

بحر

دریای مدیترانه

Mediterraneo

/M A R E N O S T R U M/

/TRANSCULTURAL AND INTERRELIGIOUS
PERSPECTIVES ON REFUGEES AND REFUGE/

תִּיכּוֹן

Μεσογειακή

Միջերկրական ծով

Akdeniz

Deryaya Navîn



„No less than in any other period in history, Religion will have a crucial role to play in guiding and inspiring humanity to meet the enormous challenges that we face.“

Nelson Mandela

/BACKGROUND/

„Mare nostrum“ was the name Romans gave to the Mediterranean Sea. It also became the symbolic name for a shared transcultural space of traditions that developed around it: Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Greek Philosophy, Arabic Medicine and Roman Law. With and against these traditions the universalistic European Humanism developed and brought light and darkness into a world that was globalised from the harbours of the Mediterranean, becoming its colonial and imperial center. „Mare nostrum“ is also the name of an Italian marine operation aiming to rescue refugees on the sea. It operated from the shores of Lampedusa that became a symbol of the refugee crisis. It was replaced by an operation of the European border patrol Frontex named after the Greek sea god Triton, no longer seeking to rescue refugees but to secure borders.

Stories of migration, refugees and refuge can be found throughout the Bible and play an essential role. The central Jewish story of the liberation of the Israelites from Egypt that inspired so many liberation struggles in history, is a story of refugees that were descendants of economic migrants. Jesus was a refugee child. The Islamic calendar starts with the Hijrah, the Prophet's flight from Mecca to Medina. Most of today's refugees are displaced from Muslim majority countries and most of them find refuge in other Muslim states. Not few of them are refused asylum elsewhere because of their (supposed) Muslim faith. Within the context of the refugee crisis Religion is increasingly becoming the defining line of racialising exclusions again.

These stories reflect human history as a history of migrations. They inspired an emancipatory moral approach demanding equal rights for strangers and locals, and questioning borders by the belief in the unity of humankind. The experiences of mass displacement following the terrors of the Second World War played a major part on the way to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. They represent the foundations of liberal democracies that currently experience a profound crisis, closely entangled with the refugee crisis and the long history of violent cycles of Mediterranean globalisation.

How can „Mare nostrum“ become a name of solidarity standing for the shared vision of an utopic space connecting Africa, Asia and Europe? Connecting our shared human vulnerability through our shared human creativity?

/REALISATION/

The workshop tries to encounter the Mediterranean as the symbolic space of the refugee crisis from three perspectives: in interreligious stories about refugees, that developed around the Mediterranean and that are central to Judaism, Christianity and Islam and shaped the values they share. From the perspective of today's human rights struggle of refugee women. And finally from an artistic perspective. The attending class will follow the workshop on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. The exact hours of attendance are negotiable.



/MONDAY/INTERRELIGIOUS PERSPECTIVES/

We will encounter the Mediterranean as a shared transcultural space of creativity reflecting stories of refuge with an interreligious team of teachers from Jewish, Muslim, Christian and secular backgrounds.

/WEDNESDAY/WOMEN IN EXILE & FRIENDS/

Today's Mediterranean as the dangerous space of vulnerability for refugees trying to bypass Europe's closed borders will be explored with a self-organised feminist initiative of refugee women* ([Women in Exile & friends](#)). In a full day workshop they will provide insights into their civil rights struggle as [women fleeing violence](#). In their stories religions can be both, reason of displacement and source of inspiration. The workshop wants to learn from the powerful agency of refugee women being courageous subjects of a great human rights struggle against racism and sexism.



/THURSDAY/ART PROJECT WITH ARTISTS STELLA MERIS & BARA MAYER/

Finally the Berlin based performance artist Stella Meris and the Jerusalem based Multimedia Artist Bara Mayer will develop an art project with the attending class and help finding creative expressions for the encountered perspectives. The Multimedia Art Performance will try to articulate an artistic vision of the Mediterranean as an utopic space of solidarity connecting Africa, Asia and Europe around our shared human vulnerability and creativity.



/SCHEDULE/

/MONDAY/23rd April 2018/

(11:00am-4:40pm):

/Refugee crisis and crisis of liberal democracy/

/Judaism, Christianity and Islam – Shared refugee stories and visions of refuge/

/WEDNESDAY/25th April 2018/

(8:00am-10:30am)

/Mass displacement as the backdrop of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights/

(10:30am-3:30pm)

/Workshop with Women in Exile & Friends, Berlin/

(3:30pm-4:00 pm)

/Final Reflections in search of a solidary vision of the Mediterranean/

/THURSDAY/26th April 2018/

(8:00am-10:35am)

/Mare nostrum: Art project with Artists Stella Meris (Berlin) and Bara Mayer (Jerusalem)/

(14:15pm-16:40pm)

/Mare nostrum: Art project with Artists Stella Meris (Berlin) and Bara Mayer (Jerusalem)/

/TEACHING TEAM/

/Rabbi Boris Ronis (Judaism)/

/Aynur Bulut (Islam)/

/Katharina Weymer (Secular Humanism)/ /Goran Subotić (Christianity)/

/Women in Exile & Friends, feminist organisation of refugee women*/

/Stella Meris, Performance Artist, Universität der Künste, Berlin/

/Bara Mayer, Multimedia Artist, Jerusalem, Israel

/Prof Nanna Lüth, Visiting Counsellor, Universität der Künste, Berlin/

/REGISTRATION/

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