

***Crossings:***

***Human Mobilities and Its Consequences Across the Mediterranean, 1400-2022***

COST-Action PIMO

People in Motion: Entangled Histories of Displacement Across the Mediterranean (1492-1923)

Work Group 4 – People

**NIMAR, Rabat (Morocco), 24-26 May 2023**

The Netherlands Institute in Morocco (NIMAR) is part of the Faculty of Humanities of Leiden University. NIMAR offers educational programs and promotes scientific research in the field of Islam, languages and culture, migration, identity and heritage and urban studies.

Due to its strategic geographic location, Morocco constitutes a bridge between Europe and Africa. Its long-lasting economic, religious, cultural and political relations to both sides of the Mediterranean, and the variety of cross-border mobilities in past and present, make Rabat a perfect fit to accommodate the *Crossings* conference.

Crossing the Mediterranean is a historical phenomenon for times immemorial. For centuries, men, women and children crossed the Mediterranean, in all directions, linking the heartlands of Africa with Europe, and Eurasian societies with the Western Mediterranean. Although common, regular and permanent, crossings in the Mediterranean have been subject to man- and nature made obstacles that have framed, influenced and determined the life (and death) of many.

This conference proposes to address the idea of crossing the Mediterranean between the 15<sup>th</sup> and the 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. We are particularly interested in papers that address the obstacles and opportunities offered by the African, Asian and European trans-regional connections to the Mediterranean as lenses to explain and assess the impact that human mobility has in past and contemporary societies. The thematic focus of this conference circulates around **Migration and Trafficking; Conflict** (institutional, political); **Slavery and Exploitation; Culture and Religion; Identities**; and **Memory and Heritage**.

We are looking for contributions, by senior and junior scholars, historians and social scientists, from Africa, Eurasia and Europe, that take the perspective of historical actors to answer specific research questions that address the challenges raised by each of the above-mentioned themes. We are thus looking for abstracts that state clearly the research question to be addressed in the conference, the primary sources that stand at the core of the research and the historiographical/scientific contribution inherent to one's presentation. A selection of the best papers will be invited for a future journal publication.

The deadline for submission of proposals is **December 20, 2022**. Abstracts should include title, author, affiliation, 500 words of text and can be sent by email to: Cátia Antunes ([c.a.p.antunes@hum.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:c.a.p.antunes@hum.leidenuniv.nl)). A provisional program will be available as of January 20, 2023.