

# INVITATION



## Early Modern Diplomacy across the Religious Divide: Justification, Defamation, Obfuscation, and Misapprehension

A conference organized by the project „The Diplomacy of Small States in Early Modern South-Eastern Europe” in cooperation with CASA, Institute for Historical Sciences in Dubrovnik

### Venue:

Croatian Academy of Sciences  
and Arts, The Institute of Historical  
Sciences in Dubrovnik

16–17 May 2025



The Diplomacy of Small States  
in Early Modern South-eastern Europe



RESEARCH CENTRE  
FOR THE HUMANITIES  
INSTITUTE OF HISTORY





# 16 May

## 9:00-9:30 Welcome

### 9:30-11:30 Justifying Diplomatic Relations with the Religious Other

**Chair: Gábor Kármán (HUN-REN RCH, Budapest)**

Isabella Lazzarini (Università di Torino): Justifying a Diplomatic Contact After the Fall of Constantinople: the “Infidels” as Potential Allies (Florence, Milan, Naples, 1453–1499)

Rubén González Cuerva (Institute of History – Spanish National Research Council, Madrid): Infidels in the Catholic Court: Pamphlets and Muslim Embassies in Seventeenth-Century Madrid

Davide Trentacoste (Scuola Normale Superiore of Pisa): “Quantunque questo Rè sia Maomettano...”: Justifying the Alliance with Shia Muslim Persia in Seventeenth-Century Italy

Habib Saçmalı (Marmara University, Istanbul): Navigating Contradiction: The Ottoman-Russian Alliance Supporting the Safavid Prince Against the Afghans in Iran

## 11:30-12:00 Coffee Break

### 12:00-13:30 (Ab)uses of Religious Discourse in Diplomacy

**Chair: Robert Born (Federal Institute for Culture and History of Eastern Europe, Oldenburg)**

Shounak Ghosh (History Department, University of Manchester): Sectarian Polemics in Diplomatic Correspondence: Literary Snippets from Islamicate Chancery Records

Lovro Kunčević (Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Dubrovnik): Apologizing to the East and West: Ragusan Republic and Its Many Excuses

Natalia Królikowska-Jedlińska (University of Warsaw): Unorthodox Muslims or Pious Gazis? The Crimean Tatars’ Religiosity in Early Modern Diplomacy

## 13:30-15:00 Lunch Break

### 15:00-16:30 The Diplomatic Mediators Across the Religious Divide

**Chair: Vedran Stojanović (HUN-REN RCH, Budapest)**

Francesco Caprioli (Autonomous University of Madrid): Diplomacy Amid Distrust: Giovanni Margliani and the Challenge of Spanish-Ottoman Diplomatic Relations (1577–1581)



**Bastien Carpentier (Université Paul Valéry Montpellier 3 – Université Littoral Côte d'Opale): Go-betweens, Translators, and Encounters. Genoese Agents of the Spanish Monarchy in the Ottoman Istanbul (c.1560 – c.1580)**

**Yunus Dogan (European University Institute, Florence): Crossing the Religious Divide: Ottoman Advocacy and Venetian Suspicion in Early Modern Morisco Diplomacy**

## **16:30-17:00 Coffee Break**

## **17:00-18:30 Negotiations Across the Religious Divide (and Their Discomforts)**

**Chair: Tetiana Grygorieva (National University Mohyla Academy, Kyiv)**

**Jan Hennings (Central European University, Vienna): Building an Embassy Across Religious Divides: The First Russian Resident Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire**

**Giuseppe Pio Cascavilla (Independent Researcher): “The Two Points Proposed by Count Orlov Are the Most Bitter We Could Fear, Because They Both Aim at Our Certain Destruction”. Religious Divide and Political Tensions in The Difficult Negotiations of the 1775 Agreement Between Russia and the Republic of Ragusa**

**Hüseyin Onur Ercan (Turkish-German University, Istanbul): An Example of the Role of Religious Justifications in Diplomatic Protocol Conflicts: Cànibî Ali Pasha and His Grand Embassy to Vienna (1740–41)**

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# **17 May**

## **10:00-11:30 Discourses of Peace, Cooperation, and Tolerance Across the Religious Divide**

**Chair: Marian Coman (Nicolae Iorga Institute of History, Bucharest – University of Bucharest)**

**Zsuzsanna Hámori-Nagy (HUN-REN RCH, Budapest): A Peace for a Peace: The Offers of an Ottoman Vassal for the Princes of the Holy Roman Empire in the Early 1530s**

**Laura-Sophie Stolzenberg (Christian-Albrechts-Universität of Kiel): “Wider den Erbfeind Christliches Namens” (Against the Hereditary Enemy of the Christian Name): Catharina Regina of Greiffenberg’s Lyrical Treatment of the Ottoman Empire**



Konstantinos Poullos (University of Athens / Democritus University of Thrace):  
“Order Returned to the World”. Yūsuf Nābī (1642-1712) and the  
Ottoman Discourses of Peace at the Dawn of the Eighteenth Century

### **11:30-12:00 Coffee Break**

### **12:00-13:30 Small Players Between the Ottomans and Christians**

**Chair: Radu Păun (Centre d'études russes, caucasiennes, est-européennes et  
centrasiatiques, Paris)**

Zsuzsanna Cziráki (Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna): Conflicting Memories:  
Early Modern Transylvanian Saxon Diplomacy between Habsburg and  
Ottoman Alliance

Michał Wasiucioneck (Nicolae Iorga Institute of History, Bucharest): Friendship and  
Duplicity: Polish-Lithuanian Narratives of Moldavian Diplomatic Morality  
in Mid-Seventeenth Century

Gábor Kármán (HUN-REN RCH, Budapest): Voting on Ottoman Vassalage at the  
1685 Transylvanian Diet

### **13:30-15:00 Lunch Break**

### **15:00-17:00 Religious Other in Literature, Academic, and Ecclesiastical Contexts**

**Chair: Natalia Królikowska-Jedlińska (University of Warsaw)**

Johann Nicolai (Nordost-Institut, Lüneburg), Bridging Sacred Tongues: Oriental  
Studies at Dorpat and Cross-Religious Scholarship in Early Modern Europe

Eduardo A. Olid (Muhlenberg College, Allentown): Guerrero Cross-Confessional  
Fictional Boundaries in Cervantes

Hana Ferencová (Palacký University Olomouc): Encounters with the Religious  
Other: Edward Browne's Observations on Habsburg-Ottoman Diplomacy  
in Seventeenth-Century Europe

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<https://www.zavoddbk.org/en/>

<https://smallstates.org/>



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