

Call for Papers

Conflict Management in the Mediterranean and the Atlantic, 1200-1800: Actors, Institutions and Modes of Dispute Settlement



Paris, 5-7 October 2017

From the late Middle Ages, maritime conflict has developed hand in hand with international trade. Over time, specific institutions were established to address disputes arising from violence or mishap at sea and in coastal areas. Conflict resolution at sea has mostly been studied through the lens of the history of diplomacy and international law. Of late the emphasis has shifted to the process of conflict resolution itself. There is a detailed interest in the different actors and institutions involved alongside in-depth case studies. Conflict management has a wider meaning than conflict resolution, as the concept includes alternative modes of dealing with conflicts that do not necessarily involve resolving them. Beyond classical issues such as naval warfare, piracy and privateering, medievalists and historians exploring the worlds of the early modern Mediterranean and Atlantic have increasingly devoted attention to processes of conflict settlement and conflict avoidance, while also looking into the vast diversity of formal judicial procedures and informal or private paths of settlements.

As research on conflict management continues to flourish, its maritime dimension still deserves more attention, however, as the overall emphasis is mainly on state formation and should be qualified, therefore, as land-oriented. The current conference aims at focusing on the maritime perspective, and proposes an actor and dispute-centered approach. How did victims of maritime conflicts claim compensation or reparation? How and to what extent did they get support from authorities and polities? How did individual actors and public institutions negotiate disputes which transcended jurisdictional boundaries (for example those involving reprisal and piracy)? What strategies, arrangements and agreements were resorted in order to achieve resolution of those conflicts, and with what effectiveness?

So far, students of the maritime dimension, have mainly studied either the Mediterranean or Atlantic region, creating separate historiographies. This conference will foster an exchange between scholars working on these two areas of research, allowing for a comparative and long-term perspective. This may reveal connections between the two seascapes and shed a useful light on the multiplicity and complexity of the paths chosen for the management of disputes.

Papers on these themes in English or French will be welcomed. Paper proposals (abstract in 150 words and a CV on one page) to be sent before 1 July 2017 to l.h.j.sicking@hum.leidenuniv.nl and to anne.wegener-sleeswijk@univ-paris1.fr

Organisation:

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This conference is a collaboration between Louis Sicking, winner of the Prix Descartes-Huygens 2016, and the Institut d'Histoire Moderne et Contemporaine (IHMC - UMR 8066) Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne.