

HES-ASSA session January 7-9 Boston 2022
ASSA 2022 Annual Meeting
History of Women in the Economics profession

The role of women economists in the social reconstruction of Europe after IIWW:

The case of the Organisation for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC)

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Founding fathers

The builders



These builders of Europe were the people who launched the process of European construction by founding the Council of Europe in 1949 and setting up the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) in 1950 and the European Economic Community (EEC) in 1957.

These men of dialogue, who had lived through two world wars and had first-hand experience of a number of European cultures, were the pioneers of a Europe of peace founded on the values of human rights, democracy and the rule of law.



See videos about us >

Did you know?
 The Council of Europe is a



Konrad Adenauer



Joseph Bech



Johan Willem Beyen



Winston Churchill



Alcide De Gasperi



Walter Hallstein



Sicco Mansholt



Jean Monnet



Robert Schuman



Paul-Henri Spaak



Altiero Spinelli



EU pioneers...was Europe created without women?


Historiography

- Françoise Thébaud (2019). L'Europe, une chance pour les femmes ? : Le genre de la construction européenne
- Julie Le Gac & Fabrice Virgili (2017). L'Europe des femmes
- Anna Bellavitis, Nicole Edelman (2011). Genre, femmes, histoire en Europe: France, Italie, Espagne, Autriche
- Deborah Simonton (2006). The Routledge History of Women in Europe since 1700
- Alacevich & Granata (2021). Economists and the Emergence of Development Discourse at OECD
- Matthieu Leimgruber & Matthias Schmelzer (2017) From the Marshall Plan to Global Governance: Historical Transformations of the OEEC/OECD, 1948 to Present

Women of Europe

<https://web.uniroma1.it/labminerva/en/events>

Ritratto di Giulia Del Vecchio



In ricordo di
Ursula Hirschmann
nel 30° anniversario della sua morte
8 gennaio 2021, ore 17 (su ZOOM)

Introduzione
Daniela Carlà e Marcella Corsi


Interventi
Silvana Boccanfuso
Daniela Colombo

Commenti
Beatrice Covassi
Pia Locatelli
Mita Marra

Saluti
arisa Rodano

noi Rete Donne

Ritratto di Giulia Del Vecchio




In ricordo di
Ada Rossi
Combattente per la libertà
14 ottobre 2021, ore 18 (su ZOOM)
<https://uniroma1.zoom.us/j/85335499252>

Introducono Daniela Carlà e Marcella Corsi **Partecipano** Grazia Masetti e Carla Ferrero

Intervengono
Antonella Braga

Ritratto di Giulia Del Vecchio



In ricordo di
Fausta Deshormes La Valle
Donna d'Europa
24 aprile 2021, ore 17 (su ZOOM)

Introducono
Daniela Carlà e Marcella Corsi

Partecipano
Agnès Deshormes e Marisa Rodano


Intervengono
Beatrice Covassi
Maria Pia Di Nonno
Federica Di Sarcina
Jeanne Ponte
Dieter Schlenker


noi Rete Donne

MinervaLab - Sapienza

MinervaLab - Sapienza

MinervaLab - Sapienza

In collaborazione con 

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Parlamento europeo
Ufficio di collegamento

Aim

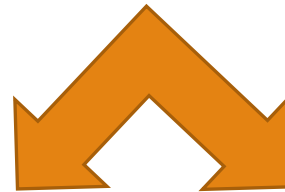
untold stories

To shed some light on **women economists** who participate in the social reproduction and reconstruction of Europe through their work in the **Organisation for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC)** in the 1950s and 1960s

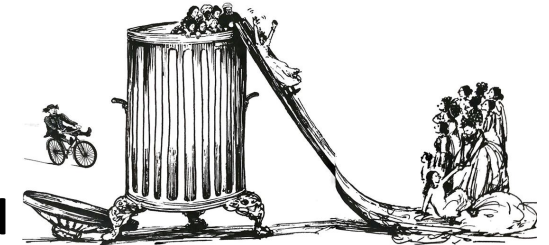


First

To define how much women have been neglected in the birth and evolution of the OEEC



Second



To learn more about these women in order to rectify their neglected contributions.

Images: @Jacky Fleming The trouble with women

Sources

The inclusion of women in the history of European institutions challenges traditional historiographical narratives asking for **new methodologies** and for **different sources** (mainly personal sources and interviews)

“Some of the most interesting life writing in economics exists in the form of transcribed interviews.”

Forget 2002 p. 235

interviews, newspapers’ articles, unpublished works, biographies, CVs, personal diaries and journals

The screenshot displays the EUI Historical Archives of the European Union website. The top navigation bar includes the EUI logo, a search bar, and a 'Rate your Experience' button. Below the navigation bar, there are tabs for 'Home', 'Holdings', 'Record Creators', 'Oral History', and 'Search'. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column shows a hierarchical list of records under the heading 'Organisation for European Economic Cooperation', including sub-items like 'Council', 'Executive committee', 'Inter-governmental Committee on the Establishment of a European Free Trade Area', 'Directorate for Agriculture and Food', 'Directorates', 'Economic Committee', 'Energy Committee', 'Fiscal Committee', 'Free Trade Area - Working Party No. 21 of the Council', 'Free Trade Board - Working Party No. 22 of the Council', 'Free Trade Area - Financial Assistance to Less Developed Countries', 'General Material', 'General Secretariat', 'Manpower and Social Affairs Committee', 'Maritime Transport Committee', 'National Delegations', 'Other Committees', 'Press Releases', 'Steering Board for Trade', 'Trade Committee', 'Committee for Invisible Transactions', and 'Traver's Archives'. The right column shows the details for the 'OEEC Organisation for European Economic Cooperation' record, including an 'Identity Statement' section with 'Created By' as 'Organisation for European Economic Co-operation', 'Reference Code' as 'OEEC', 'Extent and Medium' as '1565 dossiers', and 'Reference Archivists' as 'Carr, Mary'. Below this is a 'Content and Structure' section with an 'Abstract' that describes the OEEC fonds and its contents. The 'Conditions of Access and Use' section lists 'Languages' as 'English, French'. The 'Allied Materials' section is also visible at the bottom.



Why to study the OEEC?

*"the achievement of a sound European economy through the **economic cooperation** of its Members."*
Article 11 of the Convention 16th April 1948

Pronounced **technical** character

OEEC consisted of **technical committees** responsible for handling particular areas of economics:

food and agriculture, coal, electricity, oil, iron and steel, raw materials, machinery, non-ferrous metals, chemical products, timber, pulp and paper, textiles etc.

*The members of the Council of the Organisation for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC) on 17 February 1949.
From left to right (front row): Max Petitpierre (Switzerland), Dr Östen Undén (Sweden), Joseph Bech (Luxembourg), Robert Schuman (France), Paul-Henri Spaak (Belgium), Sir Stafford Cripps (United Kingdom) and Count Carlo Sforza (Italy).*

Women economists in the OEEC

Contribution by women economists in the 1950's to this institution:



- **“bridge between the political side and the economic side”**
- **Miriam Camp:** US expert responsible for drafting the normative instruments establishing the Organization for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC)
She describes herself as the *only mother of OEEC*
- **technical support**
- **Florence Kirlin:** from the 1956 member of the OEEC Harrison sub-committee on customs tariffs and reciprocal trade agreements
- **Vera Cao Pinna:** Italian expert for the definition of the national industrial statistics and inter-industry relationships (for long term programs)



1. Miriam Camp (1916–1994) the Mother of OEEC

- **Educational background:**
- Born in Massachusetts, in 1916
- **Study economics** in Mount Holyoke College (**a private liberal arts women's college** in South Hadley, Massachusetts).
- Her mom Rachel Caroline Rice attended Boston University
- Her father Burton Howard Camp earned a B.A. and M. A. from Harvard, and Ph.D. from Yale in 1911. He was instructor in Mathematics at the MIT and at Harvard, and Professor at Wesleyan. He was President of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, Vice President of the American Statistical Association

1. Miriam Camp An American woman in London, Paris & Geneva

From 1939-1954 (15 years!) she was a foreign affairs officer in the U.S. Department of State, in different departments:

- **In 1942**, at the Office of **Price Administration**, created to control prices during the war - where her superior was the economist **John Kenneth Galbraith** (1908-2006)
- Then “at the **Board of Economic Warfare**, she deals with supplies from **Latin America**.”

She describes this job as “boring but one that **can offer the possibility of going abroad**”, which was her real goal. The only position open at this time (in Quito, Ecuador) was not considered suitable for a woman.

“**Frightened at the idea that a fragile woman would prepare to go to Quito, one of her superiors managed to get her a post in London**” (Curli 2019)

- **In 1943** at the Board of Economic Warfare at the **U.S. Embassy in London** : Assistant Secretary for Economic and Social Affairs, the Policy Planning Staff and Bureau of European Affairs.

“In the United States, Camps is associated with the new Bureau of European Affairs of the State Department, - the “**watchdog**” of politics. The new Bureau hosted some of the **finest and most creative thinkers** on European integration” . (See Kindleberger’ papers, and Marjolin memoirs)



1. Miriam Camp the Mother of OEEC

- **Her contribution:** She said of herself, "There were many fathers of the OEEC (Organization for European Economic Cooperation) but there was only one mother".

According to several accounts, **Miriam Camp politically "invents" the word "integration" (instead of unification)**

Paul Hoffman the chief administrator of the Economic Cooperation Administration (ECA), used "**integration**" in the official speech pronounced in Paris in 1949. (Milward, 1984, p. 296-298).

The word **integration** marks the political aim of strengthening Europe during the Cold War and the support of the United States for the project of a large regional market.

"Integration" becomes "Miriam's word," as William Diebold points out. (Diebold, MHC. box 24, fol. 7).

1. Miriam Camp (1916–1994) the Mother of OEEC

➤ International network and travels:

- **Geneve** May 1947 She is the only woman to serve on the American delegation to the first conference of the Economic Commission for Europe.
- **Paris** July 1947: She participated in the Conference of the Commission for European Economic Cooperation
- She specialized in problems relating to European economic cooperation and **was involved in the implementation of the Marshall Plan**, the OEEC, the European Coal and Steel Community and other European Institutions
- She met, the French Robert Marjolin (economist, politician 1911-1986) and the Sweden Dag Hammarskjöld (1905- 1961), with whom she began a long friendship. **“Marjolin, who throughout his Memoirs shows great esteem for her, recalls that Camps, Henri Labouisse and himself had set up the drafting committee for the statute of the OEEC”** .
- Camps **was the State Department's specialist** for drafting treaties establishing the new European institutions, including the US position on the Treaty of Paris
- She put forward the view that Britain had made a mistake in delaying its entry into the EEC for so long
- She had a ‘pan-European vision’ which includes Eastern Europe
- She had a global view of growth in Europe and reflected on the nature of transatlantic relations

1. Miriam Camp(s)

Mrs. Camps shrugs off suggestions that her rise in the State Department hierarchy is a significant landmark in an arduous feminist struggle.

"I never felt at all disadvantaged being a woman," she remarked. "My only difficulty was getting in."

➤ No (particular) Feminist engagement:

- In 1954, **she resigned the State Department to marry** British literature Professor William A. Camps, Cambridge University, who during WWII served with the Ministry of Economic Warfare.
- As K. Weisbrode writes, after her marriage **"her patronymic gains one 's' but she loses her job. At that time, married women were not allowed to stay in the State Department. And marriage to a foreigner (even from a friendly country like Britain) was out of the question"**
- She began writing a series of books (8) and articles on European economic co-operation and its relationship with the US.
- In 1961 **she returned to the State Department**, initially as a consultant and subsequently in the office of the Secretary of State
- She was the **first woman** to be vice chair of the U.S. State Department's Planning Council.
- She "has a long habit of being a figurehead in a largely male world" Robert Owen, MHC, Camp Papers, box 24, fol. 7 She doesn't seem to have experienced any gender frustration . Never **participate to a women's movements/association.**
- ❖ She was one of her kind!



2. Florence Katherine Kirlin (1903-1987)

➤ **Educational background:** Born in Indiana, in 1903

At Indiana University she received a **B.S. from the School of Commerce** in 1924 and a M.A. in Psychology in 1926.

In 1933 she then joined the **Indiana League of Women Voters** as executive secretary.

1934, she had discovered “she had an aptitude for politics”, so she moved to Washington on the staff of **National League of Women Voters**

She was general **secretary of the Women's voter organization**

She was one of the most active women lobbyists, not only as a representative of the league, but also as head of several joint committees of women that will lend support to the children's bureau expansion program.

She was called "lady lobbyist" for the State Department



2. Florence Katherine Kirlin: the trade specialist

➤ Her contribution: a defender of free trade area

She was part of the National **Women's Trade Union** League of America.

In 1944, the **United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration** called Miss Kirlin into service as a researcher and international recruiter.

Then Florence Kirlin became a special assistant to the secretary for congressional relations in the **State Department** from 1945.

she was responsible for seeing the entire **legislative procedure** through Congress.

She was also charged with **Europe aid program** in 1947.

She dealt with **reciprocal trade agreements**, Marshall Plan co-ordination, the St. Lawrence Seaway, inter-American affairs and the International Trade Organization.

In the 1950s, Kirlin supported OEEC framework for negotiations aimed at determining conditions for **setting up a European Free Trade Area**, to bring the European Economic Community and the other OEEC members together on a **multilateral basis**



2. Florence Katherine Kirilin

➤ **International network and travels: Geneva, Paris, London**

In 1954 she was part of the United States delegation for the Ninth Session of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in Geneva dealt primarily with a proposed **revision of the GATT** to make it contribute more effectively to a workable system of world trade.

From the 1956 was member of the OEEC Harrison sub-committee **on customs tariffs and reciprocal trade agreements**

In the 1960s she acted as **liaison between the State Department** and the newly formed **Peace Corps**.

She worked as the **United Nations advisor to the Bureau of Economic Affairs** until her retirement in 1965.

➤ **Intimate narrative (personal and family stories):** she **never** married, never had children

➤ **Feminist engagement: she fight for women rights in several groups**

In 1935 she was part of the **National Women's trade Union** League of America which represents the organized women workers of the country.

She worked with the **Bureau of home economics** conducting scientific studies of foods, and textiles and economic problems involved in the management of the home in order to maintain a desirable standard of living.

She was representative of the **Women's Homeopathic Medical Fraternity and National Council of Jewish Women**.



3. Vera Cao Pinna (1909-1986)

➤ **Educational background:**

she graduated with honours in **Economics** (B.A. level) in 1932 at the Royal Higher Institute for Economics and Business Studies in Rome (later Faculty of Economics at Sapienza University of Rome)

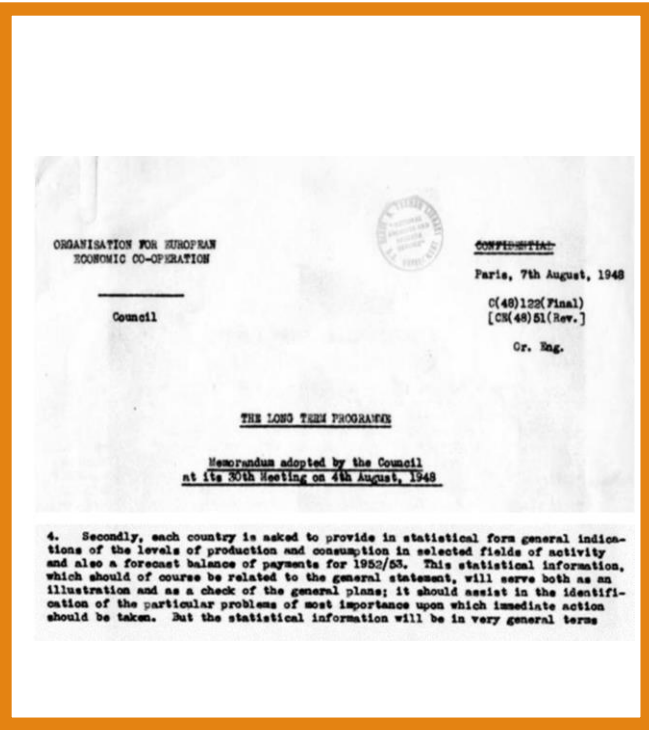
thesis on the "Diet of 11 families of artisans and 10 wealthy families in the city of Cagliari"

scientific interests in applied economics and data collection, as well as for the Italian dualism (mezzogiorno question)

➤ **Her contribution: pioneer in applied economics**

first ever table of structural interdependences for Italy for 1950

- outlining a **regional input-output model**, in which the North and South of Italy are distinguished,
- use of input-output model to **forecast** the effects of economic policies in Italy



Per approfondire la specializzazione in questo nuovo campo di ricerche, è designata, dall'Istituto Centrale di Statistica, a partecipare, in qualità di esperto per l'Italia, ad una missione tecnica negli Stati Uniti d'America, organizzata dall'O.E.C.E., per lo studio in loco dei metodi di rilevazione delle statistiche industriali, a tutti i livelli (aziendali, di associazioni di categoria, di uffici governativi e bancari e degli uffici "ei censimenti").

Durante tale missione (di 40 giorni), la candidata è stata incaricata di compiere un approfondito esame e di compilare un rapporto sui metodi e criteri di rilevazione ed elaborazione dei dati seguiti dal Bureau of Labor Statistics per la compilazione della matrice dell'economia americana relativa all'anno 1947 e dal Dipartimento del Commercio, per la preparazione dei Conti economici nazionali e della pubblicazione "Current Survey of Economic Business".

3. Vera Cao Pinna

"my great colleague who (...) understood the importance of statistics and mathematics to know the economy in depth "and again underlines how she was the first "dealing with production measures to create a link, a true liaison between the theory and empirical observation of economic facts" Wassily Leontief, 1988

➤ **Her contribution to OEEC:**

1951 Italian expert for a technical mission organised by the OEEC in US to study methods for the creation and development of **industrial statistics at all levels**

She contributed to the **OEEC Long term program** producing and collecting reliable statistics on the level of consumption and production in Italy





3. Vera Cao Pinna

➤ **Intimate narrative (personal and family stories):**

she **never** married, never had children, she lived all her life with her mother and sister.

she dedicated her whole life to study applied economics, to apply Leontief's input-output models, and to teaching economics to young students at University as untenured professor

➤ **International network and travels:**

Vera Cao Pinna used to travel all around the world for both technical/political missions and academic appoints

Founding member and Vice President of the ASEPELT Association scientifique européenne pour la prévision économique à moyen et long terme

➤ **Feminist engagement:**

No evidence of her engagement with women's associations

Felt **discriminated** by Italian academia because of her innovative research field not for being a woman

Preliminary conclusions:

- ✓ Importance of **narrative approach** and the use of **different sources of information to discover women economists** and their contribution
 - valuing a complex of political, affective, and intellectual experiences as the source of women's identity as economists.
 - "Neither history nor ethnography loses value by embracing narrative; rather, they become richer"* Forget 2002 p. 239
- ✓ Mapping the **connections between women economists** of a particular period
- ✓ Importance of **International network and travels**
 - they travelled as experts to other countries, simultaneously developing multilateral bonds (between the OEEC and the host country), bilateral bonds (between their country of origin and the host country), and bonds among the community of economic experts in different countries and in international organizations.

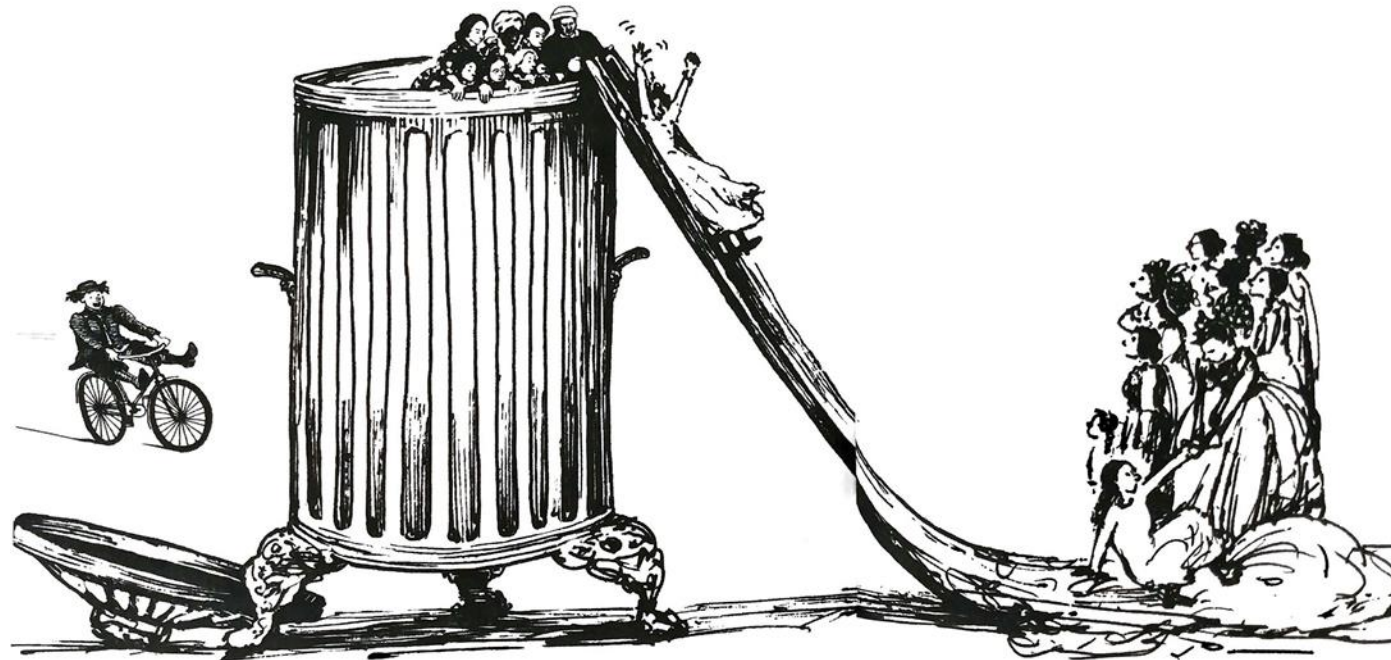
Preliminary conclusions:

- ✓ The **professionalization of economics** allows **women** to be part of the labor market, as “technical” experts.
- ✓ The end of **the war offers some women** the opportunity to access a **job** in the Administration and in Academia
- ✓ **Innovation** (Cao Pinna) and **super-performance strategy** (Camp and Kirilin) – **not segregation** *à la Forget* (1995)

Thank you
for your attention

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@Jacky Fleming The trouble with women