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**UNIVERSITÄT  
BERN**



## **From ‘*nationes*’ to Nations? Communities of Strangers in the Mediterranean Area from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

International Workshop at the Historical Institute of the University of Bern

Organizers: Christof Dejung, Eleonora Angella, Sundar Henny, Christian Windler

Conference venue: Mittelstrasse 43, Room 220, 2 and 3 June 2022

### **Aims of the workshop**

The presence of foreign minorities in the Mediterranean area has aroused increasing interest among scholars. Recent historical studies have addressed the question of how foreigners (diplomats, consuls, merchants and missionaries, but also prostitutes, prisoners, slaves, tourists and workers of many kinds) were integrated into local contexts. These studies have shown the importance of looking at the social relations that minority groups established in foreign lands, analysing them on the basis of dichotomies such as Christian *vs.* Muslim, colonizer *vs.* colonized or western *vs.* eastern, and also of exploring the complex relations of gender, class and race as performed — or endured — by different social actors.

The focus of the workshop will be on the relations between European actors and those from both the Ottoman Empire and the Maghreb. We thus consider the Mediterranean Sea to be less a boundary between distinct world-areas or imperial spheres of influence – European on the one hand and Ottoman on the other – than a zone of contact and interaction. Contrary to recent publications that center on the period from the late 18<sup>th</sup> to the early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, our workshop aims to open up wider chronological perspectives from the 16<sup>th</sup> century onwards by focusing on the genesis and transformations of the concept of *natio/nationes* and the social practices related to it. What is more, such an approach also allows for an examination of the consequences of the Great Divergence and the concomitant decline of the Ottoman Empire on the one hand and the rise of Western European imperial power on the other.

## **Programme**

### **THURSDAY, 2 JUNE 2022**

From 1.15 p.m. Welcome coffee

1.45 p.m. Christian Windler: Introduction

#### **2.15 p.m. Panel I. Nations at Sea**

Chair: Christof Dejung

Sundar Henny (University of Bern), *The Foam-Born Swiss: Seafaring and the Invention of a Nation (Sixteenth Century)*

Guillaume Calafat (Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne), *Domicile and Residence of Sea Captains: A Maritime Genealogy of Citizenship and Nationality (17th-18th Centuries)*

4.15 p.m.: Coffee Break

#### **4.45 p.m. Keynote Lecture**

Maria Fusaro (University of Exeter), *Beyond Merchants: Foreign Communities in the Legal and Economic Pre-Modern Mediterranean*

Chair: Sundar Henny

### **FRIDAY, 3 JUNE 2022**

#### **9.00 a.m. Panel II. Consuls, Mixed Courts and Nations**

Chair: Sundar Henny

Mathieu Grenet (INU Champollion, Albi), *Too Many Masters, not Any Nation? Accumulating European Consular Offices in the Eastern Mediterranean (17<sup>th</sup>–18<sup>th</sup> Centuries)*

10 to 10.30 a.m. Coffee break

Eleonora Angella (University of Bern), *Overlapping Nationalities. Italians and the Negotiation of Identity in 19th Century Egypt*

Will Hanley (Florida State University), *National Representation at Egypt's Mixed Courts, 1876–1949*

12.45 p.m. Lunch: Restaurant Tulsi, Freiestrasse 65

**2.15 p.m. Panel III. Contested Loyalties in the Ottoman Empire**

Chair: Eleonora Angella

Tommaso Stefini (European University Institute, Florence), *Marriage, Foreignness, and Ottoman Subjecthood in Seventeenth-Century Istanbul: The Case of Venetian Merchants*

Angelos Dalachanis (CNRS, Paris), *The Materiality of Hellenism: Family Practices, Art Collecting, and Diaspora Life in the Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Alexandria*

4.15 to 4.45 p.m. Coffee break

Julia Clancy-Smith (University of Arizona), *The 'Son of a Slave': Muhammad b. Yusuf (1693/1694–c. 1771) and Ottoman Diasporas in North Africa* (via ZOOM)

5.45 p.m. Final discussion. Chair: Christof Dejung)