Course Description

This paper challenges entrenched historiographical notions and intellectual hierarchies, allowing students to investigate historiographical debates by asking whether we can write a history of the idea of Europe from the Mediterranean shores. We will focus on how the Mediterranean has gradually been marginalized, almost literally, to forge a vision of Europe as its Other. And, perhaps, even more interesting how Europe has been considered almost the inevitable outcome of the confusion of peoples that the Mediterranean had brought together: as if the Mediterranean was the logical as much as the chronological origin of Europe, the cradle of European civilization but, crucially, also as the place where Europe has defined itself in opposition to the East and the South. By looking at nineteenth-century Euro Mediterranean history from a transnational perspective this paper challenges established historiographical notions. Mediterranean nationalisms show that the nation does not appear incompatible with political systems other than those modelled upon the nation-state, in particular with empires, offering a new perspective on the nineteenth-century paradigm of the rise of the nation-state. The classical definition of the nineteenth century as the age of revolutions, is reshaped proposing different chronologies and characteristic features, including anti-imperial and anti-colonial uprisings, military pronunciamientos, peasants’ rebellions and civil wars, all events in which external pressures and foreign interventions interacted with internal social and political dynamics.

Although recent years have seen a flurry of exciting works in the field of Mediterranean history that have revisited in new and creative ways the Mediterranean as a category of historical analysis,
remarkably, and rather surprisingly, the relationship between ideas of Europe and images of the Mediterranean has been rather neglected by modern scholars and, indeed, in most accounts of the history of the European idea such a theme is conspicuously absent. Historiography has often depicted Euro Mediterranean peripheries as derivative, backward or exceptional and resulting in any case from a process of ‘partial’ or ‘incomplete’ cultural westernization or modernization. Rather, scholars applying a transnational approach have demonstrated the capacity of local intellectuals to use foreign ideas for their own purposes, highlighting the ‘amalgamation’ with local political and cultural traditions. One of the main aims of this paper is to shed new light on the ways in which images and ideas of the Mediterranean Sea and its many, multifarious, and complex worlds, have affected discourses about and representations of Europe, especially with reference to its southern, Mediterranean shores.

In recent years, notions of ‘space’ have become increasingly important to the practice of historians. This revived interest in conceptions of space led historians to arenas that were larger than nations, unconfined by the political boundaries of states, looking at the transnational exchanges and circulations. Spatial metaphors are now used by scholars referring to ‘migrations’ or ‘diasporas’, engaging with questions of space and place. However, this growing emphasis also raises a number of conceptual issues on how historians might think space. From the static image pioneered by Fernand Braudel (1949), questioned by the ‘new Thalassology’, to the transnational approach – which challenges the boundaries posited between East and West, North and South, and reconstructs interactions, entanglements, and shared experiences – the Mediterranean has becoming one of the most interesting perspective from which re-define intellectual hierarchies, re-design intellectual geographies, and challenge the notions of centre and periphery.

Each week we will discuss primary and secondary texts as well as other sources (such as newspapers, satirical journals, pamphlets, biographies and private correspondence, as well as video, audio and literary sources). Translations will be provided when needed. Each session will draw on select historiographical case-studies focussing on the different Euro-Mediterranean histories. This combination will give students a different angle for the understanding of the history of the idea of Europe and the Mediterranean space.

**Structure of teaching**

Michaelmas: Weekly 2 hours classes (weeks 1 to 8)
Lent: Weekly 2 hours classes (weeks 1 to 4)
Easter: one 2-hour revision class

The classes will integrate lectures and seminar style. Students taking this paper are expected to attend all classes.

4 supervisions per student, singleton or in groups, in Michaelmas or Lent
1-2 revision supervision(s) in Easter for each student, singleton.

Total contact hours: 32

**Maximum students’ capacity: 12**

**Assessment:**

The paper is assessed by a three-hour exam in the Easter term.
READING LIST:

William V. Harris (ed.), *Rethinking the Mediterranean* (Oxford, 2005)


Michael Herzfeld, 'The Horns of the Mediterraneanist dilemma', *American Ethnologist*


David A. Bell, *The First Total War: Napoleon’s Europe and the Birth of Warfare as We Know It* (Boston, 2007)


Ali Yaycioglu, *Partners of the Empire: The Crisis of the Ottoman Order in the Age of Revolutions* (Stanford, 2016).

Juan Cole, *Napoleon’s Egypt; Invading the Middle East* (New York, 2007)

Jean-René Aymes (ed.), *España y la revolución francesa* (Barcelona, 1989).


Román Miguel González, *La pasión revolucionaria: Culturas políticas republicanas y movilización popular en la España del siglo XIX* (Madrid, 2007)

Luciano Guerci, *Istruire nelle verità repubblicane: La letteratura politica per il popolo nell’Italia in Rivoluzione (1796–1799)* (Bologna, 1999),
Marina Caffiero, *La repubblica nella città del papa: Roma 1798* (Rome, 2005),
Elisa Strumia, *Rivoluzionare il bel sesso: Donne e politica nel Triennio repubblicano* (Naples, 2011)
James McDougall, 'A world no longer shared: Losing the droit de cité in nineteenth-century Algiers', *JESHO*, 2017
Ussama Makdisi, *The Culture of Sectarianism: Community, History and Violence in Nineteenth-Century Ottoman Lebanon*, 2000
Jennifer Pitts, *A Turn to Empire: The Rise of Imperial Liberalism in Britain and France* (Princeton, 2005)
Isabelle Grangaud and M'hamed Ouaidi, 'Tout est-il colonial dans le Maghreb?' *L'année du Maghreb*, 2014
Timothy Mitchell, *Colonizing Egypt*, (Berkeley, 1991)
Naor Ben-Yehoyada, *The Mediterranean Incarnate: Region Formation Between Sicily and Tunisia since War World II* (Chicago, 2017)


Albert Hourani, *Arabic Thought in the Liberal Age* (1983)


Reill, D.K. *Nationalists Who Feared the Nation: Adriatic Multi-Nationalism in Habsburg Dalmatia, Trieste, and Venice* (Stanford, 2012), [Introduction, Chapters 1, 4, 5, 6, Conclusion].


Alison Bashford (ed.), *Quarantine: Local and Global Histories,* (London, 2016)

Luc Chantre, *Pèlerinages d'empire: une histoire européenne du pèlerinage à la Mecque,* (Paris, 2018)


Malte Furrmann, Cosmopolitan imperialists and the Ottoman port cities' Cabiers de la méditerranée, 2003

Georgelin, Hervé, La fin de Smyrne: du cosmopolitisme aux nationalisme, Paris, 2005,


Evrydiki Sifneos, 'The end of a cosmopolitan port-city' in Imperial Odessa: Peoples, Spaces, Identities

Edhem Eldem, Daniel Goffman and Bruce Masters (eds), The Ottoman City Between East and West: Aleppo, Izmir, and Istanbul (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999)


Nicolas Vatin and Gilles Veinstein (eds), Insularités ottomanes (Paris-Istanbul: Institut français d'études anatoliennes, 2004)


Leila Fawaz and Christopher Bayly (eds.), Modernity and Culture from the Mediterranean to the Indian Ocean, (New York, 2002)


Andrew Arsan, Interlopers of Empire: The Lebanese Diaspora in French Colonial West Africa (London, 2014)

Akram Khater, Inventing Home: Emigration, Gender, and the Middle Class in Lebanon, 1870-1920, (Berkeley, 2001)

Alison Frank, 'The Children of the Desert and the Laws of the Sea: Austria, Great Britain, the Ottoman Empire, and the Mediterranean Slave Trade in the Nineteenth Century', American Historical Review, 2012


Judith Scheele and James McDougall, Saharan Frontiers: Space and Mobility in Northwest Africa (Bloomington, 2012)

Eve Troutt Powell, A Different Shade of Colonialism: Egypt, Great Britain, and the Mastery of the Sudan, 2003

Mustafa Minawi, The Ottoman Scramble for Africa, (2016)


Stráth, B. (2000) “Multiple Europes: Integration, Identity and Demarcation to the Other”. In Id. (ed.) Europe and the Other as the Other. Bruxelles: Peter Lang, pp. 385-420


Riley, P. (1973) “Rousseau as a Theorist of National and International Federalism”. Publius, 3, pp. 5-17
pp. 89-96