

SHORES OF ENCOUNTER: Conflict and Conviviality in the Mediterranean

A conference organised by the Mediterranean Institute - University of Malta in collaboration with the Institute of Mediterranean Studies, Busan University of Foreign Studies

University of Malta, 28 June 2019

Convened by Dr Norbert Bugeja and Professor John Chircop

The history of the Mediterranean basin as a space of exchange and encounter is a long and complex one. From medieval Sicily to the kingdoms of al-Andalus, from the polities and empires of classical and ancient times to the powers that dominated its shores in the modern era, the sea itself has functioned as a medium that at once facilitated the conviviality of communities along its shores, as well as conflicts across the breath of its littoral. Relations of exchange and encounter in the Mediterranean were never only trade-based or commercial ones. The history of its food cultures, the etymology of its languages, the cultural contamination across the many systems of belief adopted by its populations, their ritual and social dynamics, the affinities between and across its ports of call and its islands ask for a convoluted and meandering approach to the Mediterranean and its morphing definitions over time.

Through a trans-disciplinary reading of the Mediterranean in its current urgencies and historic manifestations, the Shores of Encounter conference seeks to expand the purviews of Mediterranean Studies scholarship in unearthing tropes of encounter and exchange, of co-habitation and conflict, and the broader spectrum of historical and present-day modes and dynamics of life and community in the Mediterranean basin. While the conference seeks essays that contribute to paths of knowledge across the Mediterranean region, essays with special emphasis on the Central Mediterranean and histories of Sicily and Andalusia are of particular interest in the context of the conference.

The deadline for submission of proposals for 20-minute presentations is **April 15, 2019 at noon.**

For more information on the conference and to register for the event, kindly contact Dr Norbert Bugeja at norbert.bugeja@um.edu.mt or Prof. John Chircop at john.chircop@um.edu.mt