SERIES OF LECTURES

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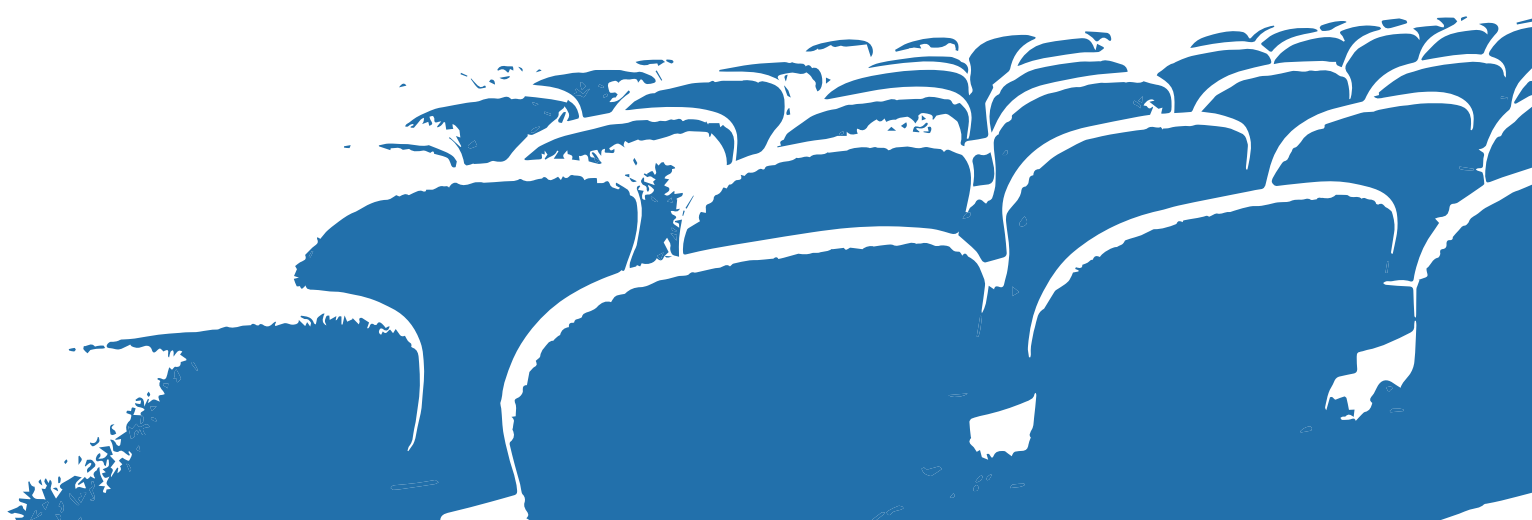
Programa Interuniversitari de l'IEMed.

2026-2027



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SERIES OF LECTURES

October 2026 – May 2027
Assembly Hall - European Institute of the Mediterranean

Borders, Conflicts and Connections: Cartographies of the Mediterranean

The Mediterranean is currently immersed in a particularly turbulent reality, marked by the persistence and spread of conflicts, the reconfiguration of geopolitical balances, the toughening of border and migration policies, internal social and political tensions, and the growing impact of the climate and environmental crisis. These complexities are compounded by profound transformations in relations between Europe, North Africa and the Middle East, as well as new forms of cooperation, externalisation, securitisation and struggles for power. Analysing this reality requires moving beyond fragmented approaches and relating processes that are often studied separately. In this context, it is particularly important to bring specialised and rigorous knowledge closer to the wider public and to create spaces for debate and exchange around the main challenges of the present.

The Aula Mediterrània Lecture Series of 2026-2027 proposes to address some of these processes from a plural academic perspective, combining an analysis of contemporary dynamics with the historical perspective necessary to understand their origins and continuities. Borders whether territorial, political, social or symbolic, are one of the guiding threads of a programme that examines mobilities and migrations, forms of regional governance and cooperation, conflicts and memories, geopolitical transformations, climate change and its impacts, as well as cultural and social expressions of resistance and resilience.

The lectures thus start from concrete issues to explore the multiple ways in which Mediterranean relations are shaped and transformed: from environmental migrations and the climate crisis to the memory of the Nakba and the situation in Gaza; from relations between Europe and the Islamic world to current policies of cooperation and externalisation; and from urban and protest spaces to literary and cultural creation as forms of resistance. Taken together, they offer different approaches to understanding a Mediterranean shaped by tensions and inequalities, but also by connections, mobilities and processes of transformation.

The interuniversity programme Aula Mediterrània, which this year celebrates its **13th edition,** is an initiative led by the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed), in collaboration with eight Catalan universities. After more than a decade of continuous activity, it has established itself as a leading forum for the study of the Mediterranean and for the circulation of knowledge between the two shores, with the participation of professors and researchers from European and Mediterranean universities.

This year's edition offers a total of 26 lectures, organised within the framework of the participating master's programmes and universities, which define the thematic agenda and select the invited speakers. Throughout the academic year, academics and specialists will address the region's main challenges from four main axes:

- **Migrations and Mobilities.** Border governance, migration policies, irregularised routes and mobilities, the role of cities, integration processes, and the challenges to social cohesion.

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- **International Relations and Geopolitics.** Relations between Europe and the Mediterranean countries, conflicts and transformations in the Middle East, the role of the Gulf monarchies, regional cooperation, and energy policies.

- **History, Societies and Culture.** Historical relations between the societies of the northern and southern Mediterranean, forms of contact and conflict, the construction of memories and identities, spaces of protest and cultural creation as a form of resistance and resilience.

- **Environment and Sustainability.** The effects of climate change, environmental transformations in the Mediterranean, the protection of ecosystems, and the challenges associated with sustainability, including their social and political repercussions.

As part of its international dimension, Aula Mediterrània maintains an exchange of speakers with Aula Árabe Universitaria at Casa Árabe, which we have expanded through collaboration with Casa Mediterráneo, thereby strengthening connections between different academic spaces devoted to the study of the Mediterranean and the Arab world. As in the 2025-2026 edition, undergraduate students from the Faculty of Geography and History at the University of Barcelona will also be able to obtain academic credit recognition for their participation in the lecture series.

MASTER'S DEGREES PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAMME

Master's Degree in Contemporary Migrations, Rights and Social Cohesion, UAB/UB; IBEI Master's Degrees; Master's Degree in History and Identities in the Western Mediterranean, 15th-19th Centuries, UB/UA/UV/Universitat Jaume I; Master's Degree in Diplomacy and International Organisations, CEI/UB; Master's Degree in Lifelong Learning in Sustainability. Environment, Society, and Economy CEI/UB; CEU Universitat Abat Oliba; Master's Degree in International Relations, Security and Development, UAB; Master's Degree in International Journalism, Blanquerna-URL; Master's Degree in Advanced Studies in International Affairs, Blanquerna-URL; Master's Degree in Construction and Representation of Cultural Identities, UB; Master's Degree in World History, UPF; Master's Degree in Governance - Migration Studies Track, GRITIM-UPF; Master's Degree in Urban Anthropology, Migrations and Social Intervention, URV; Universitat de Girona; Master's Degree in Advanced Studies in Architecture, ETSAB-UPC; Master's Degree in Internationalisation: Economic, Business and Legal-Political Aspects, UB; Master's Degree in Contemporary History and Today's World, UB.

PROGRAMME

OCTOBER

Thursday, 15 October
IBEI Master's Degrees

6.30 pm Opening Session of the Aula Mediterrània Lecture Series

Lorena Elvira Ayuso, General Secretary, European Union and Foreign Action, Government of Catalonia
Senén Florensa, Executive President, IEMed

Opening Lecture

6.45 pm Mirror, Mirror on the Wall: Reversing the Gaze and Rethinking Euro-Mediterranean Relations

Michelle Pace, Senior International Research & Policy Consultant
Elisabeth Johansson-Nogués, Research Professor and Jean Monnet Chair, IBEI

Session language: English

Thursday, 22 October
Master's Degree in History and Identities in the Western Mediterranean, 15th-19th Centuries, UB/UA/UV/UJI

6.30 pm Archipelagos of the Greek Diaspora in the Modern Mediterranean (17th-18th Centuries)

Giampaolo Salice, Associate Professor of Early Modern History, Università di Cagliari
Ida Mauro, Associate Professor of Early Modern History, UB

Session language: Italian (with interpretation)

Monday, 26 October
Master's Degree in Governance - Migration Studies Track, GRITIM-UPF

6.30 pm From Cooperation as Aspiration to Externalisation as Reality: The Securitisation of Euro-Mediterranean Migration Governance

Gemma Pinyol, Senior Researcher, GRITIM-UPF
Demetra Santagati, Researcher, GRITIM-UPF

Session language: English

NOVEMBER

Thursday, 5 November

Master's Degree in Advanced Studies in Architecture, ETSAB-UPC

6.30 pm Regeneration of Social Housing Neighbourhoods in the Euro-Mediterranean Region

Giuliana Miglierina, Researcher, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies, Politecnico Milano

Marta Domènech Rodríguez, Associate Professor, Barcelona School of Architecture, ETSAB-UPC

Session language: English

Thursday, 12 November

Master's Degree in History and Identities in the Western Mediterranean, 15th-19th Centuries, UB/UA/UV/UJI

6.30 pm Societies in Contact between Europe and Islam (16th-17th Centuries)

Natividad Planas, Associate Professor of Early Modern History of Spain and the Mediterranean, Université Clermont Auvergne

Mariela Fargas, Associate Professor of Early Modern History, UB

Session language: Spanish

Wednesday, 18 November

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

6.30 pm Literary Creation as a Vector of Resilience in the Face of Genocide

Alaa al Qatrawi, Palestinian poet

Abdallah Tagourramt El Kbaich, Lecturer, Department of Classical, Romance and Semitic Philology, UB

Session language:

Thursday, 26 November

Master's Degree in World History, UPF

6.30 pm Spaces for Social Interaction and Protest in the Islamic World: From the Middle Ages to the Present Day

Amina Elbendary, Associate Professor of Middle East History, Sheikh Hassan Abbas Sharbatly Department of Arab and Islamic Civilizations, The American University in Cairo

Jorge Luengo, Tenure-Track Professor of Contemporary History, UPF

Session language: English

In collaboration with Casa Árabe

DECEMBER

Thursday, 3 December

Master's Degree in Contemporary Migrations, Rights and Social Cohesion, UAB/UB

6.30 pm Migration Prohibition and Irregularised Routes in the Mediterranean: Internal and External Borders of the EU

Luca Giliberti, Associate Professor of Sociology of Cultural and Communication Processes, Università di Parma

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

Session language: Spanish

Thursday, 10 December

Master's Degree in History and Identities in the Western Mediterranean, 15th-19th Centuries, UB/UA/UV/UJI

6.30 pm Crossed Diplomacies: Christian and Muslim Agents in the Struggle for Hegemony in the Mediterranean (17th Century)

David Quiles Albero, Lecturer, Department of Early Modern History, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid

Diego Sola, Associate Professor of Early Modern History, UB

Session language: Spanish

JANUARY

Wednsday, 13 January

Master's Degree in Urban Anthropology, Migrations and Social Intervention, URV

18.30 h

Speaker

Jordi Moreras, Serra Húnter Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, Philosophy and Social Work, and Coordinator of the Master's Degree, URV

Session language:

Venue: Arxiu d'Etnografia (Aula 521), Campus Catalunya URV (Av. Catalunya 35, Tarragona)

Thursday, 21 January

Master's Degree in Advanced Studies in International Affairs, Blanquerna-URL

6.30 pm Transitional Justice in the MENA Region: Regional Dynamics and Mediterranean Connections

Jasmina Brankovich, Senior Researcher, Institute for Integrated Transitions, Barcelona

Carles Fernandez-Torne, Lecturer in International Public Law, Human Rights and Conflict Analysis, Blanquerna-URL

Session language: English

Thursday, 28 January
Master's Degree in Governance - Migration Studies Track, GRITIM-UPF

6.30 pm A Sea of Externalisation(s). Comparing Long-Term Trends Along Bilateral Migration Corridors: Italy-Albania and Italy-Tunisia (1990-2027)

Ferruccio Pastore, Director of FIERI-Researching Migration and Society, Turin
Emilien Miner, Researcher, GRITIM-UPF

Session language: English

FEBRUARY

Thursday, 4 February
Master's Degree in International Journalism, Blanquerna-URL

6.30 pm The Geopolitical Role of the Gulf Monarchies in the Context of the Regional War in the Middle East

Wadah Khanfar, President and Cofounder of Al Sharq Forum and President of the Common Action Forum
Montserrat Arbós, Director of the Degree in Journalism and Corporate Communication, Blanquerna-URL

Session language: English

Thursday, 11 February
CEU Universitat Abat Oliba

6.30 pm The Barcelona Convention and Its Legal Framework for Coastal Zone Management (ICZM Protocol)

Marko Prem, Deputy Director at the Priority Actions Programme/Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC) of UNEP's Mediterranean Action Plan – Barcelona Convention
Carmen Parra Rodríguez, Professor of International Law, CEU UAO

Session language: English

Tuesday, 16 February
Master's Degree in Diplomacy and International Organisations, CEI/UB

12.00 h

Speaker
Adrià Reyes, Lecturer in International Public Law and Executive Coordinator of the Master's Degree, CEI/UB

Session language:

Thursday, 18 February
Master's Degree in Contemporary Migrations, Rights and Social Cohesion, UAB/UB

6.30 pm Reflections on Measuring the Integration of Migrants: From the Experience in the Basque Country to the Experience in the Mediterranean

Gorka Moreno Márquez, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology and Social Work, University of the Basque Country, EHU
Massoud Sharifi, Postdoctoral Researcher, CER Migracions, UAB

Session language: Spanish

Tuesday, 23 February
Master's Degree in Internationalisation: Economic, Business and Legal-Political Aspects, UB

6.30 pm State and Capital at the Origins of Oil Imperialism in the Middle East

Francesco Petrini, Associate Professor in History of International Relations, Department of Political Science, Law and International Studies, Università di Padova
Aurèlia Mañé, Professor in the Department of Economic History, Institutions, Politics and World Economy, UB

Session language: English

MARÇ

Tuesday, 9 March
Master's Degree in Lifelong Learning in Sustainability. Environment, Society, and Economy CEI/UB

6.30 pm Climate Change in the Mediterranean: Transport, Emmissions and Acidification

Beatriz Martínez, Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, and Head of the Centre for Climate Change Law and Governance, University of Copenhagen
Didac Amat Puigsech, PhD in Climate International Law and Lecturer, CEI

Session language: Spanish

APRIL

Thursday, 1 April
Master's Degree in International Relations, Security and Development, UAB

6.30 pm Rethinking the Balance of Power in the Middle East

John Nagle, Professor of Sociology, Queen's University Belfast
Dúnia Camps-Febrer, Lecturer in International Relations, UAB

Session language: English **In collaboration with Casa Árabe**

Thursday, 8 April
IBEI Master's Degrees

6.30 pm Fragmented Wholeness and the Ongoing Genocide in Gaza

Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian, Chair in Global Law, Queen Mary University of London, and Professor Emerita, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Susana Galán, Ramón y Cajal Assistant Professor, IBEI

Session language: English

Wednesday, 14 April
Master's Degree in Contemporary History and Today's World, UB

6.30 pm The Palestine Nakba. Decolonising History, Narrating the Subaltern, Reclaiming Memory

Nur Masalha, Researcher, Centre for Palestine Studies, SOAS, University of London
Oscar Monterde, Lecturer of Contemporary History, UB

Session language: English

Monday, 19 April
Faculty of Education and Psychology, UdG

12 noon Cities on the Frontline: Immigration and Political Polarisation

Ilke Adam, Professor of Political Science, Brussels School of Governance, Vrije Universiteit Brussels
Xavier Casademont Falguera, Associate Professor, Department of Pedagogy, UdG

Session language: English
Venue:

Thursday, 22 April
Master's Degree in Governance - Migration Studies Track, GRITIM-UPF

6.30 pm Environmental Migration in North Africa and Beyond: Between Resilience, Urgency, Vulnerability and Legal Voids

Mohammad Charef, Chairperson of the Regional Commission of Souss-Massa for Morocco's National Human Rights Council (CNDH)
Ricard Zapata, Professor, Department of Political and Social Sciences, UPF, and Director of GRITIM-UPF

Session language: French (with interpretation into English)

Thursday, 29 April
Master's Degree in Contemporary Migrations, Rights and Social Cohesion, UAB/UB

6.30 pm Border Struggles between Africa and Europe: Forms of Solidarity and Resistance

Tindaro Bellinvia, Tenure-Track Researcher in Sociology, Università di Messina
Romina Tavernelli, Researcher, Department of sociology, UAB

Session language: Italian (with interpretation)

MAY

Thursday, 6 May
Master's Degree in International Relations, Security and Development, UAB

6.30 pm The Enduring Coloniality of Ecological Modernization: Wind Energy Development in Western Sahara

Yahia Mahmoud, Associate Professor, Department of Human Geography, Lund University
Dúnia Camps-Febrer, Lecturer in International Relations, UAB

Session language: English

Thursday, 13 May
Master's Degree in International Relations, Security and Development, UAB

6.30 pm Extractivism and Rentier System as Obstacles to Modernity: the Case of Algeria

Mourad Ouchichi, Lecturer of Political Science, University of Béjaia
Dúnia Camps-Febrer, Lecturer in International Relations, UAB

Session language: French (with interpretation)

PLACE

IEMed Assembly Hall, C/ Girona, 20 – 08010 Barcelona (with exceptions)

IEMed YouTube Channel

DIPLOMA OF ATTENDANCE

People who have attended 40% of the sessions (10 sessions) in person may request a diploma of attendance awarded by the IEMed, issued jointly with the master's programmes participating in the lecture series. In case you want to apply for the diploma, please complete the form on the following link www.iemed.org/aulamediterrania

This year the twinning with Casa Árabe's Aula Árabe Universitaria, programme, which began six years ago, is maintained. This is reflected in: 1) the exchange of speakers between both programmes in Madrid and Barcelona, when agendas allow it; (2) the organisation of joint seminars; and 3) the recognition of the respective lectures in terms of certification, thanks to the possibility of connecting live to them online. In other words, if Aula Árabe Universitaria students connect online to an Aula Mediterrània lecture, that attendance will be recognised in order to acquire the Aula Árabe Universitaria certificate (up to a maximum of 2 lectures). In the same way, Aula Mediterrània students who connect online to one of the Aula Árabe Universitaria lectures will have their attendance recognised by the Aula Mediterrània certificate (also a maximum of 2 lectures).

DIPLOMA OF ATTENDANCE AT THE MIGRATION MODULE

People who have attended in person (with the exception of the sessions of Wednsday 13 January and Monday 19 April 2027) the 8 sessions organised by: Master's Degree in Governance - Migration Studies Track, GRITIM-UPF; Master's Degree in Urban Anthropology, Migrations and Social Intervention, URV; Universitat de Girona, and Master's Degree in Contemporary Migrations, Rights and Social Cohesion, UAB/UB.

Undergraduate students from the faculty of History and Geography of the UB who have chosen the Aula Mediterrània Lecture Series as an activity for the recognition of elective credits must attend 70% of the sessions in person.