

Moving Goods for Charity Across the Mediterranean (15th–19th centuries)

PIMo Training School
Centro Studi sui Monti di Pietà (Bologna)
and Biblioteca Roncioniana (Prato)

24-27 January 2022



CONVENERS

Marta Bucholc (University of Warsaw), Rosita d'Amora (University of Salento), Pietro Delcorno (University of Bologna), Maria Giuseppina Muzzarelli (University of Bologna),
Giovanni Tarantino (PIMo Action Chair)

OPEN CALL

The Cost Action “People in Motion” and its goals

The Cost Action CA18140 ‘People in Motion: Entangled Histories of Displacement across the Mediterranean’ (PIMo) explores common forms of displacement and dispossession across the Mediterranean from the fifteenth century to the present. Charting similarities – and significant differences – in the experience and representation of human movement, our research seeks to understand the emotional drives and significance of dislocation for individuals and communities. With a focus on people – and the ideas, objects, and documents that accompanied them – our goals include evaluating the ways and degree to which these historical events and experiences continue to shape contemporary representation of migration and displacement in the modern world, and to build a functional and highly-creative interdisciplinary network of collaborators from around the World. More information about the PIMo Action is available online here: <http://www.peopleinmotion-costaction.org/>.

Goals of the Training School

Within the interconnected space of the Mediterranean (“probably the most vigorous place of interaction between different societies on the face of this planet”, according to David Abulafia), different communities dealt with the weak, the poor, and those in (even momentary) need by developing distinct and yet comparable responses. **The PIMo Training School aims to explore which kinds of institutions and practices – in the name of the inner solidarity of a local community or of the broader call to help everyone – were put in place and how they were supported, both economically and conceptually.** More concretely, how to move and use goods or objects (and which ones) for charity? How to persuade people that organized solidarity was a highly rewarding investment? Which role did different religious traditions (Jewish, Christian, Islamic) play in these dynamics? To what extent is a comparative approach not only possible but also necessary in order to rethink and reframe the whole process?

The PIMo Training School will investigate the multiple links between economy and charity in the Mediterranean area, from the fifteenth to the early nineteenth century, by investigating the material and immaterial goods that formed the basis for institutions such as: those supported by the legal framework of the *waqf* in the Islamic and Ottoman societies; Christian hospitals, charitable confraternities, and the Monti di Pietà; and forms of Jewish solidarity, like the collective efforts to redeem Jewish captives. How far can we speak of community economies for this period or even of a sort of welfare system?

The School’s main objective is to offer an opportunity for research development, training, and exchange of ideas for PhD students and postdoctoral researchers working in the fields of Mediterranean Studies, Economic History, Religious Studies, Late Medieval and Early Modern History, and Material Culture. The entangled intellectual, cultural, and material histories of the Mediterranean will be unfolded by following the people, objects, and institutions that were involved in the enterprise of charity or mutual help. This school also aims to provide participants with a critical introduction to some of the most influential interpretative frameworks on these topics and to foster a discussion among trainees about their own research projects.

School sessions will consist of a series of lectures and seminars delivered by an international and interdisciplinary group of historians, namely: Tülay Artan, Mauro Carboni, Randi Deguilhem, Nelly Hanna, Tamar Herzig, Maria Giuseppina Muzzarelli, Gaetano Sabatini, Tanja Skambraks, Nicolas Terpstra.

The medium of communication at the School will be English.

Prior to the school, participants will be asked:

- to submit a 5 minutes video presentation of their research;
- to read a few introductory articles.

After the school, trainees will be expected to submit – either in the form of a brief video or a brief paper (max 1000 words) – a reflection about how the discussions at the training school connect with their own research, ideally by taking the cue from a concrete object. These contributions will be made openly accessible on the PIMo website.

Highlights of the program

The School will be held in Bologna (24-26 January) and Prato (27 January). This will allow participants to visit places like the Confraternita di Santa Maria della Vita, with its unique iconographic program, and the Archivio Storico del Monte di Pietà di Bologna (where we will be introduced directly to its documents), while the last day in Prato will offer the opportunity to visit the exhibition *Paper in Motion: Information and the Economy of Knowledge in the Early Modern Mediterranean*, which will open on the same day, with a guided tour by Prof. José María Pérez Fernández (University of Granada and PIMo WG3 Leader).

Conditions of application

The applicants must be engaged in an official research programme as a PhD Student or an Early Career Researcher (ECR, less than 8 years between the date of the PhD/doctorate and the date of application) employed by, or affiliated to, an institution, organisation or legal entity which has within its remit a clear association with performing research.

Eligible applicants must be based in PIMo Full Members / PIMo Cooperating Member or come from Approved COST Near-Neighbour Country (NNC) Institutions (the list of the NNCs is available here:

<https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA18140/#tabs|Name:parties>).

The deadline for applications is 20 November 2021

All application documents should be submitted directly to the attention of Professor Marta Bucholc on:

bucholcm@is.uw.edu.pl

(and in cc to Pietro Delcorno on: pietro.delcorno3@unibo.it)

Application documents

An application should include:

- a motivation letter indicating reasons to apply including the connection between the candidate's research interests and PIMo profile (max 1000 words);
- CV including a list of published and accepted publications and a description of research experience (up to two pages);
- description of the PhD research project or the ECI research project (max 500 words);

- a reference letter (one page).

Selection criteria

The selection committee including Giovanni Tarantino (PIMo Action Chair), Marta Bucholc (PIMo Training Schools Coordinator), Rosita D'Amora (PIMo WG1 Leader), Maria Giuseppina Muzzarelli (University of Bologna), Mauro Carboni (University of Bologna) will evaluate the applications based on the following criteria:

- the relevance of the applicant's project to PIMo (30%);
- the quality of the applicant's CV (30%);
- the applicant's motivation to participate (20%);
- the applicant's research experience (10%);
- the reference letter (10%).

The selection committee will prepare a ranking list of applicants. Please note that the committee will strive for a reasonable gender and nationality balance concerning trainee participation. **15 best applicants will be notified of the acceptance before 5 December 2021** and they will be given one week to confirm their intention to participate. If an applicant declines or fails to confirm, their places will be allocated to the next candidate on the list.

Funding

Expenses (travel and daily allowance) will be reimbursed in line with relevant COST rules. In order to be eligible for the reimbursement, each participant will be required to daily sign the School attendance list.

Neither the COST Association nor the local organizer of the Training school can be considered the applicant's employer. The applicants must make their own arrangements for all provisions relating to visa, personal security, health, taxation, social security, and pension matters.

Accommodation and board

The organizers will assist the participants in finding suitable accommodation and board options. The participants will be obliged to make their own hotel reservations and travel arrangements.

Enquiries: Please send your enquiries to Prof. Marta Bucholc at bucholcm@is.uw.edu.pl or to Dr Pietro Delcorno at pietro.delcorno3@unibo.it

COVID-19 Prevention Guidance

The PIMo Training School will follow the rules in Italy, which at the moment require to show to have been vaccinated (EU Digital Covid Certificate) or to be negative to a test in the previous 48h. If needed, practices will be adapted to allow physical distancing whenever possible. Detailed hygiene instructions will be communicated to the participants in due time. Should travel restrictions be implemented by local or global authorities we will post updates on the PIMo website. If needed, the School would be turned into a remote learning setting, using Zoom. Accepted participants and trainers will be kept regularly informed by email. We strongly suggest that the participants purchase a travel insurance policy when making their travel arrangements.