

Maria Nadia Covini teaches Medieval history at the Università degli Studi in Milan. She has published on a wide variety of aspects of the institutions and society of the Duchy of Milan in 14th and 15th century. Her first works have been focused on military institutions (*L'esercito del duca*, Rome 1997; and other works about castles and territorial defense), then on the role of the lawyers, either in the State institutions and in the political life of Milan and other Lombard cities (*La bilancia dritta*, Milan 2007; *Il libro di ricordi di Bartolomeo Morone*, Milan 2011, and a recent work on Signorolo Omodei). She has also written about the theory and practice of the prince's prerogative of mercy and pardon, as an answer to the petitions coming from subjects and communities. Her interest about Renaissance diplomacy has led to the edition of three volumes of the serie of dispatches of Gonzaga's ambassadors at the Sforza court directed by F. Leverotti (Rome 1999-2001). Recently, she has studied and published book and articles on court life, court residences and the patronage of princesses and court women in Italian Renaissance (*Donne, emozioni e potere alla corte degli Sforza*, Milan 2012), and a new biography about Sforza's prime minister Cicco Simonetta (2018). Many biographies of officers, magistrates, nobles, captains and other eminent figures of the State of Milan have been published in the *Dizionario biografico degli italiani*.