

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 has not kept 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. 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* is a seminar series 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. This seminar has been considering the Mediterranean as an entity, the center for both East and West, and part of a world system. Starting in the west, we have been concentrating throughout the seminar primarily on the central and eastern Mediterranean and have been reflecting on the methodology applicable to Mediterranean Studies. For the final part of the seminar series, we have asked our speakers to reflect on the relations between religions in the Mediterranean, and especially between religious majorities and minorities.

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## MEDITERRANEAN STUDIES III

### EAST AND WEST AT THE CENTER, 1050~1600



≈ FALL 2010 ≈

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

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

# MEDITERRANEAN STUDIES III: EAST AND WEST AT THE CENTER, 1050~1600

CENTER FOR MEDIEVAL & RENAISSANCE STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

Monday, October 4, 2010  
3:30-6:00 pm, Royce Hall 306

*"The Art of Religion: Practicing Piety and Doing Devotion (Sometimes with Pictures) in Castile and Granada, 14th-15th Century"*

CYNTHIA ROBINSON (Near Eastern Studies/History of Art and Archaeology, Cornell University)

Seminar Leader: Michael Cooperson (Near Eastern Languages & Cultures, UCLA)

Monday, October 11, 2010  
3:30-6:00 pm, Royce Hall 306

*"Writing the History of the Mediterranean"*

DAVID ABULAFIA (History, Cambridge University)

Seminar Leaders: Teofilo Ruiz (History, UCLA) and Peter Stacey (History, UCLA)

Monday, October 18, 2010  
3:30-6:00 pm, Royce Hall 314

*"Sexual Politics, Religious Conversion, and Legal Cultures in the Early Modern Ottoman Empire"*

MARC BAER (History, UC Irvine)

Seminar Leader: Gabriel Piterberg (History, UCLA)

Monday, October 25, 2010  
3:30-6:00 pm, Royce Hall 306

*"Visions and Delight: 15th-century Jewish Philosophy and the Spanish Literary Tradition"*

MICHELLE HAMILTON (Spanish & Portuguese, University of Minnesota)

Seminar Leader: Barbara Fuchs (English/Spanish & Portuguese, UCLA)

Monday, November 1, 2010  
3:30-6:00 pm, Royce Hall 306

*"Ifranjalism: The (European) Other in Medieval Arabic Literature and Culture, 9th-12th Century A.D."*

NIZAR HERMES (Humanities, University of Toronto)

Seminar Leader: Michael Cooperson (Near Eastern Languages & Cultures, UCLA)

Monday, November 8, 2010  
3:30-6:00 pm, Royce Hall 306

*"Lamenting Islam, Imagining Persecution: Copto-Arabic Opposition to Islamization and Arabization"*

MARYANN SHENODA (Comparative Literature/History, UCLA)

Seminar Leaders: Christine Chism (English, UCLA) and Zrinka Stahuljak (French & Francophone Studies, UCLA)



## General Information

Seminar sessions 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 write [cmrs@humnet.ucla.edu](mailto: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](http://www.cmrs.ucla.edu/medstudies_readings/index.html). Login information will be provided when you register.

## Parking

Please use the Self Service Pay Stations in UCLA Lots 2, 3 and 5.

## Need More Information?

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

Illustrations: Front, winds of the Mediterranean from a map in *Cosmographia Ptolomée*, Nicholas Germanus (ed.), 1482. Left, detail from a Genoese world map in UCLA's Young Research Library