

The Making and Unmaking of Identities in the Early Modern Mediterranean

12-13 May 2022

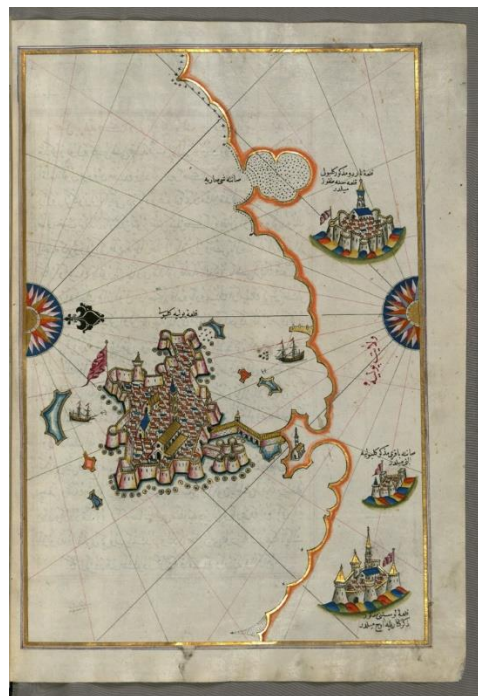
Sala Emeroteca, Badia Fiesolana - European University Institute (Florence, IT) & on Zoom (hybrid format)

Organizers: Duygu Yıldırım (EUI, MWF) and Tommaso Stefini (EUI, MWF)

Event organized by the Department of History and Civilisation with the contribution of “Decentering Eurocentrism” Interdisciplinary Research Cluster and the Max Weber Programme.

Abstract

When and how did identity matter in the early modern Mediterranean? How were they created and dissolved? In the past twenty years, historiography has defined the early modern Mediterranean as a region in flux where categories of belonging and classification were continuously created, contested, and remade according to political, economical, and social circumstances. This workshop questions the trend of seeing the Mediterranean merely as a space of coexistence and fluidity and aims to foster new insights and methodological approaches to the historical studies on the early modern Mediterranean.



Recent scholarship has reconceptualized the Mediterranean as a “shared world” and challenged long-time narratives based on fixed and binary national, cultural, and religious boundaries within the region. For example, in contrast to the seemingly fixed institutional and legal identities, scholars have discussed the fluidity of individual identities on the ground, from those of religious converts, to long-distance merchants and political elites. However, this new scholarship also tends to foster the image of the Mediterranean as an exceptional context defined by notions of hybridity and fluidity. Using “identity” as a methodological framework, this workshop builds on these discussions and seeks a middle ground between the two narratives. When and how did people across the Mediterranean defend their identitarian boundaries? When did showing/claiming an identity become a necessity? When did people lose their identity? We anticipate new insights from reconsidering these terms and demanding attention to the concepts of difference and diversity in different political and religious groups.

PROGRAMME

Thursday, 12 May 2022

14:00 - 14:30 Welcoming and Introduction

14:30 - 16:00 Communal Identities

Chair: Giorgio Riello (EUI)

- **Hasan Çolak (TOBB)**, Audience as a Forum for Identity: Ottoman Culture as Complementary to Greek and European Cultures in Adamantios Korais' Identity
- **Elsa Costa (Duke)**, The Economic Debate Over the Expulsion of the Moriscos: Spanish Identity and Population Anxiety in the Early Arbitrists
- **Richard Calis (Cambridge)**, Being Lutheran in the Early Modern Mediterranean: A Forgotten Chapter in the History of Mediterranean Identity Formation

16:00 - 16:30 Break

16:30 - 18:00 Bodies and Sexualities

Chair: Lauren Kassell (EUI)

- **Alexandra Brown-Hejazi (Stanford)**, Teresiana Sampsonia Sherley: The Shifting Identity of a Circassian-Roman Ambassadors
- **Achille Marotta (Bologna)**, Islam, Sodomy, and Social Pollution: Homosexual Relations between Enslaved Muslims and Free Christians in 18th Century Genoa
- **Zeynep Tezer (Chicago)**, Meryem with the Sailor's Cap on the Run: Female Crime in the Early Modern Ottoman Empire as a Subversive Identity Statement

Friday, 13 May 2022

09:30 - 10:00 Opening informal gathering

10:00 - 12:00 Identities across Empires

Chair: Giancarlo Casale (EUI)

- **Tyler Kynn (Memphis)**, Rumis of Arabia: The Categorization of Difference and Rumi Identity in the Early Modern Hijaz
- **Ronnie Agassi Cohen (Jerusalem)**, The Persian Book of Kings and the Development of Ottoman Imperial Cultural Identity
- **Wayne Bowen (Central Florida)**, From Habsburg Catholics into Bourbon Spaniards: The Spanish Monarchy and the Search for an Ottoman Alliance
- **Wouter Kreuze (Cork)**, Communicating Conflict: Expressing Identity in Early-Modern Newsletters

12:00 - 13:30 Lunch

13:30 - 15:00 Brokers of Identities

Chair: Brian Brege (Syracuse)

- **Kathryn Taylor (Chattanooga)**, The Meanings of Mobility in Seventeenth-Century Venice
- **Naz Defne Kut (Koç)**, Between the Sublime Porte and the Venetian State: Dragomans in Ottoman Constantinople
- **Umberto Signori (Haifa)**, The Life and Stories of Francesco Luppazzoli: An Italian Catholic in the Ottoman Mediterranean During the Early Modern Period

15:00 - 15:30 Break

15:30 - 17:00 Material Identities

Chair: Mackenzie Cooley (Hamilton)

- **Emin Lelić (Salisbury)**, Identity and Environmental Determinism in the Early Modern Mediterranean World
- **Joana Balsa de Pinho (Lisbon)**, The Confrarias da Misericórdia [Confraternities of Mercy]: Art and Institution Identity in Portugal at the Early Modern Age
- **Javier Poveda (Barcelona)**, Eugenio de Santacruz y Espejo and the Failure to Build a Spanish Natural Philosophy during the Eighteenth Century

17:15 - 17:45 Round Table Discussion