

List III (HT) The Tridentine Decrees: Reception, Resistance, and Compromise in the early modern Catholic World (Vidali)

The module focuses on the final sessions of the Council of Trent and examines a number of decrees as a starting point to investigate the social, cultural, religious, and political changes triggered by the Catholic reform. Top-down and bottom-up viewpoints will be examined in the seminars as they will focus on the reception and/or contestation of the dictates by the Church leaders. Particular attention will be given to compromise solutions, which took place especially in some of the newly conquered territories to Christendom, such as Central and South America, India, and Far East Asia.

Each seminar will focus on a specific topic addressed by one or more decrees and explore how local Catholic communities, hierarchies, and states reacted to them. After an introduction on the Council of Trent from an historical and historiographical point of view, the seminars are going to include, but will not be limited to, the following topics: the legislation on some of the most important life-cycle events, such as baptism and marriage; the prohibition of duelling; the regulation of local ecclesiastical hierarchies, especially bishops and parish priests, and of monastic religious orders, with a particular focus on nunneries; the establishment of catechism.