

Workshop

THE POWER OF CONTACT: HEALING, DEVOTION, CURSE AND MATERIAL CULTURE

PROGRAMME

Welcome Addresses
15:00

Daniele Baglioni

Director, Department of Humanities, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Paola Avallone

Director, Institute of History of Mediterranean Europe (CNR-ISEM)

Presentations
15:15

Chair

Isabella Cecchini

National Research Council, Institute of History of Mediterranean Europe (CNR-ISEM) and Laboratorio per la storia di Venezia e il Mediterraneo, Department of Humanities, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Marta Caradonna

National Research Council, Institute for Philosophical and Historical Research (CNR-IRFIS)

Carried Close, Kept Out of Sight: An Ethiopian Protective Scroll between Embodied Devotion and Colonial Displacement

Hayk Hakobyan

Matenadaran – Mesrop Mashtots Research Institute of Ancient Manuscripts and Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, NAS, Yerevan, Armenia

The Sacred in Motion: Mobility and the Cult of Manuscripts

Shushan Khachatryan

Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute and Matenadaran – Mesrop Mashtots Research Institute of Ancient Manuscripts, Yerevan

Sacred Objects Prohibited to Touch: Testimony Transfer and the Veil of Mysticism

Mattia Corso

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow, University of Verona

Making the Land Holy: The Case of the Franciscan Agnus Dei of Jerusalem

Short Break
17:00

Concluding Roundtable
17:30

Participants

Isabella Cecchini (CNR-ISEM, Laboratorio per la storia di Venezia e il Mediterraneo)

Idamaria Fusco and Geltrude Macrì (CNR-ISEM)

Anna Sirinian (University of Bologna)

Scientific Secretariat

Isabella Cecchini (CNR-ISEM – Laboratorio per la storia di Venezia e il Mediterraneo, Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici, Ca' Foscari), Idamaria Fusco (CNR-ISEM), Geltrude Macrì (CNR-ISEM)



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Final Workshop of the Bilateral project CNR-MESRA Touching Devotion.

Hidden holy manuscripts in Armenia, the material dimension of a sacred cult, and the power of contact across the pre-modern Mediterranean



15 SEPTEMBER 2026
H 15:00 – 18:30



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