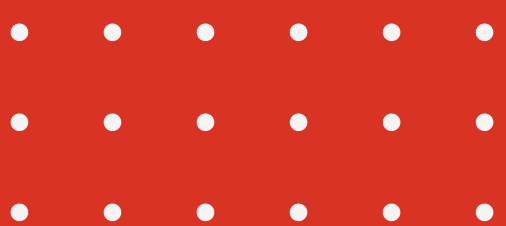
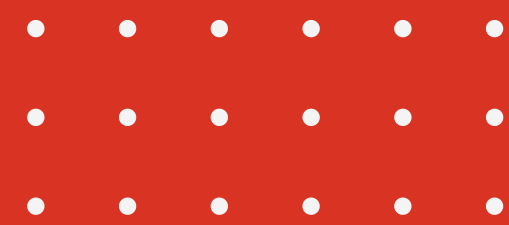


The Department of Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures
presents

Environmental Challenges in Premodern Eurasian and Mediterranean Narratives

14 - 15 JANUARY 2025

Aula Prodi - San Giovanni in Monte
Piazza San Giovanni in Monte, 2
Alma Mater Studiorum - University of Bologna



In collaboration with

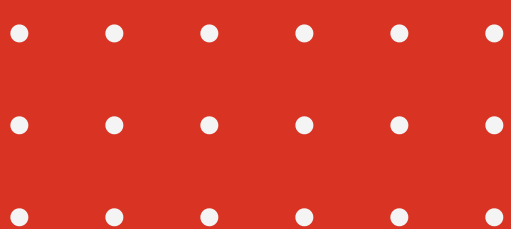


The conference *Environmental Challenges in Premodern Eurasian and Mediterranean Narratives*, a unique scholarly opportunity for interdisciplinary collaboration, aims to explore how the attitude towards environmental challenges, natural disasters, and calamities might be affected by contextual factors related to the socio-political scenario, ideological trajectories, or religious beliefs. The conference, covering the pre-modern era, focuses on the MENA region, the Mediterranean, and Europe. It gathers distinguished scholars from Europe, the MENA region, and the US to explore a wide range of thematic issues, from the challenges of mapping, reconstructing, and studying diverse sets of epistemic and ideological views used to interpret environmental phenomena, to the different conceptualizations of the relationship between humans and nature across time and place.



Conference Director: Ines Peta, Associate Professor of Arabic Language and Linguistics (University of Bologna); Chief Organizer: Chiara Fontana, Assistant Professor of Arabic Literature and Philology (University of Bologna); Scientific and Organizing Committee: Nahid Norozi, Associate Professor of Persian Language and Literature (University of Bologna), Ilaria Cicola, Research Fellow in Arabic Linguistics (University of Bologna), Marco Demichelis, Assistant Professor of History of Islamic Thought (University of Bologna), Giulia Aiello, Ph.D. candidate (University of Bologna).

The conference is convened under the EU-granted project (NextGenerationEU - PRIN 2022): "Environmental Anomalies & Political Legitimacy in Global Eurasia, 12th-14th century." The project results from an inter-university collaboration between "L' Orientale" University of Naples, Alma Mater Studiorum - University of Bologna, and Calabria University.



Tuesday, January 14, 2025 – Aula Giorgio Prodi

12.45 – 1.45 pm

Welcome Lunch

1.45 – 2.00 pm

Institutional Greetings

Paola Scrolavezza

Head of the Department of Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

Alma Mater Studiorum – University of Bologna

2.00 – 2.30 pm

Opening Remarks and Introduction

Donatella Guida

L'Orientale University of Naples

Ines Peta

Alma Mater Studiorum – University of Bologna

Chiara Fontana

Alma Mater Studiorum – University of Bologna

2.30 – 4.00 pm

Panel 1 - Ecology & Ethics: The Threshold Between Classical and Contemporary Islamic Discourses

Moderator: Ines Peta

Emmanuel Pisani

Dominican Institute of Oriental Studies (Idéo)

L'ascèse (*zuhd*) comme fondement d'une éthique écologique à la lumière de la théologie de la création d'al-Ghazālī

Abdessamad Belhaj

University of Public Service – Budapest

La sécheresse dans l'éthique islamique classique: raisons, attitudes et approches

Haoues Seniguer

Sciences Po Lyon

Eschatologie et apocalypse dans le discours islamique contemporain: entre religion, société et politique

4.00 – 4.30 pm

Coffee/Tea Break

4.30 – 6.00 pm

Panel 2 - Literary Landscapes: Fictional and Symbolic Narratives of Environmental Challenges

Moderator: Chiara Fontana

Nahyan Fancy

University of Exeter

Maqāmāt on the Mid-14th Century Plague Outbreaks

Nahid Norozi

Alma Mater Studiorum – University of Bologna

The Slaying of the Dragon and the Legitimation of Iranian Kingship in Persian epics (11th-14th centuries)

Javier Albarran

University of Granada

Natural Disasters, Landscape and Feelings: the Loss of *al-Andalus* and Beyond

7.00 pm

Social dinner

Wednesday, January 15, 2025 – Aula Giorgio Prodi

9.00 – 10.30 am **Panel 3 – Reading Political Instability
Overinterpretation of Natural Challenges During
Historical Upheavals**

Moderator: Ines Peta

Marco Demichelis

Alma Mater Studiorum – University of Bologna

The river Nile and Who Holds Power Over Its Waters: a Study on the Islamic Sources (10th–14th centuries)

Massimiliano Borroni

Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Climate as Catalyst: The Role of a Cold Spell in the Mosul Uprising of 260/873

Ilaria Cicola

Alma Mater Studiorum – University of Bologna

How to tame a disaster? Integrating Politics and Power Strategies into the Creation of a Disasters Database in Classical Arabic Sources.

10.30 – 11.00 am **Coffee/Tea Break**

11.00 – 12.30 pm **Panel 4 – Omens of Climate Change as Occult
Narratives of Power**

Moderator: Chiara Fontana

Ahmed Y. Almaazmi

Princeton University

Cosmic Climate: How Arabian Astrologers Interpreted the Little Ice Age

Andrea Piras

Alma Mater Studiorum – University of Bologna

Environmental Ghosts and Omens in Ancient Iran: Between Care for Life and Apocalyptic Terrors

Matt Melvin Koushki

University of South Carolina

Islamic Neopagan Earth Magic: Notes Toward a Decolonial Typology

12.30 – 1.00 pm **Closing Remarks**

Donatella Guida

L'Orientale University of Naples

Ines Peta

Alma Mater Studiorum – University of Bologna

Chiara Fontana

Alma Mater Studiorum – University of Bologna

1.00 – 2.30 pm **Lunch**

2.30 – 5.00 pm **Walking Tour – Bologna City Centre**