



1st joint Levantine Heritage Foundation / Medici Archive Project
(www.medicis.org) Zoom lecture gathering with guest speaker
Özden Mercan
30 September 2021, 5pm (UK time) / 6pm (CET)



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PROJECT

From Constantinople to Livorno: Merchants, Migration, and Transfer of Technologies

In this talk, I will focus on the merchants and artisans who migrated from the Ottoman Empire to the Tuscan free ports Livorno and Pisa in the late sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. During this period, the Grand Duchy of Tuscany went to a great effort to attract merchants and artisans from various places including the Ottoman Empire by offering extensive privileges to come, settle and trade in the Tuscan ports. Based on my current findings in the archival documents, I will demonstrate how some individuals/groups acting in the Ottoman Empire benefited from the conditions and settled in these ports. I will also discuss the role of these migrants in the flow of trade, in the diffusion of information and technical know-how with regards to clothing fashions and new technologies in textile production between Tuscany and the Ottoman Empire.

Booking essential: <https://ozden-mercan-presentation.eventbrite.co.uk>



Vedute del Porto di Livorno, 18th c. - Museo dell'Opificio delle Pietre Dure, Florence



Özden Mercan received her PhD from the European University Institute in 2017. She held positions as Instructor in History at Bilkent University (2016-2018) and TÜBİTAK Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the European University Institute (2018-2019). In 2019-20 she was a fellow at the Italian Academy for Advanced Studies at Columbia University. This academic year she is fellow at I Tatti The Harvard University Center For Italian Renaissance Studies in Florence. Among her recent publications are “Medici-Ottoman Diplomatic Relations (1574-1578): What Went Wrong?” in *The Grand Ducal Medici and the Levant*, eds. M. Caroscio and M. Arfaioli, (Brepols, 2016); “A Struggle for Survival: Genoese Diplomacy with the Sublime Porte in the Face of Spanish and French Opposition,” *Journal of Early Modern History* 23, no. 6 (2019): 542-565; “A diplomacy woven with textiles: Medici-Ottoman relations during the late Renaissance,” *Mediterranean Historical Review*, 35:2 (2020): 169-188.

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