

Since Greco-Roman times, the Mediterranean has been considered the cradle of “Western” civilization and also the site of an original fault line between a homogenous “West” and an exotic, undervalued “East”—an “other” against which to defend and define the West. This dichotomy seems to be due not only to the emergence and the definition of the West, but also in large part is the product of nationalized, nineteenth-century disciplinarity.

The field of Mediterranean Studies seeks to undo the long-held ideas of the “homogeneity of the West” and the “exoticism of the East.” The Mediterranean Sea does not keep continental landmasses apart, rather, it is a body of water that allows for fluidity and openness, connecting different worlds in a network that has shaped local social, commercial, political, and cultural developments. Whether these encounters and contacts happened in the mode of confrontation (military and/or confessional) or exchange (commercial, artistic, or scientific), it is doubtless that they helped diffuse and transmit ideas, commodities, technologies, and even systems of thought (cultural, religious, artistic, scientific). The cross-cultural, cross-linguistic, and cross-confessional exchange that has occurred over an extremely long period of time makes the Mediterranean a region of global importance.

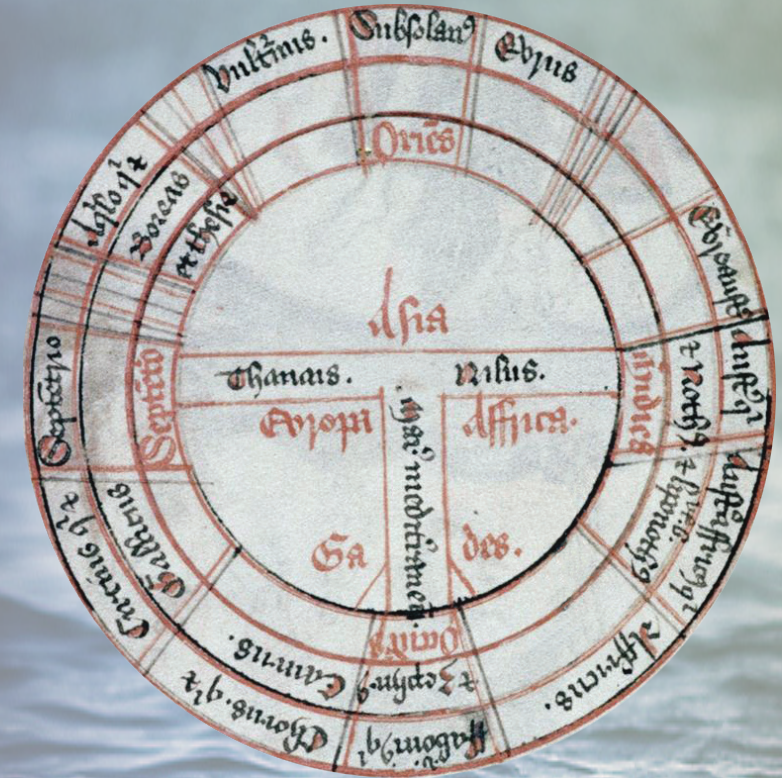
Mediterranean Studies: East and West at the Center, 1050-1600, a series of seminars organized by Professor Zrinka Stahuljak (UCLA French & Francophone Studies and CMRS Associate Director for Medieval Studies) and funded by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, will consider the Mediterranean as a the center for both East and West, and the site of a world system rather than a line of separation between the emerging “West” and an exotic “East.” Accordingly, the seminar will extend its explorations into the eastern Mediterranean, including such lesser-known, but nonetheless important areas as the Italian Peninsula, the Holy Roman Empire, Sicily, the Adriatic, Byzantium, Cyprus, Mamluk Egypt, and the Ottoman Empire.

UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies
Box 951485
Los Angeles CA 90095-1485
MD1C

First Class
U.S. Postage
PAID
UCLA

Mediterranean Studies: East and West at the Center, 1050-1600

Mediterranean Studies: East and West at the Center, 1050-1600



A seminar series hosted by the UCLA Center for Medieval & Renaissance Studies and funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation grant for “Transforming the Humanities at UCLA.”

Mediterranean Studies: East and West at the Center, 1050-1600

Monday, January 12, 2009
3:30-6:30 pm in UCLA Royce Hall 306

“Towards a Redefinition of Coexistence in Early Modern Spanish Literature”

Leyla Rouhi (Romance Languages, Williams College)

Seminar Leaders:

Michael Cooperson (Near Eastern Languages & Cultures, UCLA)
Teofilo F. Ruiz (History, and Spanish & Portuguese, UCLA)

Tuesday, January 20, 2009
3:30-6:30 pm in UCLA Royce Hall 306

“Lingua Franca in the Mediterranean”

Karla Mallette (Italian, Miami University)

Seminar Leaders:

Massimo Ciavolella (Italian, UCLA)
Peter Stacey (History, UCLA)

Monday, January 26, 2009
3:30-6:30 pm in UCLA Royce Hall 306

“Religious Boundaries and Intersections in Medieval Southern Italy”

Valerie Ramseyer (History and Director of Medieval-Renaissance Studies, Wellesley College)

Seminar Leaders:

Massimo Ciavolella (Italian, UCLA)
Peter Stacey (History, UCLA)

Monday, February 2, 2009
3:30-6:30 pm in UCLA Royce Hall 306

“Trans-Imperial Subjects, Mediation, and Articulation in the Early Modern Mediterranean”

E. Natalie Rothman (History, University of Toronto)

Seminar Leaders:

Gabriel Piterberg (History, UCLA)
Peter Stacey (History, UCLA)

Monday, February 9, 2009
4:00-7:00 pm in UCLA Humanities Building 193

“Ethnic and Religious Identity of Medieval Dubrovnik in Relation to ‘Others’ ”

Zdenka Janekovic Roemer (Institute for Historical Studies in Dubrovnik, Croatian Academy of Sciences & Arts)

Seminar Leaders:

Barisa Krekic (History, UCLA)
Zrinka Stahuljak (French & Francophone Studies, UCLA)

Tuesday, February 17, 2009
3:30-6:30 pm in UCLA Royce Hall 306

“Sex, Lies, and Paradise: the Assassins, Prester John, and the Fabulation of Civilizational Identities”

Geraldine Heng (English and Comparative Literature & Director, Medieval Studies, University of Texas-Austin)

Seminar Leader:

Matthew Fisher (English, UCLA)

Monday, February 23, 2009
4:00-7:00 pm in UCLA Humanities Building 193

“The Lusignan Sack of Alexandria (1365) and Its Counternarratives”

David Joseph Wrisley (Civilization Sequence Program, American University of Beirut)

Seminar Leader:

Zrinka Stahuljak (French & Francophone Studies, UCLA)

Monday, March 2, 2009
3:30-6:30 pm in UCLA Royce Hall 306

“The History and Modern Historiography of Divination in the ‘East’ and ‘West’ and the Case of Islamic Divination”

Maria Mavroudi (History, UC Berkeley)

Seminar Leader:

Michael Cooperson (Near Eastern Languages & Cultures, UCLA)

General Information

Seminar sessions are three hours in length and will have a workshop format. The guest speaker will present a lecture during the first hour. After a short break, participants will reconvene and discuss the topic introduced in the lecture. Discussions will be led by one or more UCLA faculty members. Seminar participants are strongly encouraged to read the recommended readings in advance.

Registration

Advance registration is required. Please call 310-825-1880 or email cmrs@humnet.ucla.edu. No admission fee. Seating is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Recommended Readings

Readings pertinent to the topic, selected by the guest speakers, will be posted before each session at www.cmrs.ucla.edu/medstudies_readings/index.html. Login information will be provided when you register.

Parking

Campus parking permits may be purchased for \$9 each day from any UCLA Parking Services kiosk.

Need More Information?

Contact the UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies by email at cmrs@humnet.ucla.edu or phone at 310-825-1880.

Cover illustration: *Orbis terra* ‘circle of the world’ map showing Asia, Europe, and Africa separated by the Don and Nile rivers, and the Mediterranean Sea. An illustration for Ovid’s *Metamorphoses*, in Rawl. B 214, fol. 197r, a mid-fifteenth-century English manuscript in the Bodleian Library, University of Oxford.

Image copyright Bodleian Library.