



International workshop at the European University Institute (Florence)

May 11th-12th, 2017

Circulation of people, objects and knowledge across South Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean (16th-19th centuries)

Through the prism of objects and material culture, the workshop intends to highlight broad patterns of transregional circulation of people and goods crossing the borders of the Ottoman, Venetian, Russian and Habsburg Empires. The papers will present and discuss a wide variety of unpublished textual and visual sources related to luxury consumption, fashion and dress codes; diplomatic and political exchanges; dowry contracts and travel journals. New light is shed on networks of agents, merchants and diplomats negotiating the self-fashioning of local elites whose identities are shaped by linguistic, cultural and religious practices. The workshop aims at rethinking broader interpretive categories and challenges issues of Ottomanization and Westernization, as well as linear processes of modernization and change.

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