

Italian and International Trade Activity

Europe and Asia, XVth-XIXth Centuries

Date: 14 April 2011, 04:30–06:30

Room: NAB 107

Abstract:

The Panel tries to detect the presence and the activities of the Italian merchants in areas where they had played an important role since the Middle Age but where they appeared increasingly weaker in front of the new dynamic trade European companies such as the Spanish, Portuguese, English and French. These were operating from the 16th century onwards under the protection of the modern nation/state while the Italian merchants had to continue their activities in an autonomous way and/or relying on other trading networks. The area under analysis is quite large expanding from the East Mediterranean to the Indian Ocean, studying the Florentine, the Genoese and the Venetian merchants, sometimes operating as connected groups sometimes as scattered entrepreneurs.

Convenor / Chair

Salvatore Ciriaco (University of Padova)

Commentator

George Souza (University of Texas, San Antonio)

Giorgio Riello (Warwick University)

Panelists

Andrea Caracausi (University of Padua)

Evelyn Korsch (University of Dresden)

Claudio Zanier (University of Pisa)

Papers

Andrea Caracausi: The Florentine-Venetian Cooperation and the European Asian Trade (1580-1610)

This paper aims to analyze strategies and structures of some Florentine merchants in Venice and their overseas agents in the European-Asian trade during the Late Renaissance. I will show how those merchants were still involved in European-Asian trade and I will analyse some exemplary case-histories of merchants who leaved the European context and went to Asia as agents or individual merchants.

Evelyn Korsch: Armenian Trade Activity in Venice and Persia in Early Modern Time

This paper deals with the interactions between trading networks and cultural exchange. The Armenian diaspora in Venice, its Eurasian trade activities and the sociocultural impacts related to the latter will be discussed. As a case study the Sceriman will show the career of a family of merchant bankers with a worldwide trading network and their settlement in Venice. Considering the commercial and social activities of the Sceriman in two different cultural contexts as Persia and Venice the strategies used for achieving assimilation or integration will be analysed.

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