

Fani Gargova (IEG) *Contested Jewish Heritage: Between Erasure and Appropriation in Balkan National Narratives*

Thomas Weller (IEG) *Expulsion and Reparation: Contested Memories of Spain's Jewish and Muslim Past*

- 12:45 Lunch Break
- 13:30 Mucem: A Museum of/for the Mediterranean?
Oriane Girard (IDEAS Marseille/EFA Athens) and roundtable discussion
- 14:30 Coffee break
- 15:00 Concluding remarks and publication plans

Contact:

Maria Adamopoulou
maria.adamopoulou@alumni.eui.eu

Thomas Weller
weller@ieg-mainz.de

Please send your registrations for the open event on 11 June to: veranstaltungen@ieg-mainz.de



IEG
Leibniz-Institut für
Europäische Geschichte

Leibniz
Value
of the Past

International Academic Workshop

Mediterranean Crossings: dialogues between past and present mobilities

11–12 June 2026

Leibniz Institute of European History (IEG)



Picture Credits:
Mettre les voiles, 2024, Marseille, © Bastien Pagnier

Venue: Leibniz-Institut für Europäische Geschichte (IEG)
Alte Universitätsstraße 19, D-55116 Mainz
www.ieg-mainz.de

The Mediterranean has been a hub of mobility since the dawn of human history. This workshop explores its role in connecting and dividing empires, nations, lands, and people from the 15th century to the present. Moving beyond views of the region as merely a conflict zone, a policed border, or a site of tragedy, we highlight the many forms of crossing – by merchants, travellers, migrants, and refugees, as well as through the circulation of ideas and practices. Join us in rethinking this unique and deeply interconnected part of the world.

Starting with a keynote lecture by Professor Emerita Luisa Passerini, we are invited to explore different tropes and narratives from Ulysses and Dante to artworks and testimonies of contemporary migration from Africa and Middle East to Europe. Afterwards, the documentary *Arkadaşloch*, screened in the presence of its director, Dr. Nilay Kılınç, will take us to a journey to Antalya, Turkey, where we follow the daily life and dilemmas of a return migrant.

The next day kicks off with a panel on religion and multiethnicity. Seeking refuge, escaping intolerance, expulsion and persecution was equally valid in early modern times as it was in the early 19th century and as it is true today in many areas around the Mediterranean. The second panel revolves around heritage and memory, showcasing how Mediterranean hubs function as palimpsests, erasing or preserving parts of their multilayered and multiethnic pasts. The enactment of memory in public debates aims to show that memory is constantly renegotiated, mindful of what is opportune in the actual sociopolitical context. Finally, the talk ‘Museum of/for the Mediterranean?’ will interrogate the role of museums in safeguarding cultural heritage, considering also how they contextualize their collections in the postcolonial moment.

Day 1 – June 11 (Open Event)

- 16:00 Introductory notes by the conveners
16:30 Keynote Lecture by **Luisa Passerini**
“Navigations through the ‘Tumult of the Waters’” (online)
- 17:30 Documentary Screening *Arkadaşloch – Nobody’s Problem (79’)* followed by Q&A in the presence of the director **Nilay Kılınç** (University of Helsinki)
- 20:00 Social Dinner

Day 2 – June 12 (Closed Event)

- 10:00 Panel 1
Religion and Multiethnicity
Chair: **Manfred Sing**
- Ufuk Erol** (IEG) *Sufism across Regions: Dervishes and Sufi Mobility in the Mediterranean*
- Denise Klein** (IEG) *Mediterranean Migrants and the Making of Early Modern Istanbul*
- Olena Uvarova** (CAS Sofia) *Forced Migration of Ottoman Christians during the Greek Revolution of Independence: The Case of Greek Refugees in Odesa in the 1820s*
- 11:15 Coffee Break
- 11:30 Panel 2
Heritage and Memory
Chair: **Maria Adamopoulou**
- Gruia Badescu** (Zukunftskolleg Konstanz) *Beyond the Palimpsest: Cosmopolitan Heritage, Migration, and Exclusion in Post-War Beirut and Sarajevo*