

**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS
INTERDISCIPLINARY DOCTORAL WORKSHOP**

**ECOLE FRANÇAISE DE ROME –
ECOLE DES HAUTES ETUDES EN SCIENCES
SOCIALES**

***The Mediterranean: a laboratory of global history and globalization
processes***



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2019:

“The sea: history and social sciences of liquid worlds”

Rome, École Française de Rome, 14-18 October 2019

How do history and social sciences study the seas and oceans? Are there preferred methods, scales and timeframes to describe, represent and examine these vast liquid spaces that occupy more than 70% of our planet’s surface? This doctoral workshop addresses these questions in the *longue durée* and using tools from human and social sciences. The goal is to reflect on the ways in which human societies experience and regard aquatic worlds, maritime phenomena (tides, waves, currents, monsoons, etc.) and the living species that populate them (coral, fish, shellfish and other marine mammals).

Spaces of constraints and resources, separations and connections, borders and exchanges, the seas are an excellent laboratory for questioning the conventional scales of analyses inherited from the political histories of nation-states and empires.

Thus, the Mediterranean, the Indian, Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, the South China seas, the Baltic, Black, Red, and Caribbean seas have become fields of study in their own right, focusing on their specific geomorphologies up to the movements of goods and the populations that settled on their various shores. Should seas be studied from adjacent continents, islands, gulfs, headlands, ship decks or under water? What types of sources and documents are required to conduct these investigations?

Our workshop will follow in the wake of the “Sea” or “Oceanic Studies”, “thalassology” or “thalassography” which have examined, at the intersection of the different fields of social sciences, how seas and oceans are created, distinguished, drawn, claimed and argued over. We will pay particular attention to the tools (scientific, cartographic, technical, and literary) which have made it possible to identify and represent the terrestrial globe. We will also examine the delicate question of the legal status of the seas, and the effective possibilities of them being controlled. Is the sea a common good? Or is it considered as a *res nullius* whose first occupant can claim ownership?

These questions are related to the policies of bordering powers, and also the disputes of toponyms, borders and the use of sea resources. We will consider the forms of exploitation of marine ecosystems, and the conflicts and economics that they generate. Consequently, we will deal with environmental issues, from the history of science to the contemporary geography of sea pollution, and the threats they pose today to the planet, humanity and non-humans.

We also aim to show the potential and limits of the formal analogies between liquid plains, seas and - for example - large desert areas. In this framework, seas will not be considered as immutable geographical entities or homogeneous cultural units, but as lived-in spaces and evolving social and intellectual constructions.

Among the core themes of this workshop, we consider: “Geography and cartography of the seas and oceans”, “To whom do the seas belong? frontiers and rights of the sea”; “Economics and maritime societies: sea resources and uses” and “Scales and timeframes of maritime studies”.

The workshop is open to PhD and master’s students (at second year of Master’s) of all disciplines and nationalities. Historiographical and thematic lectures will alternate with seminars in which students’ work will be presented. The working languages are French, Italian and English.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

In order to apply, the candidate needs to upload the following 2 documents (in PDF format) in the on-line form:

1. In the field “*lettre de motivation*” (in one PDF document):

- a cover letter;

- a summary (max. 4000 characters) of the proposed presentation;
- a letter of recommendation by a professor. The letter must be dated and signed, and make explicit reference to this workshop.

2. In the field “CV” (in one PDF document):

- a *curriculum vitae* (max. 3 pages), including a description of current research and a work schedule.

HOW TO APPLY

The candidates must apply via the on-line form, available at the following address:

https://candidatures.efrome.it/atelier_doctoral_interdisciplinaire_mediterranee_5_2019

The deadline for applications is the **20th June 2019, 17h (Rome time)**

⚠ WARNING: Received applications are final. It is not possible to return applications.

⚠ WARNING: To avoid technical problems, please do not submit your application at the last moment.

Successful applicants are required to attend all lectures and workshops.

Each participant must send a report of their work to the workshop organisers before the 23rd September 2019. The report should be 10,000 characters, including a description of the sources and a short bibliography.

The course, lunches and accommodation of participants will be provided by the École Française de Rome and the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales. Each participant is responsible for their travel costs to Rome.

For additional information, please contact Claire Challéat, scientific assistant for early-modern and modern eras at the École Française de Rome, Piazza Farnese 67, 00186 Rome, secrmod@efrome.it

Scientific board : Jean-Marc Besse (EHESS), Guillaume Calafat (Paris 1 Panthéon- Sorbonne), Fabrice Jesné (EFR), Silvia Sebastiani (EHESS).

