

Diplomacy was not understood in the past as in the contemporary international system. From medieval sources, it is possible to understand the distinct perceptions that were represented, for example, through the rituals associated with the reception of ambassadors. The message and gifts carried by the ambassadors, who could fulfill an important mediation role, acquire special relevance. The sources, which often omit the text of these letters, make clear the importance of keeping the message secret, as well as obtaining privileged information that could avoid or win conflicts. Likewise, sources do not always clarify the political motivations for these diplomatic exchanges or what type of information was exchanged. If, on the one hand, the political motivations, identity and functions of the ambassadors or the existence of spies are not always clear, on the other hand, the analysis of the political or commercial context, as well as the circulation of potential agents, acting as ambassadors or part of the intellectual elite, can give us some clues.

Aimed at undergraduate, M.A. and Ph.D. students, this course aims to address medieval perceptions of diplomatic encounters, as well as other occasions for the exchange of information and espionage. Through a panoramic approach and analysis of case studies – transmitted by sources produced in different languages, places and times – the objective is to explore the vision of the medieval Mediterranean as a space for political and intercultural dialogue, seeking to answer these questions: What concepts are reflected in the sources regarding diplomacy and what are the terms used? Is there conceptual and/or terminological similarities which allow us to compare information from different cultural and linguistic contexts? How were these exchanges represented in ritual and material culture? Are there common elements between different powers of the Mediterranean which are represented in the diplomatic encounters established at this time? Who were the agents chosen to carry them out and what were their methods of action? What was the relationship of these agents with the powers they represented or claimed to represent? Did these powers have spy networks or *intelligentia*?

Chairs

Elsa Cardoso (ILC-CSIC)
Mayte Penelas (EEA-CSIC)

Contacts for enquiries

Covadonga Baratech (ILC-CSIC)
V́ctor Ropero (EEA-CSIC)

Organiser

PTI-MEDhis

Contact and information

diplomaciamediterraneomedieval@gmail.com

Number of vacancies: 30

Registration: Free

Time: 16.00-18.45



Course

“Diplomacy, Espionage and *Intelligentia* in the Medieval Mediterranean”

11-15 December 2023



Skyllitzes Matritensis. National Library of Spain, Cod. Vitr. 26-2

Place: Centro de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales (CSIC)
C/ Albasanz, 26-28, 28037, Madrid

Hybrid Course: attendance in-person or Zoom

Information and pre-registration:
<https://www.cchs.csic.es/curso-diplomacia-mediterraneo-medieval>

Programme

Monday, 11 December 2023

Session “An Introduction to Medieval Diplomacy in the Mediterranean”

16.00-16.45 – Stéphane Péquignot (École Pratique des Hautes Études), “Las vías de la investigación sobre la diplomacia en la Baja Edad Media. Una introducción” (zoom)

16.45-17.30 – Elsa Cardoso (ILC-CSIC), “Conceptos de la diplomacia medieval islámica: al-Andalus y el Mediterráneo” (in-person)

17.30-17.45 – break

17.45-18.45 – discussion

Tuesday, 12 December 2023

Session “Diplomacy and Gender in the Iberian Peninsula”

16.00-16.45 – Óscar Villaroel (UCM), “La mujer y la diplomacia peninsular: posibilidades y casos particulares” (in-person)

16.45-17.30 – Antonella Liuzzo Scorpo (University of Lincoln), “‘Emotional Diplomacy’: A Tool of Cross-cultural Communication?” (zoom)

17.30-17.45 – break

17.45-18.45 – discussion

Wednesday, 13 December 2023

Session “Diplomacy and Espionage between the Eastern and Western Mediterranean”

16.00-16.45 – Frédéric Bauden (Université de Liège), “Negotiating for peace and trade with the Mamluks: from truces to decrees” (zoom)

16.45-17.30 – Isabel Toral (Freie Universität Berlin), “Espías y estrategias militares en el mundo islámico medieval” (zoom)

17.30-17.45 – break

17.45-18.45 – discussion

Thursday, 14 December 2023

Session “Politics and Diplomacy in the Mediterranean”

16.00-16.45 – Alexander Beihammer (University of Notre Dame), “Byzantine-Turkish Diplomacy and the Loss of Western Asia Minor, 13th-14th centuries” (zoom)

16.45-17.30 – Giuseppe Mandalà (Università degli Studi di Milano), “Los Hohenstaufen y el Mediterráneo árabe-islámico: política y diplomacia, cuestiones y dones” (zoom)

17.30-17.45 – break

17.45-18.45 – discussion

Friday, 15 December 2023

Session “Material Culture in Mediterranean Diplomatic Exchanges”

16.00-16.45 – Noelia Silva Santa-Cruz (UCM), “Ricos presentes. Diplomacia y política del regalo en el Mediterráneo medieval: Al-Andalus, Egipto y los reinos hispanos” (in-person)

16.45-17.30 – Miriam Ali de Unzaga (Institute of Ismaili Studies), “Diplomacia y *khil‘a* en el ámbito de la *da‘wa* Fatimí” (zoom)

17.30-17.45 – break

17.45-18.45 – discussion

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Languages: English and Spanish

Knowledge of both languages is required. In order to obtain the diploma, it is necessary to attend all the sessions and submit an essay at the end of the course.