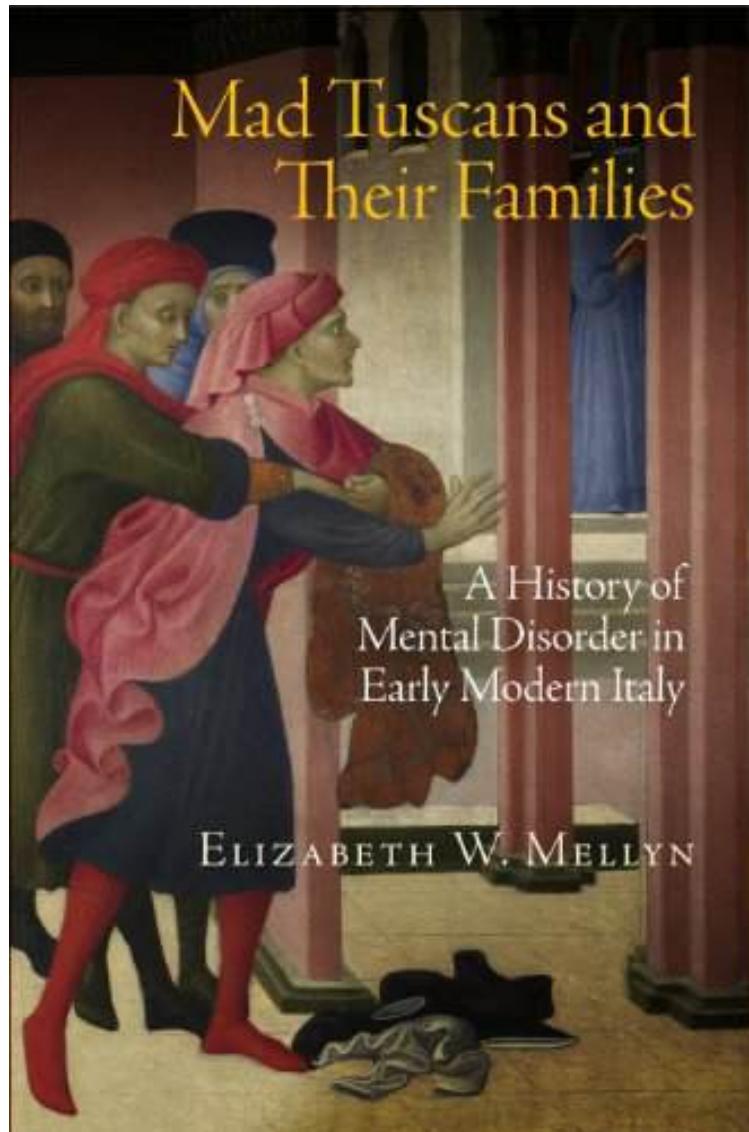


Mad Tuscans and Their Families: A History of Mental Disorder in Early Modern Italy

By Elizabeth W. Mellyn
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Based on three hundred civil and criminal cases over four centuries Elizabeth W Mellyn reconstructs the myriad ways families communities and civic and medical authorities met in the dynamic arena of Tuscan law courts to forge pragmatic solutions to the problems that madness brought to their households and streets In some of these cases solutions were protective and palliative in others they were predatory or abusive The goals of families were sometimes at odd At last a study that goes beyond literary representations of madness to explore how actual people and communities understood and dealt with conditions judged to be insane Mad Tuscans and Their Families carefully charts the legal and political context

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