



SUMMER SCHOOL 'CULTURES, MIGRATIONS, BORDERS' OBSERVATORY OF REFUGEE AND MIGRATION CRISIS IN THE AEGEAN

Online Workshop 28-29 January 2022

MEDITERRANEAN MOBILITIES: EMERGENT HIERARCHIES

The redefinition of borders and the subsequent increase in human mobility after the Fall of the Berlin Wall, as well as the securitization of borders in the post 9/11 world and the subsequent intensification of clandestine movement across the maritime state borders in the Mediterranean, reached a climax during the recent "European refugee crisis". The massive movement of migrants and refugees, who follow the (traditional) maritime routes that unite Asia and Africa with Europe, has a significant impact on the very ways the Mediterranean is currently socio-culturally shaped and thought. It affects the scalar properties of the Mediterranean region, it increasingly diversifies and stratifies it, it produces unity as well as division.

Under these circumstances there has been a revival of interest in the Mediterranean, particularly so in academic fields, such as social anthropology, history, or geography, where there has been a legacy of studies organized around ideas about the alleged historical or cultural unity of the Mediterranean region. The exoticizing, reifying and political consequences of the construction of the Mediterranean in anthropology were critically scrutinized in the 1980s and eventually the Mediterranean moved to the periphery of anthropological research. Yet in the last years, there has been a revived scholarly interest on the Mediterranean by anthropologists (and not only). Drawing upon and pushing further existing critiques to Mediterranean anthropology, recent studies call for the critical rethinking of the Mediterranean as a sea of connectivity and violence, as well as the regional formations in transnational and multi-scalar perspectives.

In this workshop, we invite fellow scholars to reflect on recent Mediterranean mobilities – intersecting, transient, enduring, parallel, uneven – and the ways in which they make the Mediterranean and are made by it. We do not approach mobilities as inscribed in space but, rather, as both being formed and co-formative of space. Furthermore, we see these mobilities as embedded within power relations and persistent hierarchies while, at the same time, challenging and negotiating them.

In this spirit we want to discuss a variety of issues: the impact of the strategies of border multiplication both within and outside the European territory (as an important component of EU migration governance), the political contestation of the violent bordering practices and the emergent hierarchies (e.g. humanitarian) that turn the Mediterranean into a contested space, the new inter-cultural encounters and osmoses brought about by the recent Mediterranean mobilities, the new forms of representation and construction of the Mediterranean as a locus of violent conflict, and the multi-scalar regional formations of the Mediterranean.

Activities and presentations scheduled for the **first day** will be **open to the general public**.

During the **second day** we invite 10 registered doctoral students who will present their work, followed by discussion of the topic both with a special discussant and with the rest of the group. **The PhD seminar will be addressed to the registered participants.**

To apply for the PhD seminar, you will need to send a CV and a piece of your work (a research proposal, a draft chapter, original research findings e.t.c) to Persefoni Kerentzi (migbord2022@aegean.gr) by 31 December 2021. Participants will be notified of the outcome of their submission by 8 January 2022.

More information regarding the program and the registration process will be announced very soon!

Organization: The scientific committees of the Summer School and the Observatory.

