

## **On celebration, anniversaries and history. What does Italy forget to remember?**

Memory is a selective process that allows us to remember dates and events, which in the case of a national memory are considered important to create identity and cohesion in the population recalling past events that in time fall within the historical narrative and cultural life of the nation itself.

Other than what is remembered and celebrated there are many events, periods and moments of the national history that can't find the same space, do not have a dedicated date within the civil calendar and are not promoted at national level. This is the memory that the panel aims to investigate, the one that does not fall within the institutional celebrations or in the civil calendar nowadays, i.e. a memory that over time has lost importance in favor of other memories, which slowly have become well established or of memories that have not succeeded to emerge completely yet.

Exemplary in this reflection are memories linked to the Italian Risorgimento, a complex moment that had its own rhetoric at the beginning of the XX century but that has lost importance over time, or the memory of international events, such as the protests of the '68, which have produced social, economical and political change on a global scale, but which are still struggling to emerge in the collective memory without being featured ideologically. Another example of difficult memory to develop on a national level is the one related to earthquakes, a phenomenon that has hit many areas of the Peninsula all along the last century without creating a collective memory. We believe that the analysis of the memories of a country cannot fail to take into consideration also the events that stay in the background, but that have contributed as well to shape the Italian identity and its national history.