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*Measures of Security: Ferdinando Fuga's Reali Granili and the politics of grain provision in eighteenth century Naples*

### **Abstract**

This project investigates the politics of grain commerce, storage and provision in eighteenth century Naples through the important architectural interventions and resulting administrative reforms of the Bourbon King Ferdinand IV. In particular, it focuses on the commissioning, design, and operational results forged by architect Ferdinando Fuga's *Reali Granili* (Royal Granaries)—a 560 meter long grain reservoir docked along Naples' former strada di Santa Maria di Loreto. To date, scholarship on Fuga's *Granili*—particularly 18C architectural history—consists of either formal/typological readings of the building or evaluations of its architecture in terms of style or representation. Instead, my project approaches the *Granili* as a crucial component within the Bourbons' broader attempts at restructuring the Kingdom's grain industry in its political, economic as well as architectural workings. Alongside architecture I investigate interrelated mapping campaigns, road building projects and trade reforms and how, through these, the monarchy aimed at securing grain provisions to the capital while strengthening its role within the context of international trade (particularly in its relations to England and France). I demonstrate how these undertakings came into view in the immediate aftermath of the grain dearth and resulting famine of 1764, following which the baleful grain smuggling and hoarding practices of the Kingdom's powerful merchants and local administrators would be condemned by Royal officials. I also envision these imperatives vis-à-vis the broader debate on grain commerce burgeoning in eighteenth century Europe's economic treatises and pamphlets. My project is therefore interdisciplinary and sees architecture at work amidst a broader and totalizing network of 'strategies' and 'tactics' aimed at producing the economical, political and territorial sovereignty of monarchical rule.