



Accessing the Sea in the Middle Ages

Since the beginning of the 21st century, access has become a much-debated topic. Free access is repeatedly claimed – access to education, to resources, to personal or societal prosperity etc. „Open Access“ is revolutionising the world of publishing in general and academe in particular. Such recent developments make researchers curious to know more about the ways and means in which access was established, controlled and regulated in premodern societies. This question is particularly intriguing when dealing with a space which is generally perceived as open to all: the sea.

This conference will discuss access to the sea in a twofold manner. First, it will focus on types of documents that reveal how accessing the waters was monitored along the Mediterranean shores. The invited speakers therefore not only cover a wide geographical range reaching from the Eastern to the Western Mediterranean, encompassing Byzantine, Muslim and Latin polities. They will also present and discuss a typologically broad spectrum of documents: Insurance licenses, customs registers, tax waivers, merchants' manuals, notarial records, narrative sources etc.

Secondly, by doing so the participants themselves will attempt to access maritime history from an innovative analytical perspective. Thinking and discussing the inherent tension between sharing and curating access, between mobility and stasis might contribute to developing new ways of approaching Mediterranean mobility and connectivity in the Middle Ages. A part of the workshop will therefore be dedicated to presenting and discussing new technical means of mining, collecting, retrieving, reassembling and visualising relevant data with the help of databases.

Organisers:

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ACCESSING THE SEA IN THE MIDDLE AGES:

QUANTITATIVE APPROACHES TO MEDITERRANEAN MOBILITY



**International Workshop
October 30-31, 2024
Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg**

Venue:
Akademie der Wissenschaften
Karlstraße 4, 69117 Heidelberg

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PROGRAMME

Wednesday, October 30

09:30-10:00

Nikolas Jaspert (Heidelberg)
Opening and Introduction

10:00-10:30

Victòria Burguera and Laurin Herberich (Heidelberg)
Accessing Medieval Maritime Predation

Coffee Break

Section I: Quantitative sources for the Study of Maritime Mobility

Chair: Alexandra Sapoznik (London)

11:00-11:45

Giovanni Ceccarelli (Milan)
People moving and moving commodities: insights from insurance sources

11:45-12:30

Tobias Daniels (München)
The Roman customs registers in the Western Mediterranean context

Lunch Break

Section II: Approaching Mobility in the Western Mediterranean

Chair: Roser Salicrú i Lluch (Barcelona)

14:00-14:45

Raúl González Arévalo (Granada)
A sea of sources. The Nasrid Kingdom of Granada and the Genoese navigation: systematization and results

14:45-15:30

David Igual Luis (Albacete)
Sources for measuring port movement: Valencia in the second half of the 15th century

15:30-16:15

Lluís Sales i Favà (London)
Taxes on trade and circulation of commodities in Late Medieval Catalonia: the Lleudes

Coffee Break

16:45-17:30

Enrico Basso (Torino)
A sea of documents: maritime mobility in the sources of the Genoese Archives

17:30-18:15

Angela Orlandi (Firenze)
Mediterranean mobility: Datini's records and their potential

Thursday, October 31

09:00-11:00

Presentation of the databases DMMP, Risky business, and MedEscl

Coffee Break

Section III: Approaching Mobility in the Eastern Mediterranean

Chair: Dominique Valérian (Paris)

11:30-12:15

Damien Coulon (Strasbourg)
Notarial contracts by the thousands: mobility and routes of Catalan merchants to the Levant in the late Middle Ages

12:15-13:00

Frédéric Bauden (Liège)
Maritime predators in Mamluk documentary and narrative sources

Lunch Break

14:00-14:45

Nicholas Coureas (Cyprus)
Notarial deeds from Famagusta concerning maritime associations and partnerships for purchasing cargo shares on board merchant ships, 1296-1310

14:45-15:30

Aristea Gratsea (Rethymno)
Cretan shipping: Insights from Venetian Archives (15th-16th centuries)

Coffee Break

16:00-16:45

Nicolò Villanti (Duisburg-Essen)
Maritime shipping and life at sea: Eastern Adriatic sources (XIV-XV century)

16:45-17:30

Johannes Preiser-Kapeller (Wien)
Sailors to Byzantium. Quantifying and visualising maritime mobility within the medieval Romania

17:30

Closing discussion and end