

PARMA, 14/15 MAY 2024



Dado Pah, Ventimiglia, 2022

COLLECTIVE MEMORIES  
OF TRANSIT ACROSS  
THE MEDITERRANEAN  
international conference



UNIVERSITÀ  
DI PARMA



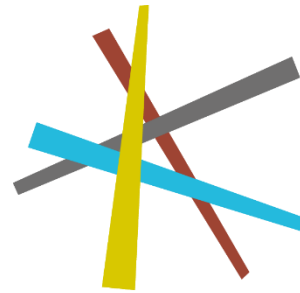
MOBS

UNDER  
THE PATRONAGE OF:





**UNIVERSITÀ  
DI PARMA**



**MOBS**

**Programme  
International Conference**

**COLLECTIVE MEMORIES  
OF TRANSIT ACROSS  
THE MEDITERRANEAN**

**Parma, 14/15 May 2024**

## Location

**Main building, University of Parma** Via Università, 12 – Parma

## Languages

**Italian, French, English**

## For info

**Jacopo Anderlini** ([Jacopo.anderlini@unipr.it](mailto:Jacopo.anderlini@unipr.it))

## To attend online

[colmem2024.vado.li](https://colmem2024.vado.li)



<https://www.unipr.it>  
<https://mobsprin2020.org>



# Collective memories of transit across the Mediterranean

*“The only writer of history with the gift of setting alight the sparks of hope in the past, is the one who is convinced of this: that not even the dead will be safe from the enemy, if he is victorious. And this enemy has not ceased to be victorious.”*  
(Thesis VI, On the Concept of History, Walter Benjamin)

Memory, Transit, Mediterranean: these are the three words at the heart of the reflection we want to pursue during these days. Looking at the Mediterranean as a space of transit, we want to explore the stories that inhabit it. Which names do these stories bear? What past do they have, and which unaccomplished futures are inscribed in them?

Telling these stories means recognizing them as part of shared experiences, bringing together different shores of the Mediterranean – Tunisia, Italy, Morocco. Across this space, there are stories of movement, arrivals, desire to leave or return, not always voluntary. There are stories suspended: never arrived and never returned. Bodies landing and bearing no name, bodies sought and not found.

How these stories of movement – attempted, denied, diverted, unstopped – can be enacted in the present, saved from the forced oblivion? How these stories can be intertwined together to compose a tapestry of collective memory from below?

During these two days, we want to create a moment of encounter between groups of family members of the disappeared and those who support them, between researchers and legal practitioners, in order to question the present of the European border regime by looking at the past, at those transit histories that are constantly denied, hidden, and at the collective processes of redeeming these. The field of memory appears to us as a battleground where the definition of mobility - of what is legitimate and what is illegitimate -, the mechanisms of inclusion and exclusion, the rhetoric of the “rule of law” in European societies, the historical responsibility of colonialism, the responsibility for the deadly effects of the governance of this mobility. We want to focus on the constitution of forms of collective memory of transit as an expression, from below, of a politics of memory that, by convening and re-signifying the past, produces different imaginaries of human mobility, the idea of citizenship and post-national forms of social organization.

Our focus will be on:

- Mediterranean as a deadly border
- Memories of transit denied on both sides of the sea
- Legal struggles for the right to memory
- Archives and infrastructure of memory

# 1° day

**14 May 10:30-13:00**

**Aula A, Via Università 12, first floor**

Institutional Greetings. Introduction to the days:

**Simone Baglioni**, *Prorector of Teaching, University of Parma*

**Vincenza Pellegrino**, *University of Parma*

## **Round Table – Collective memories and critical historical discursivity**

Speakers:

**Wael Garnaoui**, *Université de Sousse*

**Giorgia Mirto**, *Columbia University*

**Nabil Ferdaoussi**, *University of Cape Town*

Discussants:

**Vincenza Pellegrino**, *University of Parma* and **Martina Tazzioli**, *University of Bologna*

**14:30-17:30**

**Aula Filosofi, Via Università 12, ground floor**

## **Ongoing Research**

Speakers:

**Nadia Chaouch**, *University of Genoa*

**Andrea Palamenghi**, *University of Milan*

**Sofia Stimmatini**, *Université Libre de Bruxelles*

**Michela Lovato**, *University of Genoa*

Discussants:

**Monica Massari**, *University of Milan* and **Luca Queirolo Palmas**, *University of Genoa*

**18:30-20:30**

**Borgo Santa Brigida 5**

## **Reading - The desire of the West**

Reading from the book by **Wael Garnaoui**, *Université de Sousse*

In conversation with **Vincenza Pellegrino**, *University of Parma*

Reader: **Irene Valota**, *Collettivo Sguardi Incrociati*

# 2° day

**15 May 10:30-13:00**

Aula A, Via Università 12, first floor

## ***Right to memory***

Speakers:

**Erminia Rizzi**, *Associazione per gli Studi Giuridici sull'Immigrazione*

**Giovanni Papotti**, *Associazione per gli Studi Giuridici sull'Immigrazione*

**Said Tbel**, *Moroccan Association for Human Rights*

Discussants:

**Chiara Marchetti**, *CIAC* and **Veronica Valenti**, *University of Parma*

**14:30-17:30**

Aula B, Via Università 12, third floor

## ***Activism for memory***

Discussants:

**Luca Giliberti** and **Jacopo Anderlini**, *University of Parma*, **Annalisa Frisina**  
*University of Padua*

Speakers:

**Jalila Taamallah Khenissi**, *Tunisian mother, Mem.Med*

**Silvia Di Meo**, *Mem.Med, University of Milan*

**Alidad Shiri**, *Unione Nazionale Italiana per Rifugiati ed Esuli*

**Kosta Sampou**, *ADESGUIM Maroc*

## ***Conclusions***

**Jacopo Anderlini** and **Vincenza Pellegrino**, *University of Parma*

# CREDITS

## Scientific Committee

**Vincenza Pellegrino**, University of Parma

**Jacopo Anderlini**, University of Parma

**Michela Lovato**, University of Genoa

## With the participation of:

Adesguim-Maroc

AMDH - Association Marocaine des Droits Humains

ASGI – Associazione per gli Studi Giuridici sull’Immigrazione

CIAC - Centro Immigrazione Asilo Cooperazione Internazionale di  
Parma e provincia

Collettivo Sguardi Incrociati

Mem.Med – Memoria Mediterranea

Unione Nazionale Italiana per Rifugiati ed Esuli

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across the borders: the mountain, the sea, the urban and the rural as  
spaces of transit and encounters*

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