Cultures in Movement: New Visions, New Conceptual Paradigms

The category of Orientalism, understood as a product of Western authors, artists and the like, has been superseded, and so too has a unitary vision of the vast and complex Eastern world of the Near East. However, a conception that is no longer static but the fruit of historic, spatiotemporal and emotional transformations has yet to be adequately placed at the centre of the “Mediterranean world” in a culturally broad sense. Such a view requires the testing of new paradigms and investigative methodologies, and of new conceptual tools. In this seminar, the point of observation will be reciprocal legacies, the transfer and translation-appropriation of knowledge, objects and goods, and migrations of bodies, ideas, visions and emotions – all of which have made the Mediterranean not a barrier but a point of contact between different and plural cultures.