

Programme

The Mediterranean between Fantasy and Reality – Contrasting Worlds?

6–8 November 2025

University of Graz



Trans-Mediterranean Entanglements

CORE RESEARCH AREA of the Faculty of Humanities

Thursday, 6 November 2025

Universitätsplatz 3 (main building),

2nd floor, lecture hall (Hörsaal) 01.22

Main Building	8.45-9.30	<i>Come Together, Registration & Coffee</i>
	9.30-10.00	<i>Welcome & Introduction</i> Peter Riedler , Rector of the University of Graz Arne Ziegler , Dean of the Faculty of Humanities Ursula Gärtner , Speaker of the core research area "Trans-Mediterranean Entanglements" Gabriele Koiner & Elisabeth Trinkl , Organisation Chair: Ursula Gärtner
	10.00-10.50	Keynote lecture Sara Izzo : Matrix Mediterranean. Theoretical models for the literary mapping of a variable space-time continuum
	10.50-11.15	Claudia Luchetti : The Myth of the Island of Atlantis: between imaginary Topography, space-time Travel and cultural-political Utopia
	11.15-11.40	Vedran Obućina : Mystical Currents in the Mediterranean: The Role of Sufis, Kabbalists, and Christian Mystics in Shaping a Spiritual Network
	11.40-12.10	<i>Coffee Break</i>
		Chair: Claudia Luchetti
	12.10-12.35	Sladjana Domuz : Cleopatra and the myth of the Mediterranean – How art shapes history
	12.35-13.00	Anita Buhin : Rise and Fall of the Latin Lover: Exploring Realities and Imagineries of Mediterranean Men on the Italian Example

Main Building	13.00-13.25	Francisco Javier García Martín: Ixion between historical reality and chthonic imagination: entangled temporalities in classical imagery
	13.25-15.00	<i>Lunch</i>
		Chair: Sara Izzo
	15.00-15.25	Tatjana Petzer: Salvation Economy and Phantasmagoria between the Seas: The Golden Fleece of the Aromanians
	15.25-15.50	Claudia García-Miguillán: Mediterranean Virtuality: The Intertwining of cultural Imagination and Memory in Mircea Cărtărescu's <i>Levantul</i>
	15.50-16.15	Peter Mauritsch: Thalatta! Thalatta!
	16.15-16.45	<i>Coffee Break</i>
		Chair: Elisabeth Trinkl
	16.45-17.10	Melissa Melodias: Time and space in word of Honor
	17.10-17.35	Olcay Yilmaz, Cemre Yilmaz, Sevil Çelik Tsonev, Agnes Grond, Şebnem Bahadır-Berzig: Phantasms of Continuity in the Anatolian-Mediterranean Imaginery: Translating Myth and History in an AI-Assisted Exploration
	17.35-18.00	Elizaveta Boyko: The Story of the "Campana" reliefs: From Antiquity to the Present Day
19.00		Dinner: Glöckl Bräu Glockenspielplatz 2–3, 8010 Graz

Friday, 7 November 2025

Mozartgasse 3, Meerscheinschlössl, Aula (Festsaal)

Meerscheinschlössl	Chair: Sevil Celik Tsonev	
	9.00-9.50	Keynote lecture Stefan Altekamp: Panmediterranean visions in archaeology
	9.50-10.25	Hans Scherer: Filling the gap – Imaginative Description and Archaeological Reconstruction of a City in the Shadow of the Video Game World
	10.25-10.50	Alejandro Cadenas González: Echoes of Empire: Ancient Rome, the Emperor, and Their Symbols in the Subconscious of Contemporary Sci-Fi and Fantasy. A Preliminary Study
	10.50-11.20	<i>Coffee Break</i>
	Chair: Stefan Altekamp	
	11.20-11.45	Alice Landskron: The impact of the Mediterranean on harbour cities
	11.45-12.10	Hannah Barmüller: Mediterranean cities and landscapes between fact and fiction: a spatial and ecocritical re-reading of Lamartine's <i>Voyage en Orient</i>
	12.10-12.35	Brian D. McPhee: The Argo between Fantasy and Reality in Apollonius' <i>Argonautica</i>
	12.35-14.00	<i>Lunch</i>

Chair: Tatjana Petzer

- 14.00-14.25 **Diego Stefanelli:** A “curious” Mediterranean between past and present: Jacob Spon’s *Voyage d’Italie, de Dalmatie, de Grèce et du Levant* (1678)
- 14.25-14.50 **Ursula Lagger:** “... Naples is the pleasantest place in Europe”. South Italy between fascination and disappointment
- 14.50-15.15 **Clara-Maria Hansen:** Entangled identities and mortuary practice in Archaic Magna Graecia

15.15-15.45 *Coffee Break*

Chair: Gabriele Koiner

- 15.45-16.10 **Regina Klöckl-Zorić, Aaron Plattner, Elisabeth Trinkl:** Desire and disappointment, or: When in Arkadia ...
- 16.10-16.35 **Ilija Guliaev:** The “Tauric Journey” in Verse: Russia’s “Greek Project” and Its Repercussions in the Poetry of Joso Krmpotić, 1787–1788
- 16.35-17.00 **Seb Bytyci:** Reality, history and myth: Albanian epic poetry and statebuilding in Albania and Kosovo

Optional:

Guided Tour through the Archaeological Collections, Main Building

19.00 **Musical Introduction**

Melis Demiray – Vocal

Sinan Samanlı – Oud

Gökhan Arslan – Clarinet

Reception

Saturday, 8 November 2025

Mozartgasse 3, Meerscheinschlössl, Aula (Festsaal)

Meerscheinschlössl

Chair: Agnes Grond

9.00-9.25 **Lukas Jung:** Competing Realities: Imperial Ideology and Local Identity in the Rivalry between Perge and Side

9.25-9.50 **Anastasiia Morozova:** Relating the Mediterranean Romans: Affective With-ness and Love to Romanness in the Ostrogothic Correspondence of Cassiodorus's *Variae*

9.50-10.15 **Reuven Kiperwasser:** Wondrous Encounters in the High Sea – reading rabbinic and Christian stories as Paradoxography

10.15-10.45 *Coffee Break*

Chair: Steffen Schneider

10.45-11.10 **Dylan Thomas Mask:** Ottoman Christian Refugees and Habsburg Colonial Imaginaries in the Kingdom of Dalmatia, 1852–66

11.10-11.35 **Laura Lo Presti:** Mediterranean Thresholds: Humanitarian Fantasies and Necropolitical Regimes

11.35-12.00 **Carolyn Defrin:** Co-creating future imaginations of the border: artistic resistances in dehumanised migration landscapes

Closing remarks: Steffen Schneider,
Speaker of the core research area "Trans-Mediterranean Entanglements"

Lunch Snack

14.30 **Guided City Tour**