

Interview outline

Beyond Borders and Generations: Migration Stories from Valle dei Laghi

The project "Beyond Borders and Generations: Migration Stories from Valle dei Laghi," promoted by the Valle dei Laghi Ecomuseum, aims to recount and highlight the local community's **migratory experience between 1870 and 1920 and in the post-World War II period**, establishing a dialogue with **current migrations**. Through documents, photographs, objects, and oral histories, the project aims to transform a fragmented heritage into a shared narrative that intertwines past and present, identity and belonging, actively involving the entire population, including new residents, who will be interviewed to share their experiences. An **exhibition** featuring the collected content will be held, including a section dedicated to the work done with schools through workshops and research activities, and will be supported by a permanent digital archive (Valle dei Laghi Memory Archive). Thanks to collaboration with the Trentini nel Mondo Association, for historical research and contact with descendants abroad (migration flows), with the Vallegalli and Valle di Cavedine libraries as places of culture and storytelling, and with the Valle dei Laghi Schools for educational programs, the project will make memory a living and shared heritage, strengthening the sense of collective identity and stimulating reflections on the current migration phenomenon.

We collect:

- voices and oral testimonies
- family memories (daily stories, emotions, identities)
- visual materials (photos, letters, documents), which can enrich the exhibition scheduled for this fall

Interview outline for descendants of emigrants

This is a useful guide for gathering testimonies from our emigrants and their descendants. The interviewee can choose to respond to all or just some of the prompts. Each memory is precious, and when combined with those of others, it will offer us a broad view of this experience.

1. Introduction

Can you introduce yourself and tell us who your parents/ancestors were?

I am... (Name and Surname), born in... (year) in ... (country, city, or foreign state), my father/mother/ancestor (Name and Surname), born in... (year) in ... (country), emigrated in ... (year, even approximate) to ... (foreign country).

2. Departure and journey

What did they tell you about their decision to leave? (What were their reasons? What expectations did they have? Did family or friends encourage them to leave? Did they already have contacts or information about their destination?)

Do you know how they prepared for the journey and what it was like? (How was the trip? Were there any difficult or particularly joyful moments during the trip? Anecdotes from the trip.)

3. Arrival and initial integration

What were their first impressions when they arrived...?

Did they tell you stories about their early days in...? (How was settling into the local community?)

What difficulties or surprises did they encounter?

4. Family and Community Life

Did the family speak Italian/dialect? (Was the original language passed down to subsequent generations?)

How did they learn the local language?

What traditions, festivals, or recipes from the Valle dei Laghi did they bring with them? (Did they share them with the local community?)

Did you find similarities or differences between the traditions of Valle dei Laghi and those of the town where you live?

Have they maintained ties with family and friends back home?

Have they maintained ties with other Trentino/Italian emigrants?

Over time, what have they missed about their homeland and what have they appreciated about their 'host' country?

In hindsight, do you know if they were satisfied with their choice to emigrate?

5. Identity and Transmission to New Generations

What did it mean to you to grow up as a child/descendant of emigrants?

Have you ever been to your parents'/ancestors' country of origin? What effect did it have on you?

Do you feel like you have a dual identity: Italian/Trentino and...? (What do you think? How do you experience it?)

6. Precious Memories

Is there a special memory, a phrase, or a lesson from your parents/ancestors related to emigration?

What would you like people from Trentino to know about your family history?

7. Materials for the Exhibition

Do you have any photographs, letters, documents, diaries, or objects related to your family's early years abroad, or to your relationships with relatives and friends from your country of origin?

Would you like to share them for the exhibition, so that they become part of a collective memory?

8. Materials for the digital Memory Archive

Would you like to share testimonies and materials in digital format so they can be publicly viewed on the Valle dei Laghi Memory Archive, even for those who follow us from abroad and won't be able to visit the exhibition?

Here's what we've collected so far on this topic:

<https://archiviomemoria.ecomuseovalledeilaghi.it/s/migrazioni/page/home>

If you're interested, we'll provide you with more information, and if you decide to collaborate, we'll explain how to proceed.

Thank you very much!