

Placed at the heart of the Mediterranean, medieval Sicily served as a crossroads where diverse cultures and languages came into contact and interwove. Between the 10th and the 13th century, under Muslim, Norman and Hohenstaufen rule, multiple poetic traditions flourished on the island, and a substantial body of poetry was written in Arabic, Hebrew, Greek, Latin and Italian. Scholars of different disciplines have often considered each of these poetic cultures separately, without fully delving into the complexity of the interactions at play within Sicily's multilingual society. This conference aims at overcoming linguistic and disciplinary boundaries and fostering new transcultural perspectives on the social and literary interplays within the multicultural landscape of medieval Sicily.



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UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI PADOVA



INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

Literature across Borders in Medieval Sicily

*Transcultural perspectives between
the 10th and 13th centuries*

Sala delle Edicole, Piazza del Capitano, 7
Padua, 3-4 June 2025

9:00 – 9:30

NICOLA CARPENTIERI (University of Padua)

Introductory Remarks

Italo-Greek Voices

Chair: **NICCOLÒ ZORZI**

9:30 – 9:50

ELENI TOUNTA (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki)

Eugenius of Sicily and the Emotional Landscape of the Sicilian Court

9:50 – 10:10

NIKOLAOS ZAGKLAS (Austrian Academy of Sciences)

Leo of Centuripe and his Hagiographical Work: Greek Prosimetrum in Norman Sicily

10:10 – 10:30

KRYSTINA KUBINA (University of Vienna)

Weaving social networks with verses: Greek Salentine poets and their liaisons with Sicily, Byzantium, and the Hohenstaufen court

10:30 – 11:00

COFFEE BREAK*

The Jewish Tradition

Chair: **GIACOMO CORAZZOL**

12:00 – 12:20

YOSEF YUVAL TOBI (University of Haifa)

The Uniqueness of Hebrew Sephardic Poetry Compared to Arabic Poetry

12:20 – 12:40

MOHAMED AHMED (Trinity College Dublin)

Rhythm, Dance, and Desire: A Lost Song Poem from the Medieval Cairo Genizah

12:40 – 13:00

LUNCH BREAK

15:00 – 15:20

WILLIAM GRANARA (Harvard University)

Ibn Hamdis’s Post-classical Ghazal

15:20 – 15:40

ALEX METCALFE (Lancaster University)

The Arabic language situation in medieval Sicily: reflections, revisions, and some new leads

15:40 – 16:00

PETER E. PORMANN (University of Manchester)

The production of medical literature in Norman Sicily: the Graeco-Arabic tradition

16:00 – 16:20

ALI ASGAR H. ALIBHAI (University of Texas at Dallas)

Ceremonial Kissing and the Fatimid Koiné: Expressions of Ritual and Power in Medieval Sicily

16:20 – 17:00

Q&A

Latinate Perspectives

Chair: **BIANCA FACCHINI**

9:00 – 9:20

SARAH DAVIS-SECORD (University of New Mexico)

Pseudo-Arabic in Early Medieval Southern Italy

9:20 – 9:40

IVO WOLSING (Leiden University)

“The count came from ancestral Favara”: Peter of Eboli and the End of Norman Sicily

9:40 – 10:00

ULISSE CECINI (Autonomous University of Barcelona)

The Mediterranean Transcultural Tradition in Flavius Mithridates’ Multilingual ‘Sermo de Passione Domini’

10:00 – 10:30

Q&A

COFFEE BREAK*

11:00 – 11:20

MARIA LUISA ARDIZZONE (New York University)

Charting Lost Medieval Crossroads

11:20 – 11:40

MATTEO PACE (Connecticut College)

Aristotelian Physiology and the Early Sicilian Poetry: Images, Spirits, and Transmission

11:40 – 12:00

Q&A

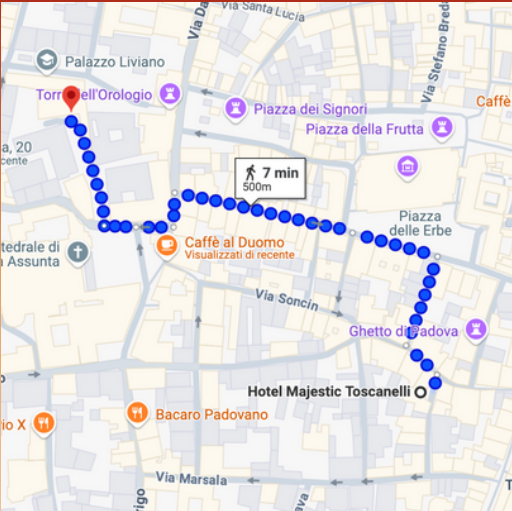
Conclusions

12:00 – 13:00

MOHAMED ABDELSAMIE, ALESSIA CARRAI, GIACOMO CORAZZOL, ALESSANDRO DE BLASI, BIANCA FACCHINI (The SIQILLIYA Research Team – University of Padua)

First Insights and Further Paths

LUNCH BREAK



How to reach the conference venue from the hotel.

* Coffee and refreshments will be served at the nearby Caffè al Duomo in Piazza Duomo, 8.