



Venice International University
Graduate Seminar
Mediterranean History and National Historiographies

Venice International University
June 22-26, 2026

Faculty

Abdurrahman Atçıl, Sabancı University
Tommaso Stefini, Sabancı University
Vera Costantini, Ca' Foscari University of Venice
Maria Fusaro, University of Exeter
Isabella Lazzarini, Turin University
Banu Turnaoğlu, Sabancı University

Agenda

Monday, June 22

9:00-9.15	<i>Arrival and Registration</i>
9.15-9.30	Opening and introduction (VIU & Scientific Coordinators)
9.30-10.10	General Introduction to the Seminar (Abdurrahman Atçıl, Tommaso Stefini, Vera Costantini, Maria Fusaro, Isabella Lazzarini, Banu Turnaoğlu)
10.10-10.30	<i>Coffee break</i>
10.30-12.00	General Overview of the Development of Mediterranean History over the Past Century (Maria Fusaro)
12.00-13.30	Sources, Methods, and Archives of Mediterranean History: The Later Middle Ages (Isabella Lazzarini) Sources, Methods, and Archives of Mediterranean History: The Early Modern Period (Costantini, Lazzarini)

Lunch

14.30-16.00	Political Conceptions and Practices across the Mediterranean (Vera Costantini) Mediterranean Origins of Republicanism (Banu Turnaoğlu)
16.00-17.30	Economic Conceptions and Practices across the Mediterranean (Maria Fusaro and Vera Costantini)

Tuesday, June 23

9.00-9.15	Arrival
9.15-10.30	Cultural Systems and Translation across the Mediterranean: The Later Middle Ages (Isabella Lazzarini) Cultural Systems and Translation across the Mediterranean: the Early Modern Period (Tommaso Stefini)
10.30-11.00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.30-12.30	Diplomacy and International Law in the Mediterranean: The Later Middle Ages (Isabella Lazzarini) Diplomacy and International Law in the Early Modern Mediterranean (Tommaso Stefini)
12.30-13.30	Relationship Between Mediterranean History and Area Studies (Maria Fusaro) Mediterranean History and Ottoman Historiography (Abdurrahman Atçıl)

Lunch

14.30-17.00	Visit to Lazzaretto Nuovo
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Wednesday, June 24

9.00-9.15	Arrival
9.15-10.45	Mediterranean History and Globalization (Maria Fusaro)
10.45-11.15	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.15-12.45	Competing Visions of Empire in the Mediterranean: Universality, Law, and Diversity (Abdurrahman Atçıl) Mediterranean Constitutionalism (Banu Turnaoğlu)

Lunch

13.30-15.00	Mobility, Migration, and Diasporas in the Mediterranean (11th-18th centuries) (Tommaso Stefini)
16.00-18.00	Visit to the Archivio di Stato di Venezia (ASV)
Evening	Social dinner

Thursday, June 25

9.00-9.15	Arrival
9.15-9.45	A Trans-Imperial Pretender? Sultan Yahya and his Biography as an Archive of Ottoman-European Mobility (Kaan Özbek)
9.45-10.15	Production of Legal Norms in the Ottoman Empire: Kanuns and Provincial Muftis in Silistre-Akkirman Region (1672-1718) (Fatih Doğan)
10.15-10.45	Service Equids as Agents of Premodern Mediterranean History (Khalil Sawan)
10.45-11.15	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.15-11.45	Individual Learning and Ideology: Meritocratic Beliefs under Shocks to Income (Tim Heffernan)
11.45-12.15	Claiming Technical Control over Aquatic Environments in the Mediterranean (Julian Gräml)
12.15-12.45	Commercial Agriculture and Environmental Change in 18th Century Greater Syria (Assaf Talgam)
12.45-13.15	Embodied Knowledge and Knowledges of the Body in the British Navy of the Long Eighteenth Century (Lucas Radford)

Lunch

14.30-15.00	“Not all of us are ruled by Mercury”: Reflecting on Research Categories in Early Modern Travelling (Mikhail Vsemirnov)
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15.00-15.30	Varlık Vergisi, The Wealth Tax of 1942: Taxing Diversities (Sevde İslamoğlu)
15.30-16.00	From National Interest to Interest Capture (Arthur Graham)
16.00-16.30	The Truncated Pipeline (Songyi Wang)
16.30-17.00	Surviving the Crisis at the Ballot Box (Emine Dikmen)



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Friday, June 26

9.00-9.15	Arrival
9.15-9.45	Branch or Blood: Race and Military in Liminal Spaces (Autumn Lott)
9.45-10.15	“...non si ricorda de’ genitori ne della Patria.” Dependency and youth in the 17th Century Mediterranean (Chiara Pernigotto Cego)
10.15-10.45	Looking at the Ottoman Market Integration Through 1585 Debasement: A Comparison between Istanbul and Konya (Eren Öztürk)
10.45-11.15	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.15-11.45	A Quantitative Assessment of Asset Management Data in Aligning Municipal Rural Road Infrastructure Investment with Integrated Transport Plans (Obakeng Legote)
11.45-12.15	“Stateless at Sea”, The Mediterranean as a Space of Idea Circulation: The Case of Kurdish Nationalism (Saman Ihsan)
12.45-13.15	From the Mediterranean to Muscovy: Maximus the Greek’s Lament of Vasilisa and the Moral Limits of Royal Power (Andrei Papin)

Lunch

15.00-15.30	What Has Athens to Do with Mecca and Medina? Mīrzā Mahdī Iṣfahānī and the School of Separation (<i>Maktab-i Tafkīk</i>) (Amir Emami)
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Faculty's short bio



Abdurrahman Atçıl is Professor of History at Sabancı University. After receiving his doctorate from the University of Chicago in 2010 and completing a postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard Law School, he taught at Queens College of the City University of New York and later at İstanbul Şehir University. He joined Sabancı University's Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences in 2020. His main areas of interest are law, politics, religion, bureaucracy, and education in the early modern Ottoman Empire, and he has published on subjects including lawmaking in the Ottoman Empire, historical network studies, Mamluk-Ottoman transition in Egypt, digital databases for Muslim biographies, the Ottoman-Safavid conflict, scholarly mobility, and theology and philosophy in the Islamic legal tradition. His first book, *Scholars and Sultans in the Early Modern Ottoman Empire*, was published by Cambridge University Press in 2017. Dr. Atçıl was awarded the Turkish Academy of Sciences' (TÜBA) award for outstanding young researchers (GEBİP) in 2015 and the Science Academy's award for young researchers (BAGEP) in 2018. He is also one of a few scholars ever in Turkey to receive a prestigious Consolidator Grant from the European Research Council, awarded in 2020 for his ongoing project "OTTOLEGAL—The Making of Ottoman Law: The Agency and Interaction of Diverse Groups in Lawmaking, 1450–1650".



Tommaso Stefani is an Assistant Professor of History and Marie Curie Fellow at Sabancı University. He is a social and economic historian of the early modern Ottoman Empire and the Mediterranean. His research focuses on Ottoman-European commercial and political relations, the comparative history of Islamic and European legal and economic institutions, and Jewish-Christian-Muslim relations in the pre-modern Mediterranean. Before coming to Sabancı University, he earned his PhD from Yale University (2021) and was a Max Weber Fellow at the European University Institute between 2021 and 2023. His publications have appeared in American, Turkish, French, and Italian academic journals and he is currently finishing his first book titled "Ordering Difference: Justice and Cross-cultural Trade between Istanbul and Venice in the Seventeenth Century".



Vera Costantini is an Associate Professor at Ca' Foscari University of Venice, she has a PhD in Ottoman History at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (Paris) and at the Ca' Foscari University of Venice. Associate Research Scholar at the Italian Academy in Columbia University in 2011, she lectures in Turkish Language, Ottoman History and Paleography and Economic History at Ca' Foscari. Her main interests of research concern

Early-Modern economic history of the Mediterranean and western Balkans on Ottoman and Venetian sources as well as liberal Italy's eastern policy (1862-1923).



Maria Fusaro is Full Professor of Social and Economic History at the University of Exeter (United Kingdom), where she directs the Centre for Maritime Historical Studies. Her research has focused on commercial networks and the role they played in the early phases of globalization; on the economic, social and cultural analysis of late medieval and early modern empires and on the early modern development of legal institutions supporting

trade.



Isabella Lazzarini graduated and obtained her PhD from the Scuola Normale Superiore in Pisa; she teaches Medieval History at the Department of Historical Studies at the University of Turin and is a corresponding member of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei. Her research interests focus on the political, social, and cultural history of late medieval Italy and the Mediterranean, with an emphasis on Renaissance diplomacy, the growth of different political languages

in documentary sources, and the gendered power of Italian Renaissance principalities. Among her latest publications, see *L'ordine delle scritture. Il linguaggio documentario del potere nell'Italia tardomedievale*, Rome 2021; *Reframing Treaties in the Late Medieval and Early Modern West*, ed. with L. Piffanelli and D. Pirillo, Oxford 2025; *Dalla parte delle Signore. Autorità, potere e governo nell'Italia delle signorie (1300-1530 ca.)*, Rome 2025.



Banu Turnaoğlu is a lecturer in History at the Faculty of Social Sciences at Sabancı University. She was a Tübitak fellow under the Horizon 2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Co-fund Program at Sabancı University. Before joining Sabancı University, she was an affiliated lecturer and held a postdoctoral position as an Early Career Leverhulme Fellow in the Department of Politics and International Studies, University of Cambridge, from whence she received her PhD. She held an MSc in Political Theory from the University of Oxford. As a historian of political thought, her main

research interests lie in the topics of republicanism, constitutionalism, authoritarianism, imperialism, and related questions concerning the nature and genesis of the modern state and modern international order, linking pre-existing patterns of political development with contemporary events. She is the author of *The Formation of Turkish Republicanism* (Princeton University Press, 2017). Her writing has appeared in leading journals, including *Global Intellectual History*, *Max Weber Studies*, *History of Political Thought*, *Modern Intellectual History*, and *Middle Eastern Studies*.