

PhD thesis

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Title of the thesis: Images of India in Select 20 th Century Italian Travelogues:A Transcultural Study

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Findings

This thesis has found that Italian travel writings present a spectrum of approaches while depicting India: on one hand is the neo-colonial approach in order to reassure Italian control or management over India through the hegemony of power relations; on the other hand, India also leaves a deep impact on the travel writers to turn their writing into a transcultural dialogue.

Moreover, India and Italy have a long history of mutual contact. India throughout its history has been a place of exploration in the West. Since ancient times, many Europeans have visited India and written about it. European discourse on India in various travel accounts is rich and diverse. As far as Italian travellers in India are concerned, the list is very long. Although Italy did not possess any colonies in India, however, the Italian interest in the Orient and Indology seems to be very strong.

Many travellers and missionaries learnt the local languages of India such as Sanskrit, Tamil, Telugu and Bengali. An aspect of Italian writing on India was already present in the thirteenth century. Similarities between Italian travel accounts from the different periods can be observed. In many of the Italian travelogues, there are common links such as the choice of places visited in India. There is an analogy between the itineraries of different Italian travel writers. Second, many contemporary travel writers who visited India were associated with journalism.