

CONCEPT

Recent scholarship on the medieval Mediterranean has underlined the importance of Sicily as a prime example to study processes of trans-cultural exchange and entanglement. The island in the centre of the Mediterranean basin is considered a paradigmatic case for a transcultural society, which received and absorbed elements of different traditions in terms of language, art, administration and also economy. The dynamics of these processes of interaction lie at the core of the conference “Urban Dynamics and Trans-cultural Communication in Medieval Sicily”.

The contributions will focus on the dynamics of transcultural interaction and the circulation of people, commodities, and ideas in urban centres of Medieval Sicily which functioned as hubs in regional, trans-regional, and in wider Mediterranean networks.

The symposium intends to engage with the following questions:

- How did different groups living in rural and urban areas interact with each other? Which conflicts did arise between minority and majority groups and how did they negotiate compromises?
- How did the political, religious and administrative structures influence the patterns of communication and exchange?
- What means of communication and what kind of media were used?
- In what ways did transcultural contacts become a catalyst for urban development?

Cover picture: *De laudibus Messanae* by Angelo Callimaco Siculo: Rome, Biblioteca Nazionale, Vitt. Em. 55, fol. 18v (with kind permission by Biblioteca Nazionale).



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והגות ב
יזמן
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HOCHSCHULE FÜR
JÜDISCHE STUDIEN
HEIDELBERG



Cluster of Excellence
ASIA AND EUROPE
IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT



TRANSKULTURELLE
STUDIEN

CONTACT

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URBAN DYNAMICS AND TRANSCULTURAL COMMUNICATION IN MEDIEVAL SICILY



**International Conference
November 26–27, 2015**

Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg

PROGRAMME

Thursday, November 26

9.30–10.00

Vera Nünning/ Diamantis Panagiotopoulos
Theresa Jäckh/ Mona Kirsch
Welcome and Introduction

Urban Centres and Transcultural Societies

Chair: Nikolas Jaspert

10.00–10.40

Vera von Falkenhausen (Rome): Die Griechen in
Messina und Palermo (12.–13. Jahrhundert)

Coffee Break

11.00–11.40

Julia Becker (Heidelberg): *Ut omnes habitatores
Messane tam latini quam greci et hebrei habeant
predictam libertatem*. Vita cittadina e cittadinanza a
Messina tra Normanni, Angioini e Aragonesi

11.40–12.20

Kristjan Toomaspoeg (Lecce): Palermo in the Late
Middle Ages: Territory and Population (13th–15th
Centuries)

Lunch Break

*A Dynamic Landscape? The Hinterland and its
Patterns of Communication*

Chair: Jenny Oesterle

13.40–14.20

Alex Metcalfe (Lancaster): Dynamic Landscapes:
the View from Monreale

14.20–15.00

Richard Engl (Mainz): A Society on the Move:
Muslim Cities in Hohenstaufen Sicily as Places of
Migration and Communication

Coffee Break

15.30–16.10

Fabrizio Titone (Bilbao): Catania e le comunità
della diocesi. Autorità vescovile e laici nel tardo
Medioevo

*Nodes of Communication: Merchants,
Commodities, and Mediterranean Transfer*

Chair: Daniel König

16.10–16.50

Hadrien Penet (Montreuil-sous-Bois): Merchant
Communities of Late Medieval Messina (1250–
1500)

Coffee Break

17.10–17.50

Mark Aloisio (Malta): 'The Meat Rejected by
Them': Regulation, Manipulation and Anti-Jewish
Rhetoric in the Meat Markets of Medieval Sicily

17.50–18.30

Mohamed Ouerfelli (Marseille): The Sicilian
Overseas Sugar Trade in the Western
Mediterranean in the Middle Ages

Friday, November 27

*Transcultural Images and Motifs. Discourses
and Perception*

Chair: Johannes Heil

9.30–10.10

Thomas Dittelbach (Bern): Transforming
Messages: Counter Narratives in Norman Art and
Architecture

10.10–10.50

Giuseppe Mandalà (Madrid): Città e saperi:
qualche riflessione sulla diffusione della cultura
araba nella Sicilia medievale

Coffee Break

11.15–11.55

Frederek Musall (Heidelberg): Trans-cultural
Criticism – Some Remarks on the Actualities and
Problems of a Paradigm

11.55–12.20

Final Discussion and Conclusion