

Research Seminar: The Islamic Mediterranean

Instructors: Giancarlo Casale and Tommaso Stefini
Spring Semester 2022

Seminar Description:

Recent approaches to the history of the early modern Mediterranean have highlighted its role as a shared space, a contact zone and a zone of encounter. In many ways, however, these approaches remain embedded in assumptions—regarding the availability of sources, the norms of statecraft, the nature of confessional identity, and so forth—that reflect the realities of its Christian half much more closely than its Islamic one.

With this in mind, this seminar proposes to revisit recent scholarship on the Mediterranean in a way that privileges a view from its southern and eastern shores. Themes to be addressed include religious conversion, intellectual life, slavery, land tenure, commercial practices, and legal cultures, among others.

Calendar of Meetings:

Please note that, with the exception of session #1 and session #3, all sessions are 3 hours, to be divided between a research presentation from a visiting scholar, and a separate session devoted to discussion of the week's readings. Session #3 will be organized as a "field trip" to the PIMO *Translators in Motion* workshop to be held on Jan 31st and Feb. 1st.

Session #1: Introductory Session, 18/01/2022 11:00-13:00

Readings:

- Eric Dursteler, "On Bazaars and Battlefields: Recent Scholarship on Mediterranean Cultural Contacts," *Journal of Early Modern History* 15/5(2011): 413-434
- Guy Burak, Heather Fergusson and Natalie Rothman, "Towards Early Modern Archivality: The Perils of Comparative History in the Age of Neo- Eurocentrism." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* (forthcoming – to be distributed by instructor)
- Mark Whittow, "Sources of Knowledge, Cultures of Recording," *Past and Present*, Volume 238, sp.13 (2018): 45-87.

Session #2: Science, 25/01/2022

Research Presentation by Duygu Yıldırım

Readings:

- Harun Küçük, *Science without Leisure: Practical Naturalism in Istanbul, 1660-1732* (Pittsburg, 2020), pp.3-32.
- Duygu Yıldırım, "Bevanda asiatica: Scholarly Exchange between the Ottomans and Europeans on Coffee," *The Journal of Ottoman Studies*, LVI (2020), 25-47

--Mathew Melvin-Koushki, "*Tahqīq* vs. *Taqlīd* in the Renaissance of Western Early Modernity," *Philological Encounters* 3 (2018): 193-249.

Session #3 Translation, 1/2/2022

Instead of scheduled session: students will attend Natalie Rothman's lecture on previous evening, and at least one session of PIMO translation workshop during the same day as the scheduled seminar. Details to follow.

Readings:

--Rothman, *Dragoman Renaissance: Diplomatic Interpreters and the Routes of Orientalism* (Cornell, 2021), pages TBD

Session #4: Captives and Slavery, 08/02/2022

Research Presentation by Emanuel Buttegieg, University of Malta

Readings

--Leslie Pierce, *A Spectrum of Unfreedom: Captives and Slaves in the Ottoman Empire* (CEU Press, 2021), Chapter one: An Overview of Ottoman Slavery

--Stefan Hans on 'Hair, emotions and slavery in the early modern Mediterranean' *History Workshop Journal*.87/1 (2019), 160–187.

--Charles Wilkins, "Slavery and Household Formation in Ottoman Aleppo, 1640– 1700." *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient* 56 (3): 345– 91

Session #5: Commerce and the Law, 15/02/2022

Research Presentation by Francisco Apellaniz, Università' l'Orientale di Napoli

Readings:

--Francisco Apellániz, Breaching the Bronze Wall: Franks at Mamluk and Ottoman Courts and Markets. (Leiden: Brill, 2020), Chapter 4, especially 206-234.

--Timur Kuran, "The Islamic Commercial Crisis: Institutional Roots of Economic Underdevelopment in the Middle East." *Journal of Economic History* 63, no. 2 (2003): 414–446.

--Joshua White, "Litigating Disputes over Ships and Cargo in Early Modern Ottoman Courts," *Quaderni Storici* 51/3 (2016): 701-725.

Session #6: Mobility and Diplomacy, 22/02/2022 11:00-14:00

Research Presentation by Mercan Özden, Villa I Tatti

Readings:

--Mercan, Özden, "A diplomacy woven with textiles: Medici-Ottoman relations during the late Renaissance," *Mediterranean Historical Review* 35 (2020), 169-188.

--Tobias Graf, *The Sultan's Renegades: Christian European Converts to Islam and the Making of the Ottoman Elite 1575-1610* (Oxford, 2017), "Chapter 5: Mobilizing Trans-Imperial Ties," pp.164-206.

--Hathaway, Ian "Layers of Protection: Safe-Conduct Practices and Diplomacy in the Sixteenth-Century Mediterranean," (unpublished article, to be distributed)

Session #7: Absences, 01/03/2022

Research Presentation by Prof. Catarina Bori, Università di Bologna

Readings:

--C. Bori C. "Conclusive or clue? Reading unexpected silences in our sources (Joseph Schacht; Marc Bloch)" in: *La Rivista degli Studi Orientali* 2022 (forthcoming).

--Jason Welle, "Two Friars Who Went Among the Muslims and the Realms of their Memory: Francis of Assisi and Anselm Turmeda / 'Abdullāh al-Tarjumān", *The Muslim World* 107/ 3 (2017), only pp. 572-575.