

Organised by:

The Visual and Material History Working
Group at the European University Institute,
Florence

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**Visual & Material
History Working
Group**

**Connections, Conflicts, and
Convergences.**

Exploring 'othering' in global visual and material cultures,
ca. 1500-1800



*Andrea Mantegna, The adoration of the Magi, 1495-1505 ca., Getty
Museum, Los Angeles*

Visual and material culture are key to understanding ideas of what the 'other' means. In this conference, we intend to explore the material expressions of this concept between multiple cultures in a timeframe that stretches from approximately 1500 to 1800. This concept will be considered in three thematical panels, each focusing on a different place's possible connections, conflicts, and/or convergences, with other cultures. It will ask how material and visual objects found in these geographies represent notions of 'othering', and portray connections to other geographies, or vice versa. The focus of the conference will be the material and visual embodiments of interactions that have taken place between Asia, Europe, and Africa in the past. Attention is given to blurring between different cultures, or where imitation of visual and material objects occurs as a by-product of exchanges.

Day 1 27th Feb (In Badia, Sala del Capitolo–
Hybrid Zoom)

10:00 Arrivals

10:15 Welcome

10:30 Keynote: Sinem Casale (KHI)

Moderated by: Francesco Montuori

12:00- 1:30 lunch (provided for speakers)

1:30 Panel: Connections

Keynote: Yutong Li (NYU Shanghai) [zoom]

Moderated by: Alexandre Claude

2:30 coffee break (Sala Rossa)

2:50 Connections round table (Marianne Datiles [zoom], José Araneda, Chandini Jaswal [zoom])

Moderated by : Veerle Veerbeek

(cancelled) Datiles : *Foreign Flora, Familiar Uses: Colonial Interpretations of Indigenous Materia Medica in Early Modern Spanish Manila*

Araneda: *Transoceanic Artifacts: The Influence of Colonial Objects on Missionary Politics in the Viceroyalty of Peru (1640–1700).*

Jaswal: *Revisiting the Mughal Zenana— As It Was* Challenging the Narrative of the Space of the Harem in the Mughal Empire*

4:30-4:45 closing words

7:30 Dinner at San Domenico Pizzeria with speakers

Day 2 28th Feb (In Buontalenti, Nelson Mandela room – In person only)

10:00 Welcome

10:15 Panel: Conflicts

Keynote M'hamed Oualdi (EUI)

Moderated by: Amber Burbidge

11:15 short break

11:30 Conflicts roundtable (Jan Niemiec, Matthias Ebejer/Maria Dobos, Jorge Fragua Valdivieso)

Moderated by: M'hamed Oualdi

(Cancelled) Niemiec: *To protect the capital: last smoothbore artillery-era Ottoman fortifications on the Turkish straits*

Ebejer/Dobos: *Religious Materiality of Christian Capitves in North Africa during the early modern period*

Valdivieso: *Designing the Rite: The Local Conflicts of the Material Representation of the Global Liturgy.*

1:00- 2:30 lunch (participants/speakers pay for their own lunch in the city centre or at the Buontalenti canteen)

2:30 Panel: Convergences

Keynote Hannah Lee (The Warburg Institute)

Moderated by: Alexandre Claude

3:30 coffee break

4:00 Convergences roundtable (Katharina Otto, Erika Riccobon, Ruth Egger)

Moderated by: Hannah Lee

Otto: *The Borders of the Gaze: Castapaintings and transatlantic entanglements*

Riccobon: *From 'birds and flowers' to menagerie of the fantastic: The 'nature-historical aesthetic' of Guangzhou's wallpapers and their reinterpretations in Savoy Piedmont (1730-1770s)*

Egger: *Rethinking 'othering': Collecting global dress for cultural comparison in the European Kunstammer, ca. 1500-1700*

5:30- 6:00 closing words