In his post WWII memoir, Florentine resident Harry Brewster recounted his pre-WWI origins as an Italian-born American citizen to an American father and German mother, and furthermore described his fate as an eventually naturalised British citizen, narrowly avoiding service within the Fascist army. The community with which Brewster surrounded himself, in 1920s and 1930s Florence, described themselves as ‘Anglo-Florentines’, an expatriate community in central Florence of largely ‘English’ citizenship and culture. The unique multi-national circumstances of residents such as Harry Brewster and the strong cultural imposition of ‘Englishness’ upon the expatriate interwar British community of Florence raises questions regarding the solidity of the ‘national body’. This paper wishes to utilise the British community in Florence and case studies of its residents, such as those of Brewster, to question the solidity of the ‘national body’. This paper seeks to encourage debate discussion surrounding the concept of ‘body of nation’ by demonstrating, via observation of perspective and scale, how marginal ‘national’ communities such as the interwar British expatriates in Florence often manifested trans-nationalism and identity pluralism.

Biographical note

Konstantin Wertelecki is a doctoral candidate of Modern History at the Institute for Transnational and Spatial History under the supervision of Dr. Kate Ferris. His thesis *Florentine, Fascist, or Foreigner: The British Expatriate Experience in Interwar Florence (1922-1943)* analyses the impact of relations between the British expatriate community and local Italians in Florence during the Fascist years. Konstantin received his Bachelors' in History from Spring Hill College in the United States and his MPhil in Modern European History from the University of Cambridge. During Martinmas term, 2017, Konstantin carried out research at the European University Institute, Florence, as a guest researcher.