



TALLINN UNIVERSITY

**COST Action CA18140 – People in Motion: Entangled Histories of Displacement across the Mediterranean (1492–1923)**

***WG2 Ideas in Motion***  
(online workshop)

***WORKSHOP ON PANDEMICS AND POPULATION MOBILITY IN EARLY  
MODERN EUROPE  
ACTORS, NETWORKS, AND IDEAS***

**Tallinn University**  
**16 March 2021**

The workshop seeks to revisit the effect of pandemics on population mobility and the emergence of new types of knowledge in pre-modern Europe and across the Mediterranean and the Baltic Sea regions in order to explore similarities and differences in connection with the recent outbreak pandemic.

**Programme**

Zoom meeting LINK:  
<https://jyufi.zoom.us/j/65980653873>  
Meeting ID: 659 8065 3873

Eventual WhatsApp contacts: +393381554489; + 358408054167

## h 10.00 Opening session

*Welcome words and short introduction* – Luisa Simonutti (ISPF-CNR) and Vasileios Syros (I Tatti)

## 10.15 - *panel 1: Plagues, Power, and Mobility*

Chair: Tommaso Giordani (Tallinn University)

- 10.15: **Nadia Selunsk**a (Russian Academy of Sciences)  
*Revenant: The True Story of Francesco Datini, the One who Survived*
- 11.00: **Ovanes Akopyan** (University of Innsbruck, Austria)  
*Power, Fortune, and Scientia naturalis: A Humanist Reading of Disasters in Giannozzo Manetti's De terremotu.*
- 11.45: **Vasileios Syros** (I Tatti – The Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies)  
*Plagues and the Reason-of-State Tradition*

## Break – h 12.30 – h 14.30

## h 14.30 - *panel 2: Pandemic Societies*

Chair: Marek Tamm (Tallinn University)

- 14.30 **Jozef Matula** (Palacký University Olomouc, Czech Republic)  
*John Amos Comenius on Plagues*
- 15.15 **Lee Ward** (Baylor University, USA)  
*Plagues and Disease in the Early Liberal Contract Theory of Thomas Hobbes and John Locke*
- 16.00 **Alessio Assonitis** (The Medici Archive Project, Florence, Italy)  
*The Medici Grand Ducal Archive and Early Modern Plagues*
- 16.15 **Round table:** (moderator) **Vasileios Syros** (I Tatti – The Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies), **Tommaso Giordani** (Tallinn University), **Jocelyn Karlan** (I Tatti – The Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies), **Marek Tamm** (Tallinn University), **Ann Thomson** (European University Institute).

## h 16.45 Closing remarks

### Organizing Committee:

Tommaso Giordani: [tommaso.giordani@tlu.ee](mailto:tommaso.giordani@tlu.ee)

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The conference is sponsored by

- **COST Action CA18140 – People in Motion: Entangled Histories of Displacement across the Mediterranean (1492–1923)**
- **School of Humanities, Tallinn University**

## Speakers' bios

- **Ovanes Akopyan**, post-doctoral researcher at the Leopold-Franzens-Universität Innsbruck, Institut für Sprachen und Literaturen, Bereich Gräzistik und Latinistik. He has recently published the book with his PhD research: *Debating the Stars in the Italian Renaissance: Giovanni Pico Della Mirandola's Disputationes Adversus Astrologiam Divinatricem and Its Reception* (Leiden; Boston: Brill, 2020). In the podcast we discuss his research into the role of Giovanni Pico Della Mirandola in the anti-astrological debate as well as other aspects of early modern history of science.  
[Ovanes.Akopyan@uibk.ac.at](mailto:Ovanes.Akopyan@uibk.ac.at)
- **Alessio Assonitis**  
Director, The Medici Archive Project (Florence)  
Alessio Assonitis arrived at the Medici Archive Project in 2004 with a National Endowment of the Humanities Fellowship. He became director in 2009 and served as Principal Investigator for digital projects supported by the Andrew W. Mellon foundation, including BIA (2010-2012; 2013-2014) and MIA (2015-2017; 2017-2019). He has published extensively on topics related to Italian Renaissance art, book history, Medici history, archival studies and digital humanities. He is editor-in-chief of the scholarly journal *Memorie Domenicane* and founder and editor-in-chief of the MEDICI ARCHIVE PROJECT academic book series (Harvey Miller/Brepols), established in 2016.  
<https://www.medici.org/meet-the-director/>
- **Jocelyn Karlan** (I Tatti – The Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies)  
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<https://itatti.academia.edu/JocelynKarlan>
- **Jozef Matula** teaches at Palacky University Olomouc in the Czech Republic. He specialized in early modern intellectual history and is currently working on Czech philosophical literature on pandemics.  
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- **Nadia Selunska**. Senior researcher, Russian Academy of Sciences, World History Institute. The main fields of research: medieval history, (Italian communes and parish church communities), Church history and medieval religiosity, history of law (e.g. statuti, leggi suntuarie or Lex sumptuaria), historiography (italian microstoria, intellectual history).  
<https://igh.academia.edu/NadiaSelunska>  
[spesbona@mail.ru](mailto:spesbona@mail.ru)
- **Vasileios Syros'** teaching and research interests converge at the intersection of the history of Christian/Latin, Jewish, and Islamic political thought and Comparative Political Theory. Syros has published *Marsilius of Padua at the Intersection of Ancient and Medieval Traditions of Political Thought* (University of Toronto Press, 2012); *Die Rezeption der aristotelischen politischen Philosophie bei Marsilius von Padua* (Brill, 2007); and *Well Begun is Only Half Done: Tracing Aristotle's Political Ideas in Medieval Arabic, Syriac, Byzantine, and Jewish Sources* (ACMRS, 2011).  
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- **Lee Ward**  
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