

24 and 25 March 2026
Institut d'Estudis Catalans (IEC)
C/del Carme, 47, Barcelona

PRESENTATION

The new edition of the Aula Mediterrània Interdisciplinary Research Seminar, which will take place on 24–25 March 2026 at the Institut d'Estudis Catalans in Barcelona, is part of the Aula Mediterrània programme, an initiative that brings together sixteen master's programmes from nine universities in Catalonia with the aim of promoting research, academic dialogue, and university cooperation in the Mediterranean region across different disciplines.

This year's edition further strengthens its collaboration with Casa Àrabe's Aula Àrabe Universitaria programme and benefits from the support of the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), which contributes to disseminating its efforts in promoting Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in higher education. The seminar will also include the participation of researchers from the Forum for Research on the Arab and Muslim World (FIMAM), as well as from the EuroMeSCo network, which brings together leading think tanks from across the Euro-Mediterranean space. Over the years, the seminar has established itself as a key platform for academic dialogue and university cooperation in the Mediterranean, fostering exchange among institutions, researchers, and students.

[Challenges of academic exchange and training in the Euro-Mediterranean region](#)

The first part of the seminar addresses two strategic challenges for academic cooperation in the framework of the new Pact for the Mediterranean: mobility and education. Despite the ambition to move towards a more integrated Mediterranean Higher Education Area, mobility flows remain largely unidirectional, with a high number of students from the southern Mediterranean studying in Europe, while mobility in the opposite direction remains limited.

In the context of preparations for the post-2027 Erasmus+ framework, it is necessary to promote measures that encourage more balanced and reciprocal mobility flows, while also promoting universities in the southern Mediterranean as centres of excellence, innovation, and intercultural dialogue. In this process, the Union for the Mediterranean can play a key role as a platform for dialogue among ministries responsible for higher education, helping to strengthen North–South and South–South mobility.

At the same time, the Euro-Mediterranean region faces shared challenges — such as migration, human rights, climate change, and sustainable development — that require a new generation of professionals and researchers trained from a Euro-Mediterranean perspective. In this context, Aula Mediterrània reaffirms its

In collaboration with



commitment to supporting young researchers through the sixth edition of the Best Master's Dissertation Awards and the organisation of the Open Mic, an open session in which students can present their research projects.

[Studying the Mediterranean in the new global order](#)

The second day of the seminar will be devoted to thematic parallel sessions organised by the participating master's programmes, reflecting both the research interests and the interdisciplinary spirit of the Aula Mediterrània programme. These sessions analyse the Mediterranean as a key space for understanding major contemporary political, social, and historical challenges.

Debates will address issues such as transnational justice, the governance of diversity in polarised societies, anti-migration narratives, and ideological transformations in Mediterranean cities, as well as the geopolitical role of the Suez Canal. At the same time, the programme incorporates perspectives that highlight voices and experiences that are often marginalised, such as those of women, diasporas, and religious minorities, and explores topics such as conflicts in the Mediterranean from feminist and international law perspectives.

Overall, the seminar offers an interdisciplinary reflection on the role of the Mediterranean in the emerging global order, emphasising both the challenges and the opportunities for cooperation in this key region.

PROGRAMME

24 march 2026

9.30 – 10.00 **Accreditations**

10.00 – 10.30 **Welcoming remarks**

Teresa Cabré, President, Institut d'Estudis Catalans (IEC)

Senén Florensa, Executive President, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)

Inaugural address by

Petra Kezman, Deputy Secretary General for Human Development, Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)

Agustí Fernández de Losada, Secretary of European, Multilateral and Development Cooperation Affairs, Government of Catalonia

Languages: Catalan and English with translation

Challenges of academic exchange and training in the Euro-Mediterranean region

10.30 – 10.50 **Keynote speech**

Amr Ezzat Salama, Secretary General, Association of Arab Universities

10.50 – 12.00 **Round table I**

From Mobility to Mutuality. Rethinking Academic Exchange in the Mediterranean

Pablo Pareja, Deputy Vice-Rector to the Rector, UPF

Emna Memmi, Liason Office for Africa and Middle East, Erasmus Student Network (ESN)

Céline Pascual, Vice-President to Sustainable Development, Aix Marseille Université

Chair

João Lobo, Project Analyst, Higher Education and Research Division, UfM

Discussants

Polona Oblak, Lecturer and Head of EMUNI Network Department, EMUNI University

Ana Planet, Professor of Arab and Islamic Studies, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid

Session organised in collaboration with the UfM

Language: English with translation

12.00 – 12.30 **Coffee break**

12.30 – 14.00 **Round table II**

The Strategic Role of the Education in Euro-Mediterranean Studies

Rony Darazi, Vice-Rector for Cooperation and Internationalization, Université Antonine, Lebanon

Raúl Ramos, Vice-Rector for Internationalization Policy, UB

Amel Boubekeur, Senior Fellow, IEMed

Loua Khalil, Lecturer in Leadership and Leadership Development, Reading University

Chair

Gemma Aubarell, Director of the Culture, Gender and Civil Society Department, IEMed

Discussants

Laura Mas, Executive Director of the CEI Foundation

Olivia Orozco, coordinator of Education and Economics, Casa Árabe

Languages: Catalan, English and Spanish with translation

14.00 – 15.30 **Lunch**

15.30 – 16.30 **Award Ceremony for the Best Aula Mediterrània Master's Dissertation – 6th Edition**

Senén Florensa, Executive President, IEMed

Laura Chaqués Bonafont, Director, IBEI

Eduard Soler i Lecha, Coordinator, Master's Degree in International Relations, Security and Development, UAB

Jaume Dantí, Professor of Early Modern History, UB

Presentation

Elisabetta Ciuccarelli, Programme Manager, Culture, Gender and Civil Society Department, IEMed

Dialogue among the winners of the Best Master's Dissertations

Marina Kryakis, Master's in International Security, IBEI

Charting Turbulent waters: the Suez Canal's strategic significance amid regional turmoil

Hanin Fraser, Master's Degree in International Relations, Security and Development, UAB

Sociology of Power in Migration Governance: Proposing a New Analytical Framework Using Turkey as a Case Study



Ona Vila Palacín, Master's Degree in History and Identities in the Western Mediterranean, 15th-19th Centuries, UB/UA/UV/Universitat Jaume I

Los enlaces entre inmigrantes franceses y expósitos del Hospital de la Santa Creu (1532-1601)

Chair

Oscar Monterde, Assistant Professor of Modern and Contemporary History, UB

Languages: Catalan, English and Spanish with translation

16.30 – 18.30 **Open mic session**

Presentation and debate on the Final Master's Dissertations

Master's Students and Faculty Members of the IEMed Interuniversity Programme Aula Mediterrània

Languages: Catalan, Spanish and English

The sessions scheduled for the 24 March will take place in the Sala Pi i Sunyer

The Mediterranean region in the New World Order

25 March 2026

9.30 – 11.30

Workshop Aula Mediterrània

The Aula Summer School in Morocco 2026

Only for Members of the Master's Programs Executive Teams

Languages: Catalan and Spanish

Room: Puig i Cadafalch

11.30 – 12.00

Coffee break

12.00 – 14.00

Parallel sessions

Session 1. Transitional Justice in the Levant and North Africa: Lessons Learned and Future Challenges

Room: Pi i Sunyer

Language: English

Master's Degree in International Relations, Security and Development, UAB/Master's Degree in Internationalization: Economic, Commercial, Legal and Political Aspects and Master's Degree in Contemporary History and Today's World, UB/Master's Degree in International Journalism and Master's Degree in Advanced Studies in International Affairs, Blanquerna-URL

Chair

Elisenda Calvet, Associate Professor in International Law and International Relations; Rector's Delegate for Faculty 18, UB

Transitional Justice in Syria: Between Optimism and Realism – sliding toward 'Victor's Justice'?

Bassam Alahmad, Co-Founder and Executive Director of Syrians for Truth and Justice

Transitional Justice and the Politics of "Us": a Social Identity Perspective on Syria's "Post"-Conflict Future

Loua Khalil, Principal Investigator, Syria in Transition and University of Reading

Transitional Justice in Tunisia: A Missed Opportunity?

Nadia Jmal, Research Assistant, Arab Reform Initiative

Allies or adversaries? The potential and pitfalls of international actors in the transitional justice process in Syria

Anna Fleischer, Director, Global Unit for Democracy and Human Rights, Heinrich Böll Foundation

Session 2. Governing Diversity in Polarized Times: Mediterranean Cities and the Ideological Turn

Room: Pere i Joan Coromines

Language: English

Master's Degree in Governance - Migration Studies Track, GRITIM-UPF

Chair

Ricard Zapata, Professor, Department of Political and Social Sciences, UPF; Director, GRITIM-UPF; Coordinator, EuroMedMig

[Can Immigrant Conservatism in Europe Be Consistent with the Liberal Conception of Justice?](#)

Sari Hanafi, Professor, Department of Sociology, Anthropology & Media Studies; Director, Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies, American University of Beirut

[Inclusion or Allegiance? Diversity Policies and the Muslim Vote after Gaza](#)

Amel Boubekeur, Professor tenure track, Laboratoire d'Économie et de Sociologie du Travail, CNRS/Aix-Marseille Université

[From Ideology to Belonging: Migrant Political Re-Socialization in Mediterranean Cities in Polarized Times](#)

Luisa Faustini, Senior Researcher, GRITIM-UPF; EuroMedMig Project Officer

Session 3. Anti-Migrant Narratives in the Mediterranean Region

Room: Nicolau d'Olwer

Language: Spanish

Inter-University Master's Degree in Contemporary Migration, Rights and Social Cohesion, UAB-UB

Chair

Sònia Parella, Associate Professor and Director of the Department of Sociology, UAB

[Between Perceptions, Prejudices, and Resistance to the Facts of Immigration in Portugal: From Narratives to the Consequences of Polarization and the Politicization of Immigration](#)

Catarina Reis de Oliveira, Associate Professor, Instituto Superior de Ciências Sociais e Políticas, Universidade de Lisboa

[Anti-Immigration Discourse in Morocco: Diagnosis, Causes, and Measures](#)

Fatima Larouz, Associate Professor of Hispanic Philology, University of Moulay Ismail, Meknes

[Narratives on Migration in Spain: Between Integration and Hate](#)

Eynel Pilatowsky, Expert in Public opinion and citizens' perceptions regarding migration and xenophobia

14.00 – 15.30 **Lunch**

15.30 – 17.30 **Parallel sessions**

Session 4. Unbearable Differences, "Acceptable" Racisms? Mediterranean Responses to Structural Racism

Room: Nicolau d'Oliver

Languages: English, Spanish and Catalan

Master's Degree in Migratory Movements in the 21st Century: Concepts, Reality and Actions, UdG/Master's Degree in Urban Anthropology, Migrations and Social Intervention, URV/Master's Degree in Advanced Studies in Architecture, Barcelona School of Architecture, ETSAB-UPC

Chair

Jordi Moreras, Serra Húnter Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, Philosophy and Social Work, URV; and **Eduard Carrera-Fossas**, Lecturer, Department of Pedagogy, UdG

[I'm not your Muslim: Islamophobia and Moral Panics in Lisbon Metropolitan Area](#)

José Mapril, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, Universidade Nova de Lisboa

[The Emotional Impact of Everyday Racism: Islamophobia in Public Space.](#)

Cristina Rodríguez-Reche, Researcher, Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, UAB

[Genealogy of Racism and Derived Impunities](#)

Aliou Diallo, Researcher, Universitat de Girona

PARALLEL SESSIONS

Session 5. Southern Europe and the Suez Canal: A Gateway to Globalisation

Room: Pi i Sunyer

Languages: English and Spanish

Master's Degrees in World History and Master's Degree in Asian-Pacific Studies in a Global Context, UPF

Chair

Meritzell Joan, Professor Tenure Track in Literary Studies, UPF

[Spain and the Suez Canal: Bridging Worlds?](#)

Jorge Luengo, Professor Tenure Track of Modern History, UPF

[Microhistories of a Global Event: Suez Canal Company Staff and the Suez Crisis](#)

Angelos Dalachanis, Researcher, CNRS/IHMC, Paris

[Between Two Seas, a World Opening Up: Spain and the Suez Canal](#)

Poi Dalmau, Researcher Ramón y Cajal, UPF

17.30 – 19.30 **Parallel sessions**

Session 6. Women's Voices in the Mediterranean Region: Transformations and Contemporary Challenges

Room: Nicolau d'Olwer

Language: Spanish

Master's Degree in Construction and Representation of Cultural Identities, Universitat de Barcelona, UB

Chair

Nassima Kerras, Lecturer in French Studies, Faculty of Philology, UB

[History of Feminist Movements in the Mediterranean Region: Deconstructing Eurocentric Narratives from an Intersectional Perspective](#)

Mariona Lloret Rodà, Researcher, Blanquerna-URL

[New Feminist Languages in the Southern Mediterranean: Genealogies, Ruptures, and Resistances Post-2011](#)

Laura Galián, Lecturer, Universidad de Murcia

[Literature and the Reality of Sexual Violence Against Women: French- and Spanish-Language Women Writers after #MeToo](#)

Nieves Ibeas, Professor, Faculty of Philosophy and Letters, Universidad de Zaragoza

Session 7. Diasporas, Religious Minorities, Migrations, and Movements in the Mediterranean during the Early Modern Period

Room: Pi i Sunyer

Language: Catalan

Master's Degree in History and Identities in the Western Mediterranean (15th-19th Centuries), UB, Universitat d'Alacant, Universitat de València, Universitat Jaume I

Chair

Diego Sola, Senior Professor in Early Modern History and coordinator of the master's degree, UB

From the Archive to the Museum and from the Museum to Society: New Narratives and Imaginaries on the Moriscos and Slaves in the 21st Century

Borja Franco Llopis, Professor of History of Art, UNED

Classical and New Perspectives on French Migrants in the Early Modern Period

Alexandra Capdevila, Lecturer, Ateneu Universitari Sant Pacià, Barcelona, and Universitat Oberta de Catalunya

From Converts to Xuetes: More than a Semantic Change

Miquel Deyá, Associate Professor of Early Modern History, Universitat de les Illes Balears

Session 8. Violence and Protection in the Mediterranean: What Role for Humanitarian Intervention?

Room: Pere i Joan Coromines

Language: English

IBEI Master's Degrees/Master's Degrees in Diplomacy and International Organizations and Master's Degree in Lifelong Learning in Sustainability. Environment, Society, and Economy CEI-UB

Chair

Susana Galán, Ramón y Cajal Assistant Professor, IBEI

Urban Violences in Syria: Challenges in the Post-AI Assad Transition

Gabriel Garroum, Postdoctoral Researcher, UPF

International Humanitarian Law and the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Gaza: A Tale of Exclusion and Inhumanity

Andrea Farrés, PhD Candidate, Faculty of Law, UB

A Feminist Approach to the Analysis of Protection in the Eastern Mediterranean: Field Notes

Marta Agosti, Regional Advisor at the World Health Organization (WHO)

IEMed.

