



# International Conference

## Connecting Diaspora(s) and Homeland(s) in the Middle Ages (IX-XV c.): Religion, Art, Technology between North Africa and East Asia

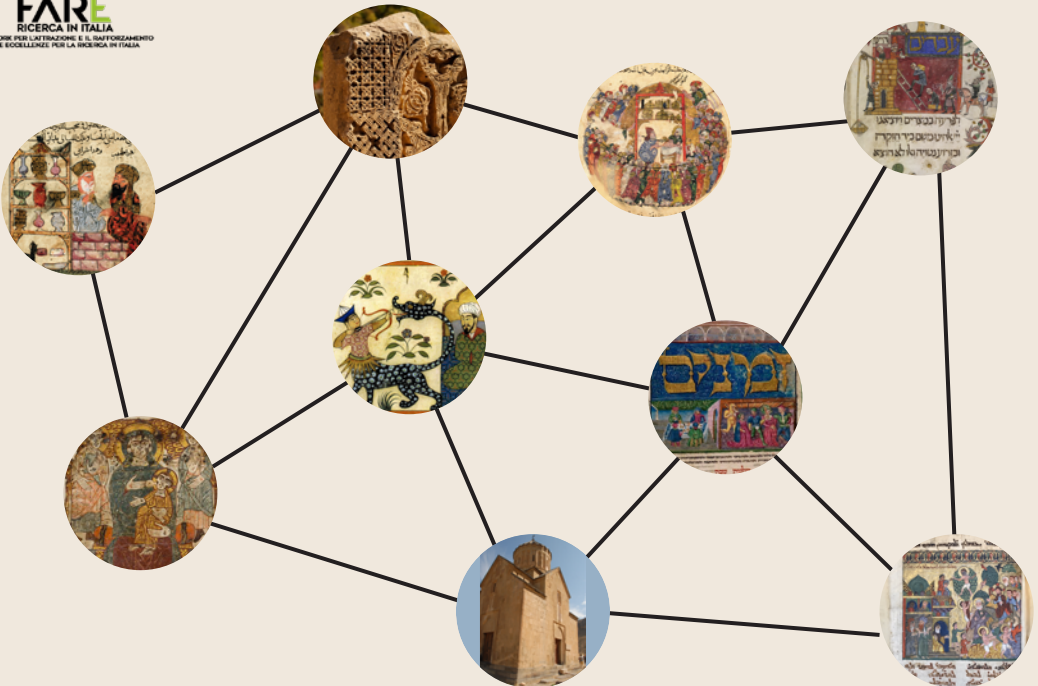
HAI Mobility Project  
Hagiographies,  
Art,  
Ideologies, Objects:  
Mobility and Interactions  
of the Armenians  
in the Afro-Eurasian  
Centres in IX XV cc.

10th-11th February 2025

Aula Magna

Dipartimento SAGAS, Palazzo Fenzi-Marucelli

Via San Gallo 10 - Florence (Italy)



Organisers:

Sara Scarpellini, Lapo Somigli, Zaroui Pogossian, Edda Vardanyan

# Monday, 10th February 2025

## Conference Opening: The Project HAI Mobiliy

10:30 **Paolo Liverani** (SAGAS Director, Florence University), *Welcome Address*

10:45 **Zaroui Pogossian** (PI HAI Mobility Project, SAGAS, Florence University)  
*Introduction to the Project HAI Mobiliy*

### Session 1

#### Material Culture: Artistic Production

Chair: Gohar Grigoryan

11:00 **Edda Vardanyan**, *Roman d'Alexandre: le point de rencontre des élites arméniennes entre la Cilicie et l'Arménie Majeure*

11:30 **Gayane Babayan**, *The Fourteenth-Fifteenth-Century Crimean Armenian Book Production between Diaspora and Homeland*

12:00 **Eiren Shea**, *Mongol Dress in the Caucasus: Textiles as Evidence for Mongol-Armenian Relations*

12:30 LUNCH

### Session 2

#### Material Culture: Circulation of Technology

Chair: Elisa Pruno

14:00 **Lapo Somigli**, *Material Traces of Armenian Communities in the Mediterranean Area: Examples and Preliminary Reflections*

14:30 **Raffaele Ranieri**, *Material Culture, Identity and Connectivity in Southern Bilad-al-Sham: the Stratigraphic Observatory of Shobak*

15:00 **Stéphane Pradines**, *Armenians and Kurds: the Role of Minorities in Muslim Military Architecture*

15:30 COFFEE BREAK

### Session 3

#### Texts and Communities

Chair: Barbara Roggema

16:00 **Jonathan Brack**, *Jews, Judaism, and the Circulation of Knowledge and Texts in Mongol-ruled, Ilkhanid Iran*

16:30 **Alessandro Bausi**, *Contatti fra diaspora e madrepatria in epoca medievale: il caso dell'Etiopia*

17:00 **Gagik Danielyan**, *In Search of a Homeland. The Case of the Armenian Community of Egypt, 11th-12th cc.*

20:00 CONFERENCE DINNER

**Tuesday, 11th February 2025**

**Session 4**

**Communities and Identities**

Chair: Zaroui Pogossian

- 10:00 **Alexandra Cuffel**, *Jewish Diasporas. Practiced and Imagined in the Middle Ages*
- 10:30 **Camille Rouxpetel**, *Between Jerusalem, Cairo and Ethiopia. Coptic and Ethiopian groups facing the Ottoman conquest of the Mamluk Sultanate*
- 11:00 **Craig Perry**, *Slavery, Jewish Law, and a Nubian Diaspora in Medieval Egypt*
- 11:30 COFFEE BREAK

**Session 5**

**Communities and Stories of Holy Men/Women**

Chair: Ana Maria Echevarria Arsuaga

- 11:30 **Sara Scarpellini**, *A Saint on Horseback between Armenia and the Diaspora(s): George and his Cult in the Middle Ages*
- 12:00 **Iskandar Bcheiry**, *The Role of the Syriac Community in Egypt in Reworking Syriac Hagiographical Accounts in North Mesopotamia between the thirteenth and fifteenth Centuries*
- 12:30 **DISCUSSION & LESSONS LEARNT**
- 13:00 LUNCH

## Connecting Diaspora(s) and Homeland(s) in the Middle Ages (IX-XV c.): Religion, Art, Technology between North Africa and East Asia

*The mobility of human groups has led to the formation of diasporas that maintained ties to their homeland, fostering the exchange of ideas, technologies, religious practices, and artistic forms. This conference will explore cultural connections between diasporas and their points of origin, focusing on art, production technologies, and religious traditions. It will examine the circulation of knowledge, innovations, and resistances, highlighting interactions between diasporas, "homelands," and host environments, with a particular focus on the medieval period.*

*The conference is organized within the framework of the HAI Mobility project (Hagiographies, Art, Ideologies, Objects: Mobility and Interactions of the Armenians in the Afro-Eurasian Centres in IX-XV cc.), funded by the Italian Ministry of University and Research thanks to the FARE grant.*

*The conference will be held at the SAGAS Department, Palazzo Fenzi-Marucelli, via San Gallo 10, Florence.*

