

Mobilities in Early Modern and Contemporary Mediterranean

Max Weber Programme Multidisciplinary Research Workshop

27 May 2021 | 09.15 AM – 05.30 PM
28 May 2021 | 10.00 AM – 05.30 PM

Organisers: Roberta Biasillo (MWF RSC), Lavinia Maddaluno (MWF HEC) and Maria Vittoria Comacchi (MWF HEC)

Abstract

People move. And so, do objects and knowledge. The 1990s mobility turn in the social sciences and recent migration crisis have increasingly brought to the fore that displacement, travel, and migration are part and parcel of any human society, shaping their social, geographical, environmental settings, as well as processes of knowledge production in significant and multifarious ways.

Bringing together scholars working on early modern and modern times, presentations address multiple mobility patterns - from human migrations, to the circulation of ideas and knowledge, from exchanges of practices to transfers of goods - in the expanded space of the Mediterranean.

This two-day workshop aims to discuss the Mediterranean area as a space of multilevel connectivity between interrelated regions, like North and Atlantic Africa, Western Asia and Europe; and to reframe the Mediterranean space from the perspectives of the environmental humanities, Mediterranean and African studies, intellectual history, and the history of science.

On the first day, four thematic panels explore the Mediterranean space as a crossroad between Africa and Europe, different European countries, East and West. On the second day, two roundtables host presentations on ongoing research carried out by early career scholars.

Location: Hybrid (Refectory, Badia Fiesolana / Online, Zoom)

Registration: To participate and receive the Zoom link, register here for [Day 1 - May 27th](#) and [Day 2 - May 28th](#).

Format and Housekeeping:

- Panels on May 27 last 1.30 h and consists in three presentations each. Each presenter has 15 minutes in order to leave enough room for discussion. The roundtables on May 28 have a different format. Selected participants precirculate their papers and are given 5 minutes for a short introduction before opening up the floor for feedback.
- We strongly encourage everyone to keep their video on for a feeling of community engagement over the virtual platform. However, everyone except the presenter should mute their microphones unless they are called upon by the chair to participate in the Q&A at the end of a presentation.
- Participants can write their question in the chat during or after the presentation, and the chair will ask them to unmute their microphone and speak up.

Program

27 May

09:15 – 09:30 Welcome and introduction by **Roberta Biasillo** (EUI), **Maria Vittoria Comacchi** (EUI) and **Lavinia Maddaluno** (EUI)

09:30 – 11:00 Session 1: Greece and the Mediterranean.

Chair: **Maria Vittoria Comacchi** (EUI)

- **Andrés María Vicent Fanconi** (EUI): "From Greece to Spain: Foreign Volunteerism and Romantic Imagination in the Mediterranean (1820s-1830s)"
- **Yannis Gonatidis** (University of Crete), **Leda Papastefanaki** (University of Ioannina & Institute for Mediterranean Studies – Foundation for Research and Technology Hellas) and **Maria Pappa** (Ionian University): "Surveillance of the Borders. Lazarettos and Quarantine Services in Greece during the Period 1821-1923"
- **Fotios Papadopoulos** (EUI): "Narrating and justifying the presence of Greek communities in Sub-Saharan Africa during the 1950s-1960s through the lens of Greek press"

11:00 – 11:30 *Break*

11:30 – 13:00 Session 2: From Istanbul to Livorno: Encounters in the Mediterranean.

Chair: **Maria Vittoria Comacchi** (EUI)

- **Ana Sekulić** (EUI): "Trees of Life: Arboreal Imaginaries and Religious Belonging in the Ottoman Empire"
- **Vasileios Syros** (I Tatti–The Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies & The Medici Archive Project): "The Byzantine-Venetian Niccolò Sagundino on Mehmed II and Renaissance Perceptions of the Rise of the Ottomans"
- **Francesca Valentina Diana** (Università di Pisa): "Re-educating the Jews: Livorno as the Centre of the Eighteenth-Century Sephardic Literature"

13:00 – 14:00 *Lunch*

14:00 – 15:30 Session 3: Ecological Transfers.

Chair: **Roberta Biasillo** (EUI)

- **Daniel A. Finch-Race** (Università Ca' Foscari Venezia): "Aquatic Mobilities in Depictions of Venice from 1881-95 by Boudin, Fragiaco, and Lansyer"
- **Luca Castiglioni** (Istituto Storico Italo-Germanico, Fondazione Bruno Kessler, Trento): "The Aegean in Transition: Mediterranean Networks, Colonial Practices and Environmental Transformations in the Italian Dodecanese (1912-1945)"

- **Manuel Miranda Fernandes** (University of Porto): “*Odorosi e numerosissimi fiori*: Three Short Stories on Acacias and Their Circulation in the Mediterranean Region”

15:30 – 16:00 *Break*

16:00 – 17:30 Session 4: Afro-European Networks.

Chair: **Lavinia Maddaluno** (EUI)

- **Siga Maguiraga** (EUI): "Networks between the Eastern Mediterranean and West Africa as a Threat to European Imperialism: the Case Study of West African Students in Cairo (1890s-1920s)"
- **Maria do Mar Gago** (EUI): “Mediterranean as a Living Laboratory: Plant Pathology, the Portuguese Empire and the Cold War Years”
- **Carlo Taviani** (Universität Zürich): “Atlantic Shadows: Tracing Distant African Trades of a Mediterranean-Genoese Network (1450-1530)”

28 May

10:00 – 12:00 Roundtable 1: Trade, Labour and Cultural Mobilities in the Early Modern and Modern Mediterranean.

Discussants: **Roberta Biasillo** (EUI), **Maria Vittoria Comacchi** (EUI), **Lavinia Maddaluno** (EUI) and **Ann Thomson** (EUI)

- **Nicola Carotenuto** (University of Oxford): “Trade Networks of Late Medieval and Early Modern Venetian Merchants”
- **Antonino Campagna** (Sapienza Università di Roma): “Cooperating through Distrust: Mediterranean Contracts and Trade between Rome and Algiers in Late XVI Century”
- **Umberto Signori** (The Haifa Center for Mediterranean History – University of Haifa): “Labor Mobility as a Resource: Greek-Speaking Migrants between the Venetian and the Ottoman Mediterranean (1570-1715)”
- **Paul Csillag** (EUI): “*Tombs are the only thing that remains*. Andalusian Jewish and Moslem Expats in Nineteenth-Century Romantic Literature”

12:00 – 14:00 *Lunch*

14:00 – 15:30 Roundtable 2 – Session 1: Mobile Spatialities and Temporalities of the Mediterranean (XV-XXI Centuries).

Discussants: **Roberta Biasillo** (EUI), **Giancarlo Casale** (EUI), **Maria Vittoria Comacchi** (EUI) and **Lavinia Maddaluno** (EUI)

- **Maria Gloria Tumminelli** (Università di Pavia): “The Diaspora of Albanians and Gypsies: Two Mediterranean Migrations from the Ottoman Empire to the Kingdom of Naples in a Compared Perspective (XV- XVII)”
- **Claudia Stella Valeria Geremia** (Università di Firenze): “Witches in the Canary Islands: Enslaved African Women and their Magical Objects (16th-18th Centuries)”

- **Marina Inì** (University of Cambridge): “Quarantine, Mobility and Healthscapes of the Eighteenth-century Mediterranean”

15:30-16:00 *Break*

16:00-17:30 Roundtable 2 – Session 2: Mobile Spatialities and Temporalities of the Mediterranean (XV-XXI Centuries).

Discussants: **Roberta Biasillo** (EUI), **Maria Vittoria Comacchi** (EUI) and **Lavinia Maddaluno** (EUI)

- **Olusegun Stephen Titus** (Obafemi Awolowo University): “From Nigeria to Global North: Sounding the Human and Non-Human Commodities Across the Mediterranean Sea, 1750 -2019”
- **Jackson Perry** (Georgetown University): “*The Tree of Colonization: Eucalyptography and Labor Migration on Mediterranean Frontiers* (ca. 1860-1880)”
- **Björn Siegel** (Institute for the History of German Jews, Hamburg): “The Mediterranean and Jewish Migration in the Interwar Years”