

Landscapes of slavery, race and health in the early modern global Mediterranean

An MMoR sponsored workshop at King's College London, 30 June 2023

History Department, History Seminar Room, S8.08, Strand Campus



This workshop aims to bring together historians working on slavery/race across the early modern global Mediterranean (extending into the Atlantic) to explore meaningful ways of working towards a more inter-connected and shared research agenda that sets health studies at its centre. The concept of ‘health’ is to be understood in broad terms, including practices and institutions related to healthcare, preservation and prevention of health, healing, medical inspections as well as the production and cross-cultural exchange of medical knowledge.

To provide an ample and diverse perspective as well as generate insightful discussions on sources and approaches, the workshop’s participants are coming together from across Europe, the UK and North America, covering research loci that span from the Canary Islands, Spanish coastal regions and Balearic Islands to Malta, Italian port cities, and the East Adriatic region, including interwoven Ottoman experiences.

Programme

9.00 - 9.30: Coffee and introduction

9.30 - 11.15: Canary Islands

Chair:

Balthasar Fra Molinero, Bates College, Maine: *Black Women and the Spanish Inquisition: Healing Work and Social Control*

Carolyn Schmitz, MMoR, King’s College London: *Insular locality embodied: Female black healing, working and living across the Canary archipelago in the early 18th century.*

Claudia Geremia, Florence/Gran Canaria (virtual): *Fleeing from the islands to Berberia: Comparative aspects of risks and age for the enslaved from the Canary Islands and Sicily (16th-18th century).*

11.15 - 11.30: Coffee

11.30 - 13.15: Italian Peninsula and Ottoman Experiences

Chair:

Lucia Dacome, University of Toronto: *Seizing the Enslaved Body: Captives, Practitioners, and Health in Early Modern Italy.*

Achille Marrotta, University of Bologna: *Slavery, Disability, and Religious Identification in the Republic of Genoa.*

Benedetta Chizzolini, Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich: *Healing Convicts and Slaves of the Galleys: the cases of Livorno and Civitavecchia (16th-18th centuries).*

13.15 - 14.15: Lunch

14.15 - 16.00: Cross-Mediterranean and Adriatic

Chair:

Catherine Rider, University of Exeter: *Enslaved Muslims and 'Magical' Healing in Malta, c.1598-1608*

Marina Inì, University of Cambridge: *Quarantine, Diseased Geographies, and Cross-Cultural Encounters in the Eighteenth-century Mediterranean.*

Darka Bilić, Institute of Art History (IPU), Zagreb: *Adriatic lazarettos and complex mechanics of early modern mobility.*

16.00 - 16.30: Coffee

16.30 - 17.45: Iberian Mediterranean

Chair:

Debra Blumenthal, UC Santa Barbara, US (virtual): *"Hidden" defects? Menstrual disorders and the production of gynecological knowledge in late medieval Mediterranean slave markets.*

Carmel Ferragud, University of Valencia: *Shifting between abuse and specialised medical care: eye surgery on a Turkish slave in Mallorca (1417).*

17.45 - 18.00: Round up discussion.

18.30: Dinner at Boulevard Brasserie, Covent Garden