

Diasporic Communities in the Mediterranean: Between Integration and Disintegration

PIMo 1st Training School
El Museo Canario (Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain)
1-4 September 2021

Conveners: Marta Bucholtz (University of Warsaw), José María Pérez Fernández (University of Granada), Giovanni Tarantino (University of Firenze)



OPEN CALL

Cost Action CA18140 *People in Motion: Entangled Histories of Displacement across the Mediterranean, or PIMo*, explores common forms of displacement and dispossession across the Mediterranean from the fifteenth century to the present. Charting similarities – and significant differences – in the experience and representation of human movement, our research seeks to understand the emotional drives and significance of dislocation for individuals and communities. With a focus on people – and the ideas, objects, and documents that accompanied them – our goals include evaluating the ways and degree to which these historical events and experiences continue to shape contemporary representation of migration and displacement in the modern world, and to build a functional and highly-creative interdisciplinary network of collaborators from around the world. More information about the action is available here: <http://www.peopleinmotion-costaction.org/>.

Goals and interests of the four Working Groups of PIMo:

Within the deeply entangled or intertwined history and cultures of the Mediterranean, the PIMo project introduces the term ‘displacement’ as a way to reconceptualise the movement of people with awareness, historical acuity, and compassion. Attending to the phenomenon of

displacement as a connective tissue of human experience does not presume (or judge) the conditions of movement (voluntary or involuntary), but seeks to recover and understand individuals and communities in light of their particular experiences of re/location. By tracing the entangled movement of People, Objects, Paper, and Ideas this project understands displacement and dislocation as shared human experience, while remaining attentive to their geographical, political, and historical specificities. PIMo WGs investigate multiple historical case studies of the movement of people, things, paper and ideas through religious proselytism, conflict and persecution, slavery and indentured labour, trade, exploration, and imperialism, curiosity, and environmental and social catastrophe.

Goals of the Training School:

Wide enough to support radically distinctive civilizations, and yet narrow enough to ensure ready contact between them, the Mediterranean became, in David Abulafia's opinion, "probably the most vigorous place of interaction between different societies on the face of this planet". How should we go about historically studying the life aspirations and agency of minority groups moving and settling between the shores of the Mediterranean basin where religion, language, literacy, class, gender, political culture, music, architecture, clothing, food and other identity signifiers unity and divide a large variety of religious and ethnic groups? The PIMo Training School aims to explore the "visible and invisible networks" between cultures in the Mediterranean area, from the fifteenth century to the present and to show the ways such connections were (and are) artificially separated by ideological and literal borders. Its main objective is to offer an opportunity for research development, training and exchange of ideas for PhD and postdoctoral students working in the fields of Mediterranean Studies, Migration Studies, Cultural Transfers and History of Emotions. The entangled intellectual, cultural, and material histories of the Mediterranean will be unfolded following the displacement and resettlement of minority groups and individuals and the emotional responses of both displaced peoples and the communities they orbit and join. This school also aims to provide a critical introduction to some of the most influential frameworks of explanation in historical work today and to equip trainees with the skills they will need to find and gain access to all the primary source materials they need for their projects. School sessions will consist of a series of lectures and seminars delivered by prominent historians and sociologists from various countries and in-depth discussion sessions on the participating trainees' PhD and postdoctoral research projects. The language of communication for the School is English. The assessment will be in the form of a written essay of 3,000 words to be handed in 2 weeks after the end of the School.

Highlights of the program:

Guided tours of the Las Palmas Cathedral and the Diocesan Museum of Sacred Art (this is where more than 2,000 Canarias stood trial before the Spanish Inquisition between the 16th and 19th centuries), and a talk and guided visit throughout the Museo Canario and the annexed Inquisition archives, by the Museum Director, Dr Daniel Pérez Estévez. Departing from the available materials related to the Inquisition, this may be a first step to think of the experience of crossings in the Mediterranean. Given the jurisdiction of the Inquisitorial Court of the Canary Islands, the archipelago stood at the crossroads between the Mediterranean and the Atlantic and as such can be a useful tool to look into Mediterranean mobility. The idea is not to necessarily work on those materials alone, but they offer a starting point on how to translate, from written and material sources (such as trial records, denunciation books and lists of confiscated assets of prisoners) the four key elements that connect the different Working Groups in PIMo: Things, Ideas, Paper and People.

Conditions of application:

- ❖ The applicants must be engaged in an official research programme as a PhD Student or an Early Career Investigator (ECI, less than 8 years between the date of the PhD/doctorate and the date of application) employed by, or affiliated to, an institution, organisation or legal entity which has within its remit a clear association with performing research.
- ❖ Eligible Applicants must be based in PIMo Full Members / PIMo Cooperating Member or come from Approved COST Near-Neighbour Country (NNC) Institutions (the list of the NNCs is available here: <https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA18140/#tabs|Name:parties>).
- ❖ Places are limited, with a maximum of 24 participants.
- ❖ All application documents should be submitted as a single .pdf file to the attention of Professor Marta Bucholc via the e-Cost platform.
- ❖ **The deadline for applications is 28 May 2021.**

Application documents:

An application should include:

1. a motivation letter indicating reasons to apply including the connection between the candidate's research interests and PIMo profile (up to two pages);
2. CV including a list of published and accepted publications and a description of research experience (up to two pages);
3. description of the PhD research project or the ECI research project (up to three pages);
4. a reference letter (one page);
5. information on any additional funding made available to the applicant by his/her home institution or third parties to support the participation in the Training School, if applicable.

Selection criteria:

The selection committee including Giovanni Tarantino (Action Chair), Katrina O'Loughlin (Action Vice-Chair), Marta Bucholc (PIMo Training Schools Coordinator) and the four WG Leaders will evaluate the applications based on the following criteria:

- the connection of the applicant's research project to PIMo (30%);
- the quality of the applicant's CV (30%);
- the applicant's motivation to participate (20%);
- the applicant's research experience (10%);
- the reference letter (10%).

The selection committee will prepare a ranking list of applicants. Please note that the committee will strive for a reasonable gender and nationality balance concerning trainee participation. **24 best applicants will be notified of the acceptance before 1 July 2021 and they will be given one week to confirm their intention to participate.** If an applicant declines or fails to confirm, their places will be allocated to the next candidate on the list.

Funding:

Expenses (**up to 700 EUR per trainee**) will be reimbursed in line with relevant COST rules. In order to be eligible for the reimbursement, each participant will be required to daily sign the School attendance list. For details please consult the COST Vademecum (<https://www.cost.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Vademecum-V8-1-May-20202.pdf>) as well as the COST guidelines on travel reimbursement rules (<https://www.cost.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Travel-Reimbursement-Rules-.pdf>).

All participants will be required to register for an e-COST profile at <https://e-services.cost.eu> – each participant must add their bank details to their e-COST profile prior to receiving their e-COST invitation.

Neither the COST Association nor the local organizer of the Training school can be considered the applicant's employer. The applicants must make their own arrangements for all provisions relating to visa, personal security, health, taxation, social security, and pension matters.

Please note that PIMo STSM (Short Term Scientific Mission) Grants cannot be used to fund the participation in a Training School.

Accommodation and board:

The organizers will assist the participants in finding suitable accommodation and board options. The participants will be obliged to make their own hotel reservations and travel arrangements.

Enquiries: Please send your enquiries to Prof. Marta Bucholc (bucholcm@is.uw.edu.pl).

COVID-19 Prevention Guidance

The PIMo Training School will follow the rules in place at the Canario Museum and more generally in Spanish education settings. Practices will be adapted to allow physical distancing of at least 6 feet whenever possible. Detailed hygiene instructions will be communicated to the participants in due time. Should travel restrictions be implemented by local or global authorities we will post updates on the PIMo website. If needed, the School would be turned into a remote learning setting, using Zoom. Accepted participants and trainers will be kept regularly informed by email. We strongly suggest that the participants purchase a travel insurance policy when making their travel arrangements.

