

Project I2: Innovation & identity 1° Round table - Macerata

*Collecting Oral Histories, between School and
Museum*

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Since its foundation the "Paolo and Ornella Ricca" Museum of School History of the University of Macerata has been involved in the collection, protection and study of different sources for the history of school and education



Written sources: textbooks, notebooks, registers, diaries, etc.

Material sources: furnishings, teaching aids, stationery items, etc.

Iconographic sources: projection slides, wall maps, educational films, photographs, illustrated tables, etc.

Oral sources: interviews in audio, video or transcribed format



Oral sources

Like all historical sources, also oral testimony has pros and cons

The goal is to investigate, among other things, the ways in which the subjective memory communicates with the public one

Oral sources “tell us not just what people did, but what they wanted to do, what they believed they were doing, and what they now think they did” (Alessandro Portelli)

Oral sources are directly connected with memory and with the mechanisms that regulate its functioning

The interviewer

The interviewer is a key figure in the process of collecting oral sources

It is important to establish a relationship between the researcher and the respondent in a sort of social interaction, with its rules, values and expectations

The impact of the interviewer over the interviewee cannot be ignored in oral sources

Some practical recommendations

Practice with some trial interviews

Become familiar with the recorder

Bring some object that can create a special atmosphere (and encourage the memories)

Be prepared on the issues raised by the interviewee

Write down the personal impressions after the interview

2 main projects:
the workshop on our
Museum within the
master's degree in
primary education
sciences (held by Prof.
Anna Ascenzi)
“Ricordi di scuola” (school
memories), created with
the contribution of
volunteers of the Servizio
civile nazionale



“Ricordi di scuola” is part of "The museum at your home" project, allowed the Museum to stay in contact with its public and continue its mission even during the lockdown. The volunteers involved have made many video interviews with the elderly witnesses of the past school



Reminiscence activity

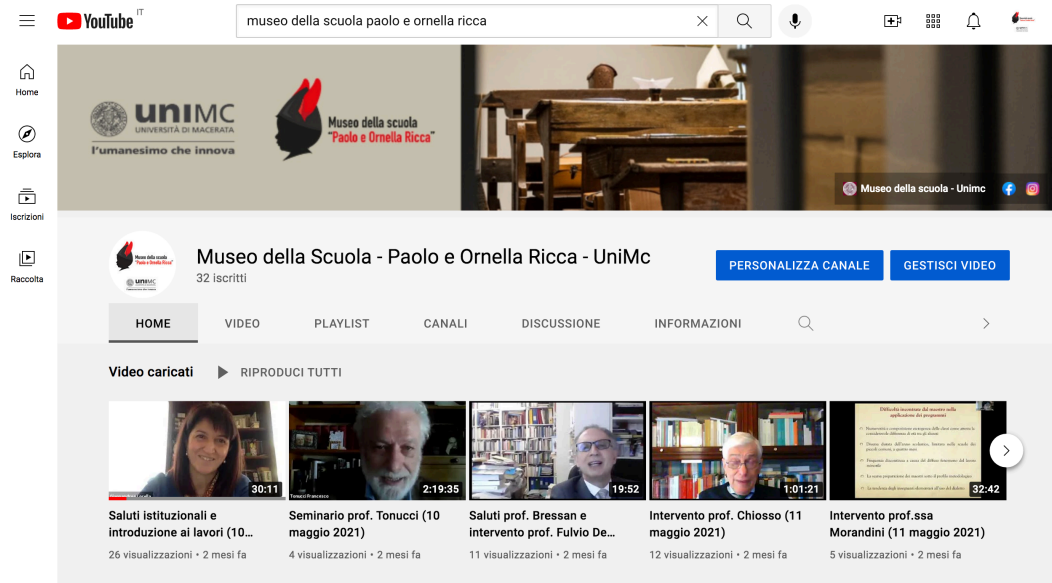
Reminiscent activities carried out by older people increase their self-esteem, with effects on the well-being perceived

Enriching experience for students, who deepen (or discover) episodes and sides of the character of loved ones

Empathy strengthens the relationship with family and friends

The School Memories are accessible on the Museum's YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZzFM3B353Uz9olwPWaDc-A>



The screenshot shows the YouTube channel page for "Museo della Scuola - Paolo e Ornella Ricca - UniMc". The channel has 32 subscribers. The page features a navigation menu with options: HOME, VIDEO, PLAYLIST, CANALI, DISCUSSIONE, and INFORMAZIONI. Below the navigation, there is a section titled "Video caricati" with a "RIPRODUCI TUTTI" button. Five video thumbnails are displayed, each with a title, duration, and view count:

- Saluti istituzionali e introduzione ai lavori (10...** (30:11) - 26 visualizzazioni • 2 mesi fa
- Seminario prof. Tonucci (10 maggio 2021)** (2:19:35) - 4 visualizzazioni • 2 mesi fa
- Saluti prof. Bressan e intervento prof. Fulvio De...** (19:52) - 11 visualizzazioni • 2 mesi fa
- Intervento prof. Chiosso (11 maggio 2021)** (1:01:21) - 12 visualizzazioni • 2 mesi fa
- Intervento prof.ssa Morandini (11 maggio 2021)** (32:42) - 5 visualizzazioni • 2 mesi fa