



THE WOMEN AND THE SCHOOLS OF REGGIO EMILIA

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STRUCTURE

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 - 1.1 Period
 - 1.2 Witnesses
2. Principle of participation
 - 2.1 Civil resistance 1943–1945
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1. RESEARCH PROJECT



1.1 PERIOD



Discourse analysis (Link 2009) 1943–2023

Interviews 1943–1973

1.2 WITNESSES



“From 1943 to 1973, hundreds of women in Reggio Emilia struggled collectively for day nurseries and nursery schools. They did so as partisans, activists, and politicians, together with male and female citizens. Women activists of various generations were united by values, goals, and friendships.

Some protagonists continued the struggle as municipal, provincial, and regional councillors, or as members of the national parliament.” (Lingenauber 2019).

1.2 WITNESSES



“In this way they continued the work of the “Women’s Defence Groups” (GDD) and the “Union of Italian Women” (UDI). These women translated their values into decisions and actions, thus helping the establishment and spread of day nurseries and nursery schools in Reggio Emilia: Ione Bartoli, Eletta Bertani, Giacomina Castagnetti, Loretta Giaroni, Lidia Greci, Marta Lusuardi, Carla Nironi” (Lingenauber 2019).



Marta Lusuardi (*1927)

- Partisan
- Member of the “Union of Italian Women” (UDI)
- Administrative Head of the Director’s Office (Loris Malaguzzi) of the municipal day nurseries and nursery schools in Reggio Emilia (1970–1978)



Giacomina Castagnetti (*1925)

- Partisan/Part of the „Women’s Defence Groups“
- Member of the “Union of Italian Women” (UDI)
- Elected into the City Council of Castelnovo Monti (1970–1975)



Loretta Giaroni (*1928)

- Member of the “Union of Italian Women” (UDI)
- Councillor for Schools and Social Services of the City of Reggio Emilia (1967–1975)

(cf. Lingenauber 2018, 121 pp.)

1.2 WITNESSES



1.2 WITNESSES

Lidia Greci (*1929)

Councillor for Welfare
(Reggio Emilia)

Eletta Bertani (*1941)

Member of the Italian Parliament
(Rome)

(cf. Lingenauber 2018, 119 pp.)

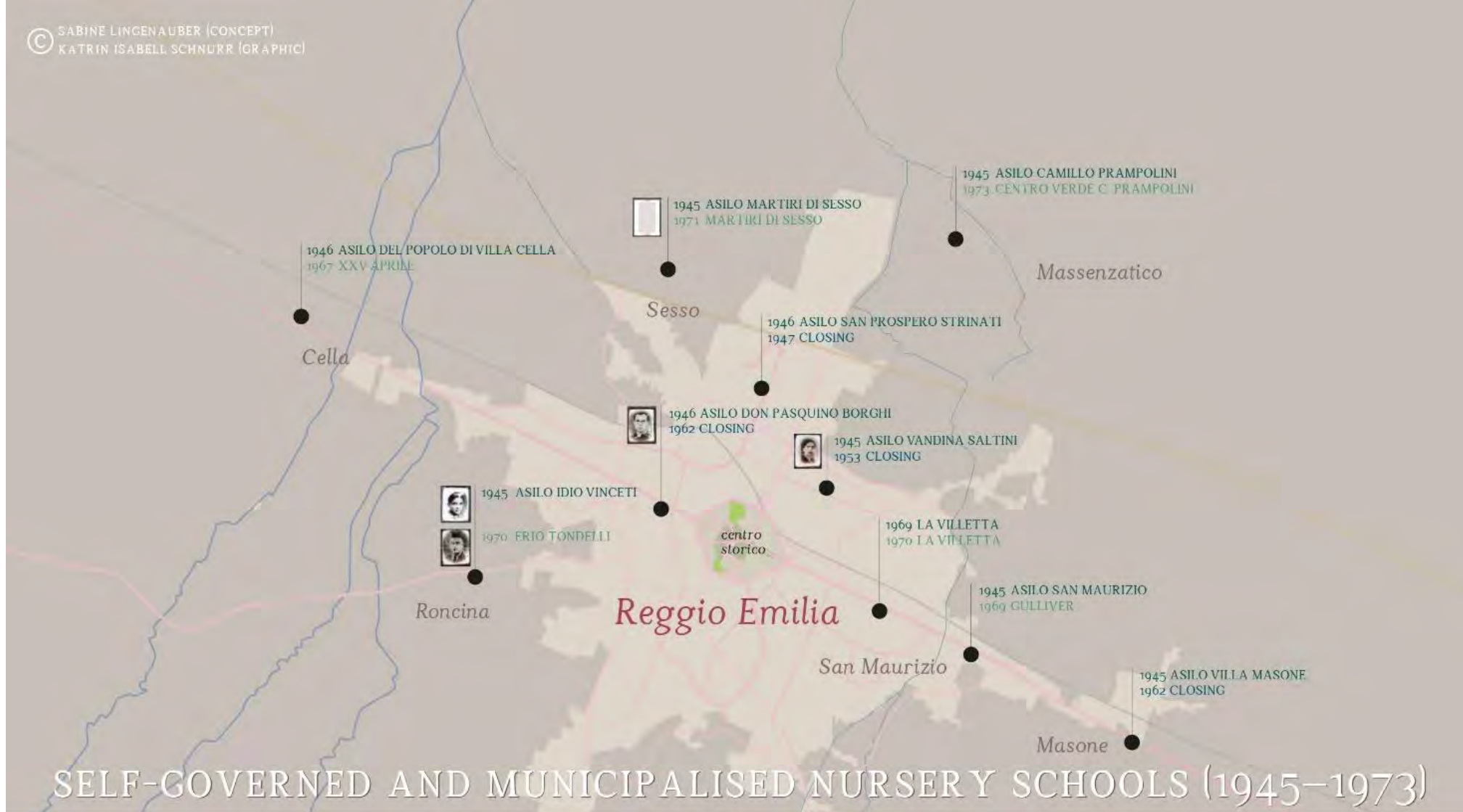
2. PRINCIPLE OF PARTICIPATION



2.1 CIVIL RESISTANCE 1943–1945



- 70,000 activists in the “Gruppi di Difesa della Donna” (cf. Ponzani 2012, 292)
- Ideas to set up self-managed nursery schools (cf. Giaroni 1997, 7)



SELF-GOVERNED AND MUNICIPALISED NURSERY SCHOOLS (1945–1973)



2.2 CONSTITUTIVE FEATURE



“This [participatory] model had reached the highest level of development in Reggio Emilia thanks to the efforts of an experienced group of intelligent, very capable women (...) Jones Bartoli, Loretta Giaroni, Lidia Greci, Eletta Bertani, (...) who took turns to take on leadership roles” (Rodano 2010, 171).

2.2 CONSTITUTIVE FEATURE



“So this idea of active participation, which played such an important role in ‘people’s nursery schools’, (...) was then transformed into a more strongly organised form (...).

All these constitutive elements for the idea of a different, new type of preschool, however, have their roots there [in the self-governed people’s nursery schools]”
(Bertani quoted by Lingenauber 2021b).

2.2 CONSTITUTIVE FEATURE



1945

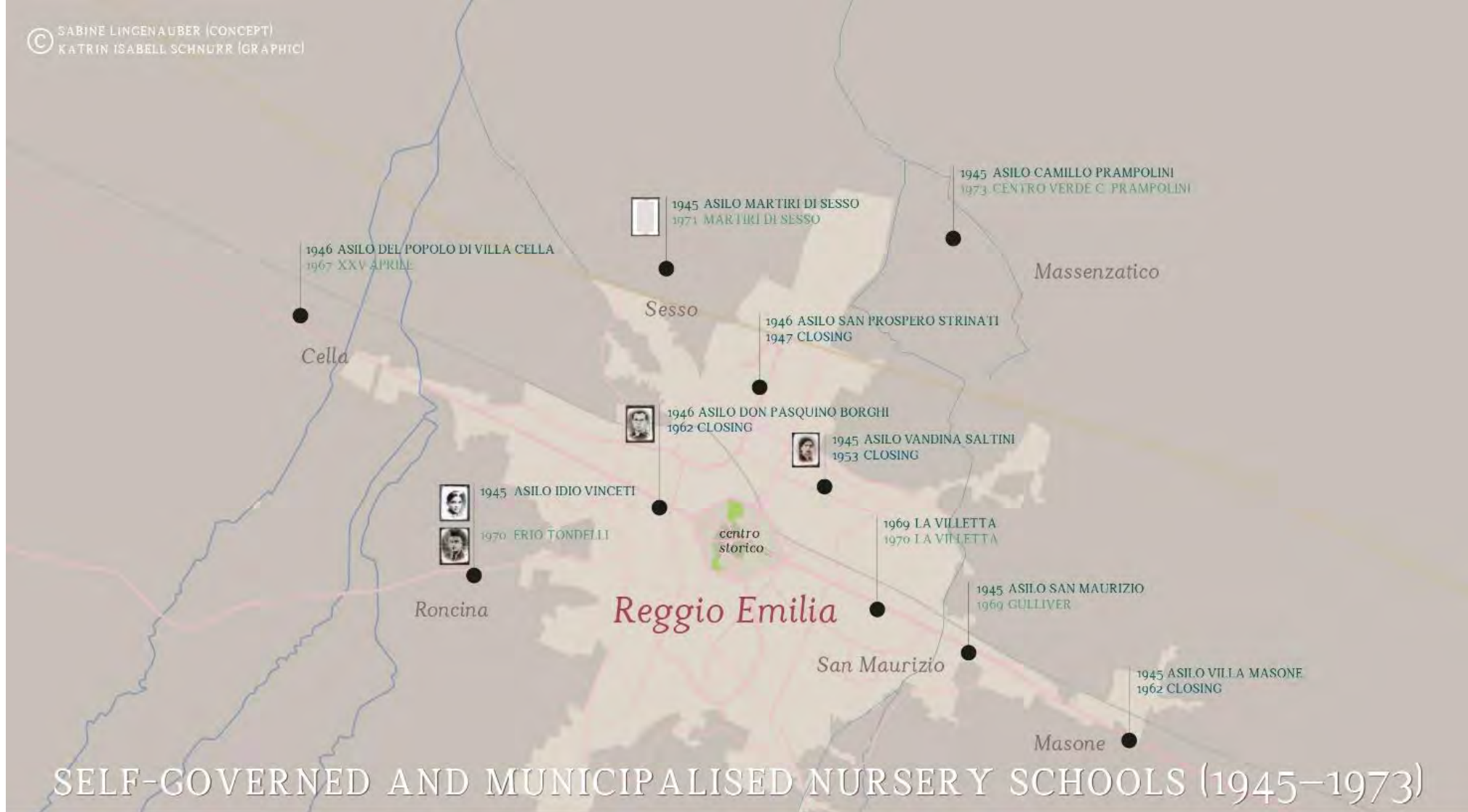
MARTIRI DI SESSO
Selbstverwaltete Kindertagesstätte

Opening

1971

MARTIRI DI SESSO
Kommunale Kindertagesstätte

Municipalisation



2.4 JOINT MANAGEMENT BOARD



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“We [women] also demanded the [joint] management (...) allows for participation, as broadly as possible. It should involve the parents, the teachers, of course, the educators, (...) but also interested citizens”
(Bertani quoted by Lingenauber 2021b).

2.4 JOINT MANAGEMENT BOARD



Protagonists

Single nursery school

System of municipal
nursery schools



„City Child Council“

„Interconsiglio“
(Reggio Children 2017, 53)

Child

3. DIDACTIC MATERIAL





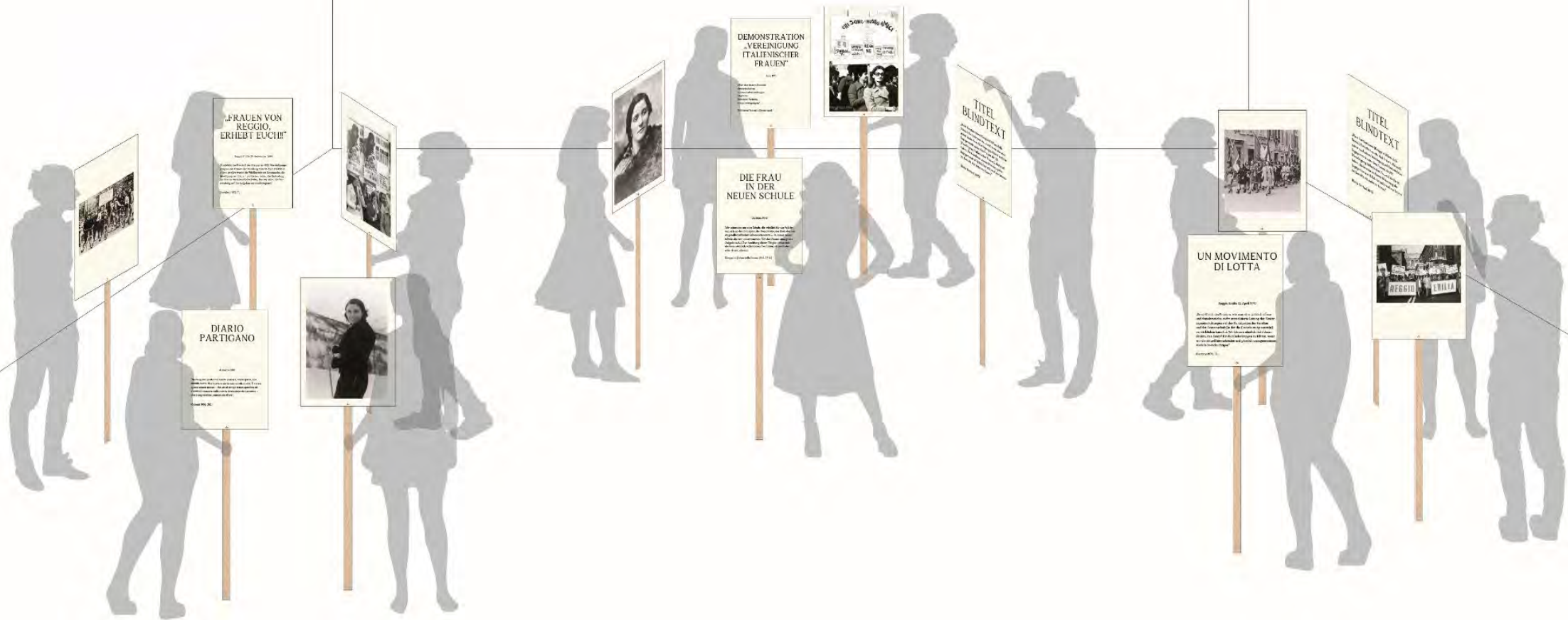
THE WOMEN IN THE NEW SCHOOL

Reggio Emilia, February 1945

“We hope for a school that is truly for the people that is informed by principles of democracy, the basis of the new social approach (...). In this new school we dream of, a great task falls to women (...). Of course, in order to carry out this activity, the women must feel completely free, both as a female student and as a female educator.”

(Gruppi di Difesa della Donna 1945, 1)

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THE WOMEN IN THE NEW SCHOOL

Reggio Emilia, February 1945

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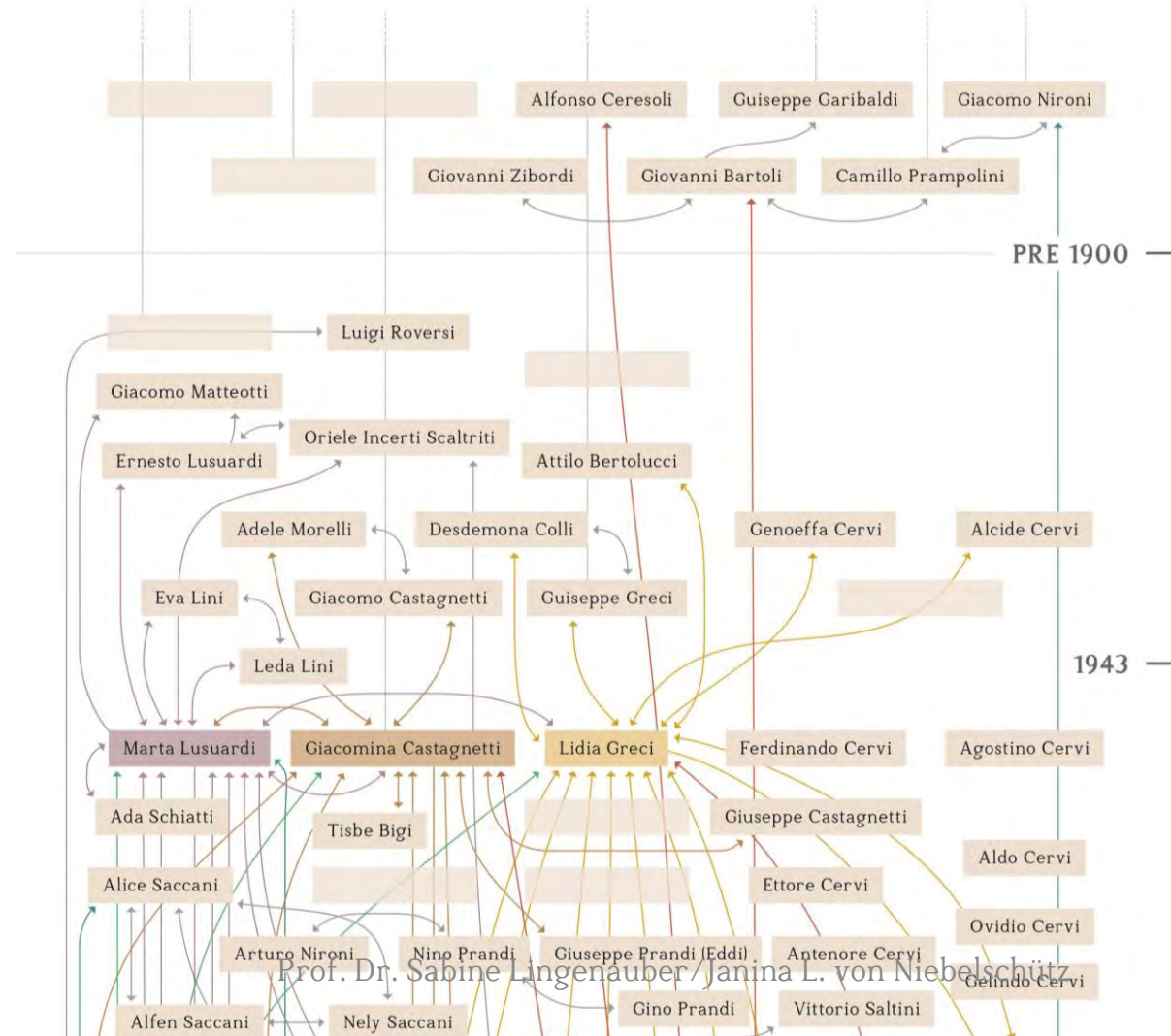
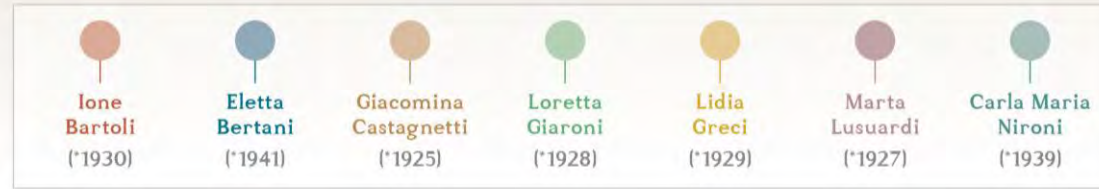
4. CONCLUSION



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MILLIONS OF WOMEN



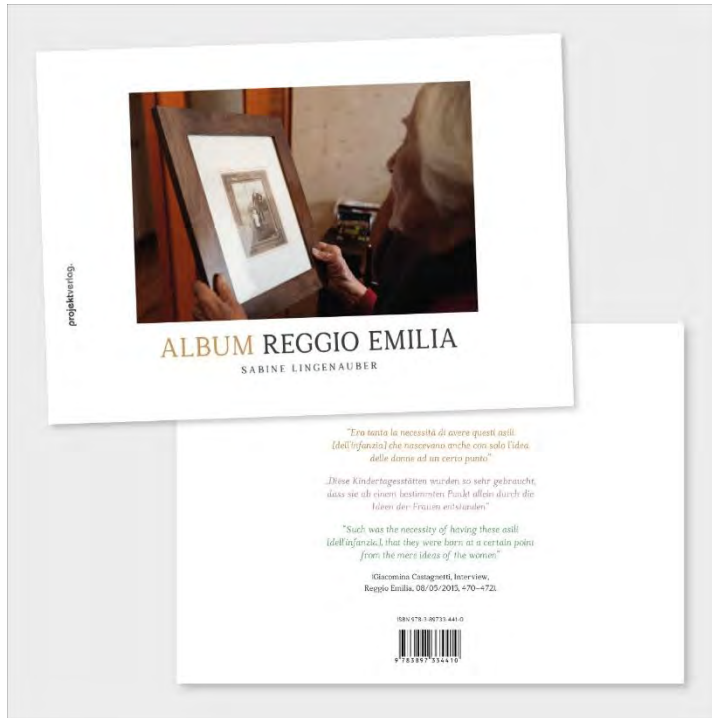
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PUBLICATIONS



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