



Università
Ca' Foscari
Venezia

Dipartimento di
Filosofia e Beni
Culturali



18 December 2025
Aula Mazzariol,
Palazzo Malcanton
Marcorà

Organizers:

Valentina Pugliano, Ca' Foscari University of
Venice - valentina.pugliano@unive.it

Lucia Dacome, Toronto University -
lucia.dacome@utoronto.ca

Hybrid meeting in-person
and online: please email
valentina.pugliano@unive.it
for a link.



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Captive Healthscapes: Slavery, Medicine, and Health in the Pre-Modern Mediterranean World

9.15-9.30 **Introductions**

9.30-10.50 **SESSION 1**

**Medicine at Sea: Health, Discipline, and the
Politics of Forced Labour**

Claire Weeda (Leiden University), *Maritime
Labour Regimes and Medicine in Fifteenth- and
Sixteenth-Century Galley Manuals*

Valentina Pugliano (Ca' Foscari University of
Venice), *The Galeotti's Medicine: Self-Care,
Suffering and Knowledge at Sea Among Venice's
Enslaved and Convict Rowers*

10.50-11.20 Coffee break

11.20-12.40 **SESSION 2**

**Women, Illness, and Enslavement: Gendered
Bodies in the Medical Marketplace**

Debra Blumenthal (University of California, Santa
Barbara), *Promising a cure? Slavery, Medicine and
Malpractice in Late Medieval Valencia*

Veruschka Wagner (Bonn University), *The Value
of Health: Slavery and Disease in the Early Modern
Ottoman Empire*

12.40-14.10 Lunch

14.10-15.30 **SESSION 3**

**The 'Other' Healers: Enslavement, Expertise, and
Exchange in the Early Modern Mediterranean**

Lucia Dacome (University of Toronto), *The
Soothing Medicaments of the Mahommedans:
Opium, Slavery, and Health in Early Modern Italy*

Carolin Schmitz (King's College, London), *The
Interconnected 'Others': Cross-Mediterranean
Connections of Marginalized Healers, the
Circulation of Healing Practices and Materials, and
Processes of Community Building*

15.30-16.00 Coffee break

16.00-17.20 **SESSION 4**

**Diplomacies of Care: Captivity, Healing, and
Cross-Cultural Negotiation**

Ana Struillou (Institute of Historical Research,
London), *Cities of a Thousand Healers: Captivity,
Exile, and the Practice of Medicine in the Urban
Maghrib (Sixteenth to Early Seventeenth Century)*

Oumelbanine Zhiri (University of California, San
Diego), *Negotiating Slaves' Health*

17.20-17.30 **Conclusions**