International Conference
Mediterranean Cities. Myth and/or Reality?

26-29 September 2012
Centro Stefano Franscini Monteverità Ascona

Programme
Introduction

For centuries, the Mediterranean has been, if not the first, at least the largest urban space. It was probably the world’s most urbanized area until the sixteenth century. The phrase “Mediterranean cities” suggests a multitude of images, representations, even preconceptions and stereotypes. Volumes have been written, from a variety of perspectives, on Mediterranean cities: travellers, merchants, historians, geographers, writers and, more recently, sociologists, anthropologists, economists, architects, urban planners, politicians… Films have been made where the Mediterranean city features prominently. In the academic context, several disciplines promote research and projects on Mediterranean urban space.

We all seem to have our own mental picture of the Mediterranean city, where ideal and reality cannot be told apart. With the conference we are launching, we propose to explore in much greater depth this very close, though rather vague, relationship between myth and reality, embodied in different narratives.

The conference is organised by Laboratorio studi mediterranei in association with the Master in Intercultural Communication (Università della Svizzera Italiana, Lugano), Università di Bergamo and the University of Colorado at Boulder.
WEDNESDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2012

19.00 Standing Dinner

THURSDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2012

08:45 CSF Welcome Address
Dr. Chiara Cometta

09:00 Opening Speech
Federica Frediani, Annick Tonti

Panel I – Mythical and Classical Cities

Keynote speaker

09:30-10:15 Kenneth Brown, Maison des Sciences de l’Homme, Paris
The ‘Muslim City’: Myth or Reality?

10:15 Coffee break

10:30-10:50 Alexander Lopasic, Reading University
Mediterranean cities. Myth and Reality

11:00-11:20 Slobodan Dan Paich, Artship Foundation
Mediterranean Cities - Pozzuoli and Cumae

11:00-11:20 Slobodan Dan Paich, Artship Foundation
Esperienza acqua: miti di ninfe e sorgenti, tra Grecia e Sicilia

11:20-11:40 Sonia Macri, Università di Enna Kore
Enna, un modello urbano di valorizzazione dei miti mediterranei: da Kore divinità a Kore università

12:00 Discussion

12:30-14:00 Lunch

FRIDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2012

Panel II – Cities Narratives

09:00-09:20 Susan Enderwitz, University of Heidelberg
Alexandria in postcolonial literary terms

09:20-09:40 Patrick Crowley, University College Cork
Imagining the City, Rethinking the Nation: Salim Bachi's Cyrtha Trilogy

10:00-10:45 Peregrine Horden, University of London
Towards a Historical Ecology of Mediterranean Cities

10:45-11:05 Filippo Andrei, University of California-Berkeley
Legendary Representations and Historical Narratives of the ‘Holy City’ in Jerusalem

11:05-11:25 Roberto Leggero, Accademia di Architettura
Passaggi alpini e città mediterranee nei Gesta di Ottone di Frisinga
11:30-11:50 Sofiane Boudhiba, Université de Tunis
La protection des cités Méditerranéennes contre le choléra au XIXème siècle

11:50-12:10 Fabian Stremmel, SOAS-University of London
Creation of identities - French and German Schools in fin de siècle Beirut

12:10-12:30 Luisa Rossi, Università di Parma
L’Utopia urbanistica mediterranea di Napoleone I, ovvero la città che non c’è

12:30-14:00 Lunch

14:00 Discussion - Panel III

Panel IV – Cities and Modern Myths
Keynote speaker

15:00-15:45 Rossana Bonadei, Università di Bergamo
Uru-sag, Polis and Civitas. The Mediterranean matrix of the urban palimpsest

15:45-16:00 Coffee Break

16:00-16:20 Gilda Tentorio, Independent researcher
Atene e l’Acropoli: proiezioni mentali e inquietudini dell’immaginario greco contemporaneo

16:20-16:40 Herman Bashiron Mendolicchio, University of Barcelona
The Journey to the Mediterranean. Trails, Passages and Crossroads in Contemporary Art

16:40-17:00 Michele Morbidoni, Università di Firenze
Informalità e tradizioni insediativie mediterranee. Percorsi evolutivi della “città senza progetto”

17:00 Discussion

19:30 Dinner

SATURDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2012

Panel V – Cities and Modern Challenges
Keynote speaker

09:00- 09:30 Nabil Echchaibi, University of Colorado Boulder
New Imagined Frenchness: Med’in Marseille and the National Identity Debate

09:30- 09:50 Paolo Giaccaria, Università di Torino
Cosmopolitanism(s) in the Mediterranean port cities

09:50-10:10 Nassima Dris, Université de Rouen
Entre les deux rives de la Méditerranée, une histoire urbaine en partage. Interférence des modèles et représentations dans la ville contemporaine (Alger)

10:10-10:30 Peter Sluglett, National University of Singapore
Urban identities in the Mediterranean: the role of class and religion in (re)shaping the urban fabric of Beirut

10:30-10:45 Coffee Break

10:45-11:05 Abderrahmane Diafat, Université F.A. de Sétif
Open-Air Markets and Wholesalers streets in Setif-Algeria

11:05-11:25 Said Madani, Université F.A. de Sétif
Urban changes and identity. The Case of Setif, Algeria

11:25-11:45 Natalia Ribas-Mateos, Universidad de A Coruña
Mediterranean cities in a global perspective

11:45 CSF Award Ceremony and Conclusions
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