

International Conference

The Mediterranean *Other* The *other* Mediterranean

Subaltern Perceptions, Interpretations and Representations
March 27-29, 2014



GEFÖRDERT VOM

4th International Conference
Centre for Mediterranean Studies, Ruhr-University Bochum
March 27-29, 2014

The Mediterranean *Other* – The *other* Mediterranean
Subaltern Perceptions, Interpretations and Representations

While academic, political and public discourses on the Mediterranean are still dominated by hegemonic perspectives which eclipse other perceptions, interpretations and representations, the focus of this conference will be on minorities and diaspora communities in the Mediterranean. For (even positively connoted) persistent images and narratives of the Mediterranean (“the cradle of religion”, “the cradle of civilisation”) often neglect that it was the coexistence of such various communities within heterogeneous societies which enabled (and carried) these developments. The conference thus seeks both to analyse and question current political developments, which label the Mediterranean in various ways as “the *other*”, as well as to devote particular attention to non-nation-state and migrant communities’ perspectives on the Mediterranean.

- What pictures of the sea and the surrounding lands do we get when we leave aside mainstream perspectives and look for subaltern and anti-hegemonic perceptions, interpretations and representations? How are conceptions of space structured in such perceptions, how are its boundaries defined?
- How did migratory societies, trans-national groups and diaspora communities imagine, form and change the Mediterranean? What (narrations and perceptions of) rupture and transformations can be identified and how do these relate to established conceptions?
- How did slaves and refugees, merchants and those who crossed the cultural, economic and religious boundaries contribute to the historical development of the region? Where and how can we still find traces of their traditions?
- How are subaltern perspectives portrayed in film, art and literature? What role do the internet and social networks play?

The conference aims to bring together experts of migration and diaspora research, Mediterranean studies as well as researchers from religious studies, history, and the political and social sciences. We wish to cast a critical view on the Mediterranean in the past and present with particular emphasis on alternative visions.

Thursday, March 27

- 13.00** **Registration**
- 14.00 – 14.15** **Opening**
- 14.15 – 15.00** **Keynote**
Paul A. Silverstein (Portland OR)
Thinking through diaspora. Anthropologies of mobility across the Mediterranean
- 15.00 – 15.30* *Coffee Break*

Panel 1: Othering the Mediterranean - The Construction of the Mediterranean Other

Chairs: **Pradeep Chakkarath (Bochum) / Dieter Haller (Bochum)**

- 15.30 – 16.15** **Christopher Schliephake (Augsburg)**
Ithaca Revisited. Othering and the imperialist imagination in Homer's *Odyssey*
- 16.15 – 17.00** **Felix Wiedemann (Berlin)**
Narrating the History of the Other(s). The Near East in European
historiographical accounts of the 19th and 20th centuries
- 17.00 – 17.30* *Coffee Break*
- 17.30 – 18.15** **Anna G. Piotrowska (Kraków)**
Zingarella or How Mediterranean and Gypsy Merged. The story of a certain
musical genre
- 18.15 – 19.00** **Paolo Giaccaria (Turin)**
Mediterraneanism(s) at Work
- 20.00* *Dinner for invited speakers*

Friday, March 28

Panel 2: Cross-Mediterranean Perspectives

Chairs: **Nikolas Jaspert (Heidelberg) / Alexandra Cuffel (Bochum)**

- 09.15 – 10.00** **Julia Blandfort (Regensburg)**
Moving Stories. Roma and the oral tradition of a transnational people
- 10.00 – 10.45** **Anna Tozzi Di Marco (Padua)**
The Mediterranean Cult of the Seven Sleepers. A counter-narrative vs. official Islamic representation
- 10.45 – 11.15* *Coffee Break*
- 11.15 – 12.00** **Moti Benmelech (Gush Etzion)**
Image, Imagination, and Identity. The Jews and the Ten Lost Tribes in early modern Mediterranean
- 12.00 – 12.45** **Cristina Balma-Tivola (Turin)**
Routes, Migrations, Stories. Counter-cultural discourses from multicultural theatre in Italy
- 12.45 – 14.00* *Lunch Break*

Panel 3: Mediterranean Models of Belonging and Integration

Chair: **Volkhard Krech (Bochum)**

- 14.00 – 14.45** **Ferdaouss Adda (Bochum)**
A Never-Ending Struggle? Imazighen today: between acceptance and negation
- 14.45 – 15.30** **Christoph K. Neumann (Munich)**
An Ottoman Template for Non-Dominant Communities in the Eastern Mediterranean?
- 15.30 – 16.00* *Coffee Break*
- 16.00 – 17.45** **Hratch Tchilingirian (Oxford)**
Native and Diasporic. Armenians in the Mediterranean
- 17.00* *Refreshment*

19.30 *Public Panel Discussion, Museum Bochum*
„Flüchtlinge in/und Europa: Grenzfragen des Mittelmeers als entgrenzende Fragen“ [in German]
u.a. mit **Micha Brumlik** (Erziehungswissenschaftler/Publizist), **Yvonne Rieker** (Historikerin), **Axel Schäfer** (MdB), **Tilman Zülch** (Gesellschaft für bedrohte Völker)

Saturday, March 29

Panel 4: Mediterranean Counter-Narratives

Chair: **Ilse Lenz (Bochum)**

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| 09.15 – 10.00 | Sebastian Elsässer (Kiel)
Coptic Counter-Narratives to Muslim-Dominated Nationalism in Egypt |
| 10.00 – 10.45 | Shlomo Lotan (Ramat Gan)
Changing Attitudes toward the Muslims in the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem. The Crusaders and their varying images of the local population in the eastern Mediterranean basin |
| <i>10.45 – 11.15</i> | <i>Coffee Break</i> |
| 11.15 – 12.00 | Iain Chambers (Naples)
Migrations, Modernities, Musics and a Minor Mediterranean |
| <i>12.00 – 12.45</i> | <i>Refreshment</i> |
| 12.45 – 13.15 | Keynote
Kristin Platt (Bochum)
Closing Preferences. The idea of "identity" in the Mediterranean |
| 13.15 – 14.00 | Final Discussion |