



## Obituary

Annarita Buttafuoco 1951–99

Annarita Buttafuoco, one of the most influential figures amongst those who have shaped women's history in Italy, sadly died last year. ASMI members may remember her as one of the speakers at our 1992 conference where she gave a paper on 'The women's movement in the early twentieth century'. Buttafuoco, whose research mainly focused on the development of feminism in the Liberal period, was the author of numerous articles and three important books: *Le Mariuccine. Storia di un'istituzione laica. L'asilo Mariuccia* (Milan, 1985); *Cronache femminili Temi e momenti della stampa emancipazionista in Italia dall'Unità al Fascismo* (Siena–Arezzo, 1988); and most recently *Questioni di cittadinanza. Donne e diritti sociali nell'Italia liberale* (Siena, 1997). At the time of her tragically premature death she was working on a history of the Unione femminile. Despite the importance and quality of her published work, in some ways Buttafuoco deserves to be remembered as much as for what she did as for what she wrote. A pivotal figure in the world of Italian women's history she was deeply involved in many key initiatives in this field, particularly in the last ten years, although her commitment to feminism and feminist history dates back to the 1970s. In 1975, for example, she helped found and edit the pioneering feminist studies journal *Donnawomanfemme*. More recently, her numerous activities included setting up the path-breaking Archivi riuniti delle donne in Milan, serving as President of the Società delle storiche from 1991 to 1995 and of the Unione femminile from 1993 until the time of her death. She was also the driving force behind the highly successful summer school for women's history, set up by the Società delle storiche in 1990, which has run annually since then in the beautiful Certosa di Pontignano (Siena). Although Annarita Buttafuoco's passionate commitment to her beliefs meant that conflict was not absent from her life, many found her inspirational and frequently even those who did not agree with her continued to respect and admire her. An extremely hardworking, imaginative and dedicated person, her enthusiasm and energy will be greatly missed.

Perry R. Willson