microfilms 6.000; 30 toners 1.800 (60x30); 50 stacks of paper 2.000 (4x500); stationery 200.

Publications 30,000: 5 books (6,000x5) in English with free access and downloads (Open Access).

Other goods and services 91.200: database implementation (20.000); dissemination: website and brochure (12.000), organisation of 4 workshops of the research team and international advisory board (8.000 = 2.000x4), 3 interdisciplinary workshops (1.200 = 400x3), 1 final conference 4.000, 8 public lectures (800); coffee breaks (5.000), conference fees (4.200 = € 200 x 3 conf. x 7 team members), translation costs (36.000).

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