



MeTChE PROJECT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

The Mediterranean Through Chinese Eyes

TRANSCULTURAL ENCOUNTERS AND REPRESENTATION IN CHINESE SOURCES

MAY 16-17, 2025

UNIVERSITY OF PALERMO
Botanical Garden, Lanza Conference Room

DAY 1: MAY 16, 2025

Registration opens from 10.00

11.00–11.30: Institutional Greetings & Opening Remarks

11.30–12.00: Introduction

RENATA VINCI (University of Palermo), Looking Back, Looking Forward: Tracing the Journey of the MeTChE Project

12.00–13.00 Panel 1

First Glimpses of the Mediterranean: Arab Knowledge and Early Chinese Accounts

Chair: Renata Vinci

- VICTORIA ALMONTE (Tuscia University of Viterbo) and DANIELE SICARI (University of Palermo), The Role of Arab Sources in Shaping Chinese Geographical Knowledge from the IX to the XIV Century
- MARGARET KIM (Tsinghua National University, Taiwan), Princely Power and Empire in Rabban Sauma's Account of the Western Mediterranean in the "History of Mar Yahballaha and Rabban Sauma"

13.00–14.30: Lunch

14.30–16.00: Panel 2

Mapping the Mediterranean in Sino-Missionary Sources

Chair: Miriam Castorina

- PAOLO DE TROIA (Sapienza University of Rome), Mediterranean World in Sino-Jesuit Geographical Sources
- FEDERICA CASALIN (Sapienza University of Rome), 19th-Century Geographic Writings in Chinese and Their Depictions of the Mediterranean Region: An Overview of Agencies and Approaches
- LAURA LETTERE (Sapienza University of Rome), Did Religion Shape History? On William Muirhead's (1822-1900) "Dili quanzhi" 地理全志 and its Influence on Early Chinese Travelogues to Europe, with a Focus on the Representation of Religions Across the Mediterranean

16.00–16.30: First Day Round-up and Open Questions

16.30: Visit to the Botanical Garden

20.00 Dinner

DAY 2: MAY 17, 2025

10.00–11.00: Panel 3

Maritime Imaginaries and Global Horizons

Chair: Victoria Almonte

- MATHIEU TORCK (Ghent University/KU Leuven), Dietary Practices and Provisioning at Sea: Comparative Insights from Mediterranean, Spanish Pacific and Chinese Maritime Traditions (16-18th century)
- ALEXANDER JOST (LMU München), Changing Perceptions of the Northern Terra Incognita Across Eurasia from Antiquity to the Middle Ages

11.00–12.30: Panel 4

Routes and Reflections: Chinese Travellers in the Mediterranean in the Late Qing Era

Chair: Federica Casalin

- MIRIAM CASTORINA (University of Florence), Beyond the Well: The Mediterranean Landscapes of Guo Liancheng
- FEDERICO MASINI (Sapienza University of Rome), Liang Qichao and the Mediterranean: Maritime Traces and Inspirations
- YU YATING (University of Florence), Travellers in the Late Qing Dynasty on the Political Landscape of the Mediterranean

12.30–14.30 Lunch

14.30–16.00: Panel 5

Cultural Encounters and Representations in Early Modern and Modern Times

Chair: Renata Vinci

- ANTONIO LEGGIERI (University of Palermo), Quotation as a Deliberate Act in Zhang Deyi's Acquaintance of the Mediterranean
- FENG LISI (Nankai University), Italian Renaissance Art and China's New Culture Movement
- ALESSANDRA BREZZI (Sapienza University of Rome), "Only the Waters of the Mediterranean Flow Westward" Sheng Cheng and his "Jindong" 近东: Near Eastern Europe or Western Asia? (1929)

16.00-16.30: Second Day Round-up and Closing Remarks

16.30: Visit to the Chinese Pavilion (Palazzina Cinese)

Organizer: Renata Vinci (MeTChE Project PI)

Scientific Committee: Victoria Almonte, Federica Casalin, Miriam Castorina, Renata Vinci

Organization Support: Laura Lettere, Antonio Leggieri, Giuseppe Rizzuto, Yu Yating

Contacts:

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