Society for the Medieval Mediterranean Conference, 8-10 July at Churchill College, Cambridge

Theme: Trade, Travel and Transmission in the Medieval Mediterranean

Conference Schedule

Monday 8th July

8.30-9.30 Registration

9.30 – 10.35: Welcome address and Keynote speech: Prof. David Abulafia (University of Cambridge), title: THALASSA, THALASSA: THALASSOCRACIES ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL

10.35 – 10.55 – Break for tea/coffee

10.55-12.05: Session one - Immigrant Trading Communities

10.55-11.15: Italian Traders in Mamluk Ports and Cities – Prof. Yaacov Lev (Bar Ilan University)

11.15-11.35: ‘We want you to support this nice Christian’: Jewish traders in the 15th-century Mediterranean – Dr Esther-Miriam Wagner (University of Cambridge)

11.35-11.55: “The Treason Trial of Pedro de Barreria: Xenophobia and Immigrant Assimilation in Fifteenth-Century Marseille” – Nathan Melson (Fordham University)

11.55-12.05: Questions

12.05-12.10: short break

12.10 – 1.20: Session two - Italian Trade and Traders

12.10-12.30: Alum production in late medieval period: new data for a Mediterranean approach - Dr. D. Boisseuil (University of Tours), Dr. Luisa Dallai (University of Siena), Dr Enrico Basso (University of Torino), Dr Ivana Ait (University of Rome, Sapienza)

12.30-12.50: Amalfi and the Revival of Trade in the Central and Eastern Mediterranean, 9th – 11th centuries – Prof. Liliana Simeonova (Bulgarian Academy of Sciences)

12.50-1.10: The Influence of Papal Trade Licences on Cross-Cultural Trade in the Late Medieval Mediterranean – Dr Mike Carr (British School at Rome)

1.10-1.20: Questions

1.20-14.00: Lunch (finger buffet provided)

14.00-15.10: Session three - Transmission of the concept of holy war and warriors

14.00-14.20: Enemy for real, enemy for fiction: Umur Pasha Aydin-oghlu and his image in late Medieval Italian chronicles and humanist writings – Dr Cristian Caselli (Georg-August Universität, Göttingen)
14.20-14.40: The jihad chapter from Tuhfat al-Muluk: A neglected source for the Counter-Cruseade in the early 12th century – Dr Alex Mallett (Institute of Ismaili Studies, London)

14.40-15.00: Space, Time and Religion in the Alexandrie en Orient – Prof. David Rollo (University of Southern California)

15.00-15.10: Questions

15.10-15.30: tea /coffee break

15.30-16.40: Session four - Transmission of Mediterranean Jewish Perspectives

15.30-15.50: From Tyre (Zor) to Venice: a History of a Founding Myth – Prof. Abraham Melamed (Univ of Haifa)

15.50 – 16.10: Takkanot Candia as a Work of Jewish Legal Literature and an Historical Source - Martin Borýsek (University of Cambridge)

16.10-16.30: Non-existent substance: A phantom of the Jewish community in the Visigothic Spain – Luibov Chernin (Hebrew University, Jerusalem)

16.30-16.40: Questions

16.45 – 18.30: AGM of Society for the Medieval Mediterranean

19.00 – 20.00: Taylor &Francis drinks reception

Tuesday 9th July (parallel sessions commence)

9.00-10.10 - Session five: Transmission of concepts through texts

9.00-9.20: After the defeat: the survival of notarial Arab affidavits in Christian Granada – Prof. Maria Dolores Rodríguez-Gómez (University of Granada)


10.00-10.10: Questions

9.00-10.10: Session six - Transmission of Gifts

9.00-9.20: Aragonese Tiles, Burgundian Diplomacy, and the Menace of the Ottomans. Material Culture and Chivalric Gift-Exchange Networks in Fifteenth-Century Europe – Dr Wim De Clercq (Ghent University and Dr Jan Dumolyn (Ghent University)

9.20-9.40: More than a Messenger: Embodied Expertise in Mantuan and Ottoman Envoys in the 1490s – Dr Antonia Gatward Cevizli (Sotheby’s Institute of Art)
9.40-10.00: Exotics from the South and from the North. Animal gifts and zoological knowledge – Dr Theirry Buquet (French Institute of the Near East, Beirut)

10.00-10.30: Coffee / tea break

10.30-11.40: Session seven - Transmission of Latin or Greek Texts

10.30-10.50: The Book of the Apple: A pseudo-epigraphic deathbed confession of Aristotle criss-crossing the Western Mediterranean - Dr. Peter Sh. Lehnardt, Ben-Gurion (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer Sheva)

10.50-11.10: Euclidean Diagrams Travel through Mediterranean Lands – Dr Gregg De Young (The American University in Cairo)

11.10-11.30: Routes and Kingdoms: The Book of Roger in Context – Katherine Jacka (University of New South Wales, Sydney)

11.30-11.40: Questions

10.30-11.40: Session eight - Ships, Harbours and Sea Travel

10.30 – 10.50: Sailing in the Mediterranean: Ships and Boats in the Coptic and Arabic Lexikon from Justinian to the ‘Abbasids – Dr Myriam Wissa (SOAS, University of London)

10.50-11.10: Vikings in the Mediterranean – Dr Ann Christys (Independent Scholar)

11.10-11.30: Territoriality on the Mediterranean: Piracy, Trade and the Taifa of Denia – Dr Travis Bruce (Wichita State University)

11.30-11.40: Questions

11.40 – 11.50: Short break

11.50-13.00: Session nine - Transmission of scientific knowledge

11.50 – 12.10: The Introduction and Distribution of "Arabic" Medicinal Substances after the Arab Conquest and their Impact on Medieval Mediterranean Medicine and Pharmacology - Prof. Zohar Amar (Bar Ilan University), Prof. Efraim Lev (University of Haifa)

12.10- 12.30: Out of the Shadows: The Science of Childrearing from the Greco-Roman Tradition of “Bryson” to Muslim Intellectuals of the Long Late Antiquity – Alzahrra Ahmed (New York University)


12.50 – 13.00: Questions
11.50 – 13.00: Session ten - Trade and transmission of worked stone

11.50 – 12.10: The “Marzamemi Church Wreck” Revisited: New Insights into the Study of Byzantine Marble Trade – Dr Elena Flavia Castagnino Berlinghieri (Soprintendenza ai Beni Culturali di Siracusa, Sicily) & Dr Andrea Paribeni (University of Urbino)

12.10 – 12.30: Stone, Chisels and Sails. The ‘Geography’ of Trecento Sculpture in the Adriatic Basin – Dr Lucca Palozzi (University of Edinburgh)

12.30 – 12.50: A Marble Spolia Hoard excavated at Crusader Acre – Dr Edna J. Stern (Israel Antiquities Authority)


13.10 – 13.20: Questions

13.20 – 14.00: Lunch (finger buffet provided)

14.00 – 14.10: Session eleven - Travelogues and travel-related literature

14.00 – 14.20: “He has set a limit to the sea”: Islamic Practices and Orisons for Salvation from the Perils of Sea in the Medieval Mediterranean – Dr Jalal abd Alghani (University of Haifa)

14.20 – 14.40: Failed Pilgrim: Lietbertus of Cambrai and the religious travel in the eastern Mediterranean – Dr Courtney Luckhardt (University of Memphis)

14.40 – 15.00: Tourism in religious scenery – Andrew Libadenos’ journey to Egypt and the Holy Land – Annika Asp-Talwar (University of Birmingham)

15.00-15.10: Questions

14.00 – 15.10: Session twelve - Trade and Transmission in ceramics

14.00-14.20: Commerce, Trade and Migration in Islamic Palermo: Recent Archaeological Exploration – Dr Fabiola Ardizzone (University of Palermo) & Dr V. Sacco (University of Paris – University of Messina)

14.20 – 14.40: “Late medieval glazed pottery in the Islamic and Christian areas in the Iberian Peninsula. Production, technological transfer and trade”- Dr Alberto Garcia Porras (University of Granada)

14.40 – 15.00: Mediterranean influences on the development of Ottoman Miletus ware in the 15th century – Prof. Filiz Yenişehirlioğlu (Başkent University)

15.00-15.10: Questions

15.10 – 15.30: Tea / coffee break
15.30 – 16.40: Session thirteen - Travel and Transmission in the Balkans

15.30 – 15.50: Struggling for Dominion: Cultural Diversities and Artistic Interaction in Late Medieval Albania – Dr Anna Christidou (Central European University, Budapest)

15.50 – 16.10: The ‘Life of Queen Helen’: Women and Diplomacy in the Balkans in the 13th-14th centuries – Alexandra Vukovic (University of Cambridge)


16.30 – 16.40 – Questions

15.30 – 16.40: Session fourteen - Trade and transmission in textiles


15.50 – 16.10: Textile Archives? Comparing the Functions of Inscribed Textiles from Norman Sicily and Fatimid Egypt – Isabelle Dolezalek (Freie Universität, Berlin)

16.10 – 16.30: “Good fortune and prosperity”: The transformations of a well-wishing Arabic inscription from Fatimid Egypt to Christian Castille – Dr Abigail Krasner Balbale (Bard Graduate Center, New York)

16.30 – 16.40 - Questions

19.30-22.30: Gala dinner

Wednesday 10th July (parallel sessions continue)

9.00-10.00: Key note address: Prof. Carole Hillenbrand (University of Edinburgh), title: THE LITERATURE OF TRAVEL IN THE MEDIEVAL MUSLIM WORLD

10.00-10.10: short break

10.10 – 11.20: Session fifteen: Travel in Bilād al-Shām

10.10-10.30: ‘Beseech God Almighty on this land, and I will bear witness for you’ Christians, Muslims, and the Generation of Sacred Topography in Medieval Syria – Dr Stephanie Mulder (The University of Texas at Austin)

10.30-10.50: A Karaite-Jewish Hajji? Moses ben Samuel of Damascus (mid-14th c. kātib / poet) and the Hebrew travel account of his pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina – Dr Joachim Yeshaya (Goethe University, Frankfurt)

10.50-11.10: “Accepting All Comers: Road Caravanserais Functions and Facilities in Medieval Bilād al-Šām (XII-XVI c.)” – Dr Cinzia Tavernari (Aga Khan Program, MIT)

11.10-11.20: Questions
10.10-11.20: Session sixteen - The Transmission of Crusader Culture

10.10-10.30: A Reassessment of Frankish Settlement Patterns in the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem: 493-583 A.H./1099-1187 A.D. – Bogdan C. Smarandache (University of Toronto)

10.30-10.50: Urban Landscape in 12th century Jerusalem – patterns of development, municipal administration and cultural exchange – Anna Gutgarts-Weinberger (Hebrew University, Jerusalem)

10.50-11.10: Crusader-Period Acre in the light of Archaeological Remains – Eliezer Stern (Israel Antiquities Authority)

11.10-11.20: Questions

11.20-11.40: Coffee / tea

11.40-12.50: Session seventeen - Venice and Venetians: transmission and travel

11.40-12.00: The Venetian Maritime Transport Networks with Beirut during the 14th and 15th century – Dr Pierre Moukarzel (Lebanese University)

12.00-12.20: “Persons Worthy of Trust”: Venetian Informants at the End of the Fifteenth Century – Dr N. Zeynep Yelçe (Sabancı University, Istanbul)


12.40 – 13.00: The Atlas of Lyon – Laura De Marchi (University of Padova)

13.00 – 13.10 - Questions

11.40-12.50: Session eighteen - Travelling Crusaders

11.40-12.00: Writing Noble Conduct from Cyprus: The Diffusion of the Quatre âges de l’homme Across the Medieval Mediterranean – Christopher Rose (Fordham University)

12.00-12.20: The Genoese and the Hospitallers of Rhodes in the 15th century – Dr Christopher Wright (Royal Holloway, University of London)

12.20-12.40: Mercenaries and Diplomatic Relation, The Career of the Templar Renegade Bernal de Fuentes as Catalan Alcade in the Tunis Emirate – Alessandro Angelucci (San Marino University)

12.40-12.50: Questions

13.00 - 13.50: Lunch (finger buffet provided)

13.50 – 15.00: Session nineteen – East meets West: Transmission in the Eastern Mediterranean from the 14th to 16th centuries.

14.10-14.30: Medieval Anatolia is Elsewhere: Mapping Cultural Encounters and Impasses of Architectural Historiography – Dr Suna Cagaptay (Bahcesehir University / Aga Khan Program, MIT)

14.30-14.50: Souvenir or Stereotype? Ottoman Costume Albums as Records of Sixteenth-Century Travel in the Orient – Dr William Kynan-Wilson (University of Cambridge)

14.50-15.00: Questions and close

13.50 – 15.00: Session twenty - Travel and Transmission of Religious Artefacts

13.50-14.10: Relics of St. Thecla (the Elder) and their movement between Armenia and Tarragona – Dr Rachel Goshgarian (Lafayette College, Pennsylvania)


14.30-14.50: Objects, Action and Places: Hedwig Beakers from Norman Sicily to the Holy Roman Empire – Dr Scott D. Stull (State University of New York at Cortland)

14.50-15.00: Questions and close