

## Schedule

### Thursday 24 November

09.00 Registration

09.30 Welcome

Vera Costantini & LHF Chair,  
Quentin Compton-Bishop

09.45 Philip Mansel, *Venice and the Levant*

11.00 Coffee break

11.30 Francisco Apellániz, *Venetians in the  
Mamluk sultanate: Merchants and their Notaries*

12.30 Lunch break

14.00 Welcome

14.05 Book presentation: Luis Miguel Selvelli,  
(co-editor), *Smyrna and Italy. Communities,  
relations and institutions of a Levantine city*

14.30 Didem İşler, *The church of Agia Fotini in  
Smyrna in the documents of the State Archives of  
Venice*

15.00 Tea/coffee

15.30 Tommaso Stefani, *Resilience and Change:  
Venetian merchants in Istanbul after the loss of  
Cyprus (1573-1645)*

16.30 Vera Costantini, *Venetian interests in the  
Ottoman Balkans*

18.00 Reception (separate charge £30/35€) -  
wine and *cicchetti*

### Friday 25 November

10.00 Campo San Bartolomeo

**Tour of Venetian-Levantine sites of interest**  
with Marialaura Bidorini (for conference  
participants only). Registration necessary

12.00 Lunch - own arrangements

The event to be in English

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Booking link to follow  
<https://1st-lhf-venice-event.eventbrite.co.uk/>

General enquiries  
[contact@levantineheritage.com](mailto:contact@levantineheritage.com)



Ca' Foscari  
University  
of Venice

Department of Asian  
and North African Studies



AMICIZIA - ITALIA TURCHIA



Detail from Carpaccio, *La consecrazione dei diaconi da parte di san Pietro* [The consecration of deacons by St. Peter], 1511 - Gemäldegalerie, Berlin

1st Levantine Heritage Foundation  
meeting in Venice, Italy

# Venice, Italians and the Ottoman Levant

24, 25 November 2022  
Aula Mario Baratto, Ca' Foscari  
University of Venice - Italy



**Philip  
Mansel**

Philip Mansel FRHS is a historian of France and the Middle East, particularly interested in the Levant. His books include *Constantinople: City of the World's Desire* (1995), *Paris between Empires* (2001) and *Levant: Splendour and Catastrophe on the Mediterranean* (2010), the first history in English of Smyrna, Alexandria and Beirut since 1600. One of its themes is how Muslims, Christians and Jews have lived together in cities. He has lived in Paris, Istanbul and Beirut. His most recent books are *Aleppo: the Rise and Fall of Syria's Great Merchant City* (rev. ed. 2017) and *King of the World: the Life of Louis XIV* (2019). Both have been translated into Italian.

For further information see

<http://www.philipmansel.com/>



**Vera  
Costantini**

PhD in Ottoman History by EHESS Paris, she has worked on the Ottoman conquest of Venetian Cyprus (*Il sultano e l'isola contesa. Cipro tra eredità veneziana e potere ottomano*, 2009). From 2004 to 2020 Assistant Professor of Turkish Language and Literature at the "Ca' Foscari" University of Venice, she was Associate Research Fellow at Columbia University in 2011 with a project on the history of the *Scala di Spalato* (17th century). Currently Associate Professor at "Ca' Foscari", she is interested in the history of the Mediterranean from Ottoman and Venetian sources and passionately devoted to defending the legacy of Ottoman Studies in Italy. Co-founder and Director of the *Associazione di Amicizia Italia-Turchia*.



**Luis Miguel  
Selvelli**

Luis Miguel Selvelli is the descendant of three families (Pussich, Selvelli, Seminati) that left a mark on late Ottoman culture, especially in Istanbul. He is the author of *Antenati a Costantinopoli. Esuli Italiani negli anni del riformismo ottomano 1828-1878* (Il Poligrafo, 2022), and the co-editor (with Francesco Pongiluppi) of *Smirne e l'Italia. Comunità, relazioni e istituzioni di una città levantina* (ETP Books, 2022). He is currently working on a new book dealing with the lives of his Levantine ancestors in the crucial years of the early 20th century.



**Francisco  
Apellànz**

A Ph.D. by the European University Institute (2006), I have taught Islamic and Ottoman History at the Université Aix-Marseille and am currently at the Orientale in Naples. My last monograph (<https://brill.com/view/title/39184>) considers legal attitudes towards the Venetians and other Franks adopted by late medieval Islamic societies and the emergence of new ones under the Ottomans. It is entitled 'Breaching the Bronze Wall: Franks at Mamluk and Ottoman Courts and Markets'. My previous work on the Venetians notaries of Alexandria and Damascus considered the intricacies of cultural and commercial exchanges between Mediterranean Europe and the Middle East, through a series of topics derived from my interest in identity manipulation, mixed networks, and legal relations. I am the author of *Pouvoir et finance en Méditerranée pré-moderne : le deuxième Etat mamelouk et le commerce des épices (1389-1517)* (Barcelona 2009).



**Tommaso  
Stefini**

Tommaso Stefini is a social and economic historian of the early modern Ottoman Empire and the Mediterranean. His research focuses on European/Ottoman diplomatic and commercial relations, comparative history of European and Islamic empires and legal and economic institutions, and interreligious relations during the early modern period. He holds a BA in Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures from Ca' Foscari University of Venice, a MA in Ottoman history from Bogazici University (Istanbul, Turkey), and PhD in history from Yale University (2021). His doctoral dissertation "Commerce and Justice: Ottoman and Venetian Courts in Istanbul during the Seventeenth Century" was awarded the 2022 Reinerman Prize by the Society for Italian Historical Studies for the best unpublished manuscript in Italian history. His research has appeared in Italian, Turkish, and European history journals.



**Didem  
İşler**

Didem İşler was born in 1979 in Bursa (Turkey). She completed her master program with a thesis on "*Architectural Repairs in Documents of the Ottoman State Archives*" at Ankara University. She is currently working at the same university on her PhD research examining "*Venetian-Ottoman architectural interactions*", with a special focus on the State Archives of Venice. The results of her research have been presented as speeches at symposia or published as articles in Turkish and in Italian.