PARMA, 14/15 MAY 2024

COLLECTIVE MEMORIES OF TRANSIT ACROSS THE MEDITERRANEAN

i n t e r n a t i o n a l c o n f e r e n c e
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**
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**To attend online**
colmem2024.vado.li

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[https://mobsprin2020.org](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, unstoppable – 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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