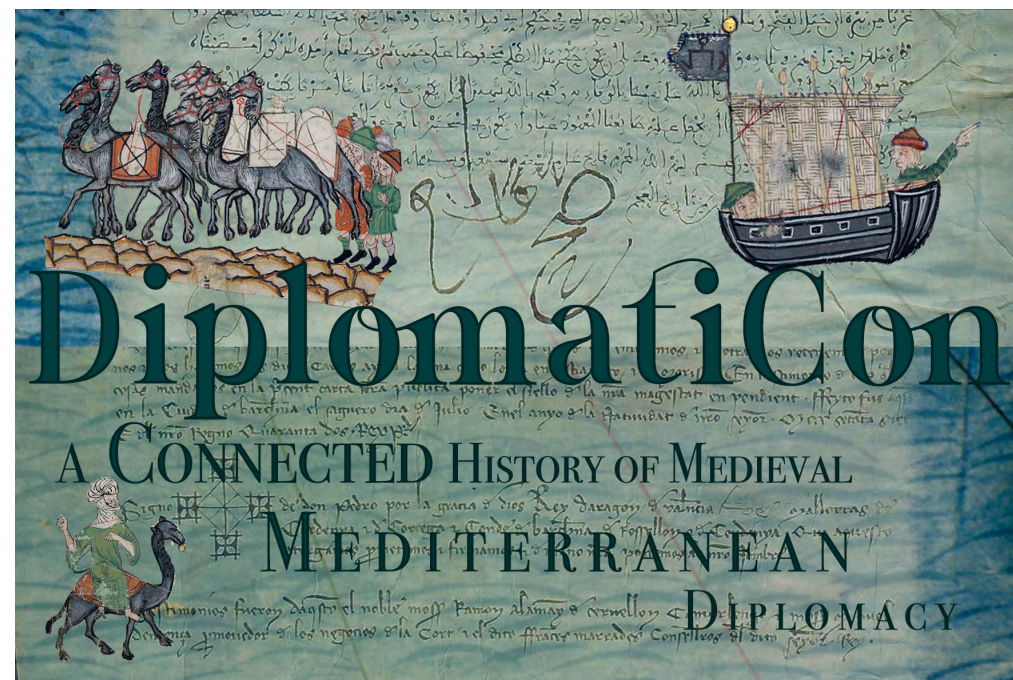


DiplomatiCon. A Connected History of Medieval Mediterranean Diplomacy: The Mamluk Sultanate, Italy and the Crown of Aragon (14th-15th century) is a project funded by the Excellence of Science scheme (EOS) of the Belgian FRS-F.N.R.S. (Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique) and F.W.O. (Fonds Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek). Made up of four units (Liège, PI Frédéric Bauden; Antwerp, PIs Malika Dekkiche and Iason Jongepier; CSIC Barcelona, PI Roser Salicrú i Lluch; Turin/Bologna, PI Isabella Lazzarini), it has a duration of six years (2022-2027). In addition to the PIs of the various units, the research team is composed of three PostDocs with historical and digital expertise and six PhD students.

The theme of the research is the reconstruction of an **interconnected history** of the interactions with diplomatic content between the **Mamluk Sultanate of Egypt and Syria** (1251-1517), the **Crown of Aragon** (including the Italian domains of Sicily and Naples), and a **wide range of powers and polities in late medieval Italy** (Venice, Genoa, Pisa, Florence, Milan, Mantua, Ferrara, Savoy, Ancona, Bologna, Lucca, Siena). The idea is to reconstruct and illuminate for the first time – through capillary research on published and unpublished sources and the use of a relational database specifically constructed for the project by Laurent Simon, from Liège – the pervasive, multiple and connected nature of the formal and informal relationships that were interwoven between the various protagonists examined.

The **database**, in which people, places, institutions, and contacts will be encoded, and which will be able to produce **Social Network Analysis** and **Spatial Analysis** (graphs and georeferenced maps), will be both an essential tool for the research project and an achievement in itself, as an open-access online reference tool in the field of diplomatic and Mediterranean studies.

The **Bologna workshop**, organised by the Italian unit of the project, addresses the second of the project's thematic axes (**Diplomatic Networks**), centred on the building of social networks with diplomatic content in the Mediterranean between Italy, Aragon and the Mamluk Sultanate. The history of diplomatic relations in the area has so far concentrated on the history of the commercial treaties concluded between the state actors, which are usually presented as competing powers in the Mediterranean basin. Following the trend within the 'New Diplomatic History', Work Package 2 is switching the focus from these state/formal actors to the various agents working with them in order to **rewrite a history of diplomacy** on a Mediterranean scale that not only crosses the classical borders set by the various fields of study, but simultaneously **highlights the multi-layered structure of cross-cultural diplomacy**. Such an approach is facilitated by the DiplomatiCon database that will make available all sources from the various groups studied, and that will allow to identify the agents (Christian and Muslim) who have contributed to the exchanges, all the way from home to destination.



Diplomatic Networks in the Medieval Mediterranean

First Workshop of the Project DiplomatiCon

Programme

12-13 September 2024, Bologna

Dipartimento DISCI, San Giovanni in Monte, Aula Gambi



13 September, 9.00-13.00

Chair: Iason Jongepier (Antwerp, DiplomatiCon)

9.00-9.30 Davor Salihovic (Antwerp, DiplomatiCon), «Turcho... ad oratori inimici non da audientia, si non per internuntione»: Networks of Hungarian-Venetian-Ottoman Negotiations in the 15th century

9.30-10.00 Alessandro Rizzo (Liège), A Web of Intrigue between Cyprus, Cairo, and Naples: Rizzo de Marino, Murderer, Conspirator, and Diplomatic Agent

10.00-10.15 Coffee break

10.15-10.45 Bogdan Smarandache (Liège, DiplomatiCon), Piecing Together Chancery-Scribal Networks: A Small Contribution to the Legal History of Mamluk Diplomatic Agreements

10.45-11.30 Roser Salicrú i Lluçh (CSIC Barcelona, DiplomatiCon) introduces the final discussion

11.30-13.00 Group meeting with the advisory board (G. Christ, N. Jaspert, F. Senatore)

12 September, 9.00-13.00

Isabella Lazzarini (Torino/Bologna, DiplomatiCon), Introduction to the project and to the workshop

Chair: Malika Dekkiche (Antwerp, DiplomatiCon)

9.30-10.00 Francesco Senatore (Federico II), Family Diplomacy. Around the Trastámara Epistolary Network (15th century)

10.00-10.30 Evelina del Mercato (Antwerp-Bologna, DiplomatiCon), Francesco Gonzaga, Taghrī-Birdī and the Two Sultans: A Mediterranean Crossroads

10.30-10.45 Coffee break

10.45-11.15 Queralt Penedès Fradera (Liège-CSIC Barcelona, DiplomatiCon), Establishing Diplomatic Contacts between the Crown of Aragon and the Mamluk Sultanate: Unveiling the Catalan Embassies from the 13th and 14th Centuries

11.15-12.30 Discussion

12.30-13.00 Élise Franssen (Liège), Final Exhibition (Barcelona, Nov. 2027): an update

13 September, 15.00-17.00

15.00-17.00 Group meeting with PIs and PostDocs

12 September, 15.00-19.00

Chair: Frédéric Bauden (Liège, DiplomatiCon)

15.00-15.30 Georg Christ (Manchester), Island States and Sub-Sovereign Diplomacy

15.30-16.00 Michele Argentini (Liège-Bologna, DiplomatiCon), Venetian Information Networks in Egypt in the Late 15th century

16.00-16.15 Coffee break

16.15-16.45 Nikolas Jaspert (Heidelberg), Acoustic Entanglements in the Medieval Mediterranean

16.45 Discussion



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