

Maximilian (Massimiliano) Hackmayer

[Go to personal file](#)

He emigrated from his home in Hungary in 1921 to study medicine. At the end of a difficult period as a student, he graduated from Cagliari and started working in Florence as a GP. Despite the racial laws and the war, he remained in Italy and lived between Tuscany and Liguria.

[Link to other connected Lives on the move:](#)

[Eugenio Frommer](#)
[Elmerico Klein](#)
[Ladislao László](#)
[Stefano Vadász](#)

A brief biography

Maximilian Hackmayer was born on 28 October 1900 in Diosig (today Romania, at the time Hungary, part of the Austro-Hungarian empire) to Bessi Hackmayer, a tailor, and Joseffa Klein; both parents were Jews¹. The town had a small Jewish community, 301 people at the time of Maximilian's birth, according to a census conducted in the same year². After graduating from high school, on 7 July 1919 in the nearby city of Oradea (today Romania, at the time Hungary),³ he went on to study medicine, which marked the beginning of his winding student career. His first sure stop was Wien, where he studied between 1921 and 1923⁴.

Student in Italy, a tortuous path

In 1924 he moved to the University of Padua as a 5th-year student in the Faculty of Medicine⁵. However, his stay in the city was short: he enrolled in the Gruppi

¹ AOMFi, *Registro dell'Ordine dei Medici (1911-1950)*, n. 851, «Hackmayer Massimiliano», Traduzione italiana autenticata dell'atto di nascita, 9 December 1936. See also: <<https://archivistorico.unica.it>> (accessed 1 August 2022).

² <<https://iajgscemetery.org>> (accessed 1 August 2022).

³ ASUCT, *Registri delle carriere scolastiche*, Facoltà di Medicina e Chirurgia, s.n. (nn. 2640-2849, 1924-1927), «carriera n. 2708».

⁴ No information is available concerning his first year as a student.

⁵ ASUCT, *Registri delle carriere scolastiche*, Facoltà di Medicina e Chirurgia, s.n. (nn. 2640-2849, 1924-1927), «carriera n. 2708». For an analysis on Hungarian Jewish students in Fascist Italy, see: Agnes Katalin Kelemen, *The Semaphore of Mobility: Hungarian Jewish Press and Peregrination to Fascist Italy*, «Annali di storia delle Università italiane», 2, 2015, pp. 41-53.

Universitari Fascisti (University Fascist Association)⁶ and sat only four exams, passing three of them. The following year, he moved to Catania, where he enrolled again as a 5th-year student in the academic year 1925-1926. Here he spent a few years, sitting 13 exams and finally managing to enrol to the 6th year⁷. Economic difficulties almost undoubtedly influenced his path. In 1929, Maximilian was in Cagliari to visit his brother, whose name remains unknown. However, his financial situation had to be dire because he asked the University of Catania for permission to transfer to Cagliari on 18 April 1929, citing economic difficulties: «I am forced to do so [ask to move] because I stayed in Cagliari with my brother for roughly four months, and I am now without any money to go back to Catania to complete my studies in that University»⁸. The request was accepted on 3 June 1929,⁹ and Maximilian enrolled in Cagliari in the academic year 1928-1929¹⁰. He finally completed his degree the following year, graduating on 4 July 1939 with a mark of 80/110 and a thesis titled: «on the supposed relation between early dementia and tuberculosis»¹¹.

A medic between Tuscany and Liguria

On 14 March 1935, he passed the qualifying examination in Palermo and soon after, he moved to Florence on 25 March¹². Two years later, on 11 May 1937, he was listed in the professional register of the province of Florence¹³. During that period, he lived in via Pietro Tacca 6 and the, since 1939, in piazza della

⁶ AOMFi, *Registro dell'Ordine dei Medici (1911-1950)*, n. 851, «Hackmayer Massimiliano», Documentazione del sindacato provinciale fascista medici, 6 May 1937.

⁷ ASUCT, *Fascicoli degli studenti*, Facoltà di Medicina e chirurgia, n. 2708, «Hackmayer Maximilian»; ASUCT, *Registri delle carriere scolastiche*, Facoltà di Medicina e Chirurgia, s.n. (nn. 2640-2849, 1924-1927), «carriera n. 2708».

⁸ ASUCT, *Registri dei verbali*, Facoltà di Medicina e Chirurgia, n. 8 (1923-1931), p. 197.

⁹ *Ibidem*.

¹⁰ <<https://archivistorico.unica.it>> (accessed 1 August 2022).

¹¹ ASUCa, USCA, RUSCa, Sezione II, Serie omogenee (1901-1946), serie Dissertazioni di laurea, b. 69, n. 1138.

¹² AOMFi, *Registro dell'Ordine dei Medici (1911-1950)*, n. 851, «Hackmayer Massimiliano», Servizi demografici, 19 November 1936.

¹³ Ivi, Dott. Hackmayer Massimiliano-Iscrizione Albo Medici, 11 May 1937.

Signoria 3, where he had his study¹⁴. However, the racial laws were soon approved. Maximilian, who was also a «foreign Jew», hence in danger of immediate expulsion from the country, was quickly disbarred from the professional register by the Fascist doctors' trade union on 30 January 1939¹⁵, together with five other Hungarian medics: Stefano Vadász, Ladislao László, Imre Herekovits, Eugenio Frommer, and Elmerico Klein¹⁶.

During the war, Maximilian's movements were unclear. Presumably, he managed to hide in Florence or near the city. Meanwhile, in May 1944, the Nazis deported the Jewish community of his hometown of Dlosig to the ghetto in the city of Oradea, which was later liquidated between May and June of the same year. The people who were imprisoned there were deported to Auschwitz¹⁷.

On 25 September 1945, after the Liberation, those who had been disbarred were reinstated in the professional order's register. Maximilian regained his seniority¹⁸ and resumed his practice as a GP in Florence. In 1947 his study was in piazza della Signoria 5¹⁹. In the second half of the 1940s and the first half of the 1950s, he was involved in some legal controversies, one after a denunciation by two of his patients; however, these led to nothing. Since 1957, he also worked in Liguria, in Genoa, where he had a study in via degli Orefici 8²⁰. In 1959, Maximilian was still residing in Florence, in piazza della Signoria 3

¹⁴ Ivi, Sindacato fascista medici della provincia di Firenze, 21 January 1939.

¹⁵ Ivi, Raccomandata dal Sindacato provinciale fascista al Dr. Massimiliano Hackmayer, 31 January 1939.

¹⁶ See: Lucrezia Nuti, **Alessandro (Sándor) Bieber** (2021), in Patrizia Guarnieri, *Intellectuals Displaced from Fascist Italy. Migrants, Exiles and Refugees Fleeing from Political and Racial Reasons*, Firenze, Firenze University Press, 2019- <<http://intellettualinfuga.fupress.com/en>>, p. 8

¹⁷ <<https://iajgscemetery.org>> (accessed 1 August 2022).

¹⁸ AOMFi, *Registro dell'Ordine dei Medici (1911-1950)*, n. 851, «Hackmayer Massimiliano», Comunicazione dell'Ordine dei medici di Firenze all'Ordine dei medici della provincia di La Spezia, 14 maggio 1959.

¹⁹ Ivi, Ordine dei medici della provincia di Firenze, 7 June 1951.

²⁰ Ivi, *La miracolosa formula del medico delle Piazze praticata dal Dott. Hackmayer*, «Il Lavoro», 7 aprile 1957.

but was working in La Spezia, Chiavari, and Genoa²¹. At the beginning of the 1960s, he moved again, this time to Rapallo. He was presumably ill, as he requested a disability pension, which was granted in April 1963²². However, he died soon after, before receiving the news, on 10 June 1963²³. He was survived by his wife, Ilse Oppenheimer²⁴.

Archival sources

- Archivio Ordine dei medici di Firenze (AOMFi), *Fondo medici chirurgi cessati* (MCC), Fascicoli personali (FP), f. 586, «Hackmayer Massimiliano».
- Archivio storico dell'Università di Cagliari (ASUCa), USCA, RUSCa, Sezione II, Serie omogenee (1901-1946), serie Dissertazioni di laurea, b. 69, n. 1138.
- Archivio storico dell'Università di Catania (ASUCT), *Fascicoli degli studenti*, Facoltà di Medicina e chirurgia, n. 2708, «Hackmayer Maximilian».
- Archivio storico dell'Università di Catania (ASUCT), *Registri delle carriere scolastiche*, Facoltà di Medicina e Chirurgia, s.n. (nn. 2640-2849, 1924-1927), «carriera n. 2708.

Nicola Cacciatore

²¹ Ivi, Ordine dei medici della provincia della Spezia, all'ordine dei medici di Firenze, 13 March 1959.

²² Ivi, Comunicazione dal presidente prof. Luigi Semmola al Dr. M. Hackmayer, 28 Marzo 1963; Dr. Hackmayer Massimiliano pensione di invalidità, 7 February 1964.

²³ Ivi, Cancellazione per decesso, 29 November 1963.

²⁴ Ivi, documentazione per la pensione di reversibilità. Unfortunately, regarding Ilse, there is no available information.

Cite as:

Nicola Cacciatore, *Maximilan Hackmayer* (2022), in Patrizia Guarnieri, *Intellectuals Displaced from Fascist Italy. Migrants, Exiles and Refugees Fleeing from Political and Racial Reasons*, Firenze, Firenze University Press, 2019-
<<http://intellettualinfuga.fupress.com/en>>
e-ISBN: 978-88-6453-872-3
© 2019- Author(s)
Open Access article published under license CC-BY-NC-ND 4.0.

Publication date: