



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI MILANO



DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL LEGAL, HISTORICAL-POLITICAL  
STUDIES  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW "CESARE BECCARIA"  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY "PIERO MARTINETTI"  
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

ITHACA

Interconnecting  
Histories and Archives  
for Migrant Agency

## #ESCAPES2021 INTERNATIONAL ONLINE CONFERENCE

# Mediterranean Crossings: Refusal and Resistance in Uncertain Times

University of Milan, 24 - 26 June 2021

Jointly organized by

[Escapes](#); [Department of International, Legal, Historical-Political Studies](#); [Department of Philosophy "Piero Martinetti"](#); [AMM - Archive of migrant memories](#);

and in cooperation with

[ITHACA-Interconnecting Histories and Archives for Migrant Agency: Entangled Narratives Across Europe and the Mediterranean Region](#) (Horizon 2020 G.A. 101004539).

**Scientific Committee:** Carlo Caprioglio (University of Rome 3), Luca Ciabbari (University of Milan), Emanuela Dal Zotto (University of Pavia), Francesco Ferri (ASGI), Elena Fontanari (University of Milan), Gianluca Gatta (AMM - Archive of Migrant Memories), Lucia Gennari (ASGI), Ombretta Ingrassi (University of Milan), Monica Massari (University of Milan), Barbara Pinelli (University of Rome 3), Martina Tazzioli (Goldsmiths, University of London).

The Conference looks at the Mediterranean as a political, cultural and social space in which historical forms of connection and exchange have intersected with clashes, distances and fractures that now seem to take over. The scenario of violence and death resulting from the policies of containment and prevention of South-North mobility has claimed the lives of more than 36,000 men and women since the early 2000s, with increasingly high costs in terms of human suffering and human rights' abuse.

The Mediterranean, however, and the multiple borders and memories that it touches - in, out and across Europe - have also become the sites where forms of disobedience, resistance and activism are increasingly carried out which enhance new forms of solidarity and action and strongly defy the current politics of refusal.

The Conference intends to promote a dialogue among researchers, activists, artists, students and interested people aimed at enhancing the interplay between different disciplines, perspectives and expressive languages in reflecting and acting on such web of entanglements. It is aimed at interrogating the emergence of mechanisms, legal provisions and policy decisions apt at deterring people from seeking safer harbour abroad and at delegitimizing their aspirations for decent living conditions, as well as the expansion of grey zones where distinctions between conventional categories and definitions have become gradually unclear. Particular focus will be placed on the patterns of resistance and action that, on the one hand, shed light on the grey zones where euphemism, ambivalence, refusal and violence converge and, on the other, promote a politics of voice which is made of different languages and expressive forms and, most crucially, reflects all the subjectivities involved.

**Thursday 24 June 2021**

10:00-13:00

### Opening Plenary:

How to narrate? Storytelling and auto-ethnography

Screening of *"Waiting"* (17'09", 2020, by **Shahram Khosravi** and **Dagmawi Yimer**)

Reading by **Ubah Cristina Ali Farah**

Screening of the film's trailer *"Chauka Please Tell Us The Time"* (by **Arash Kamali Sarvestani** and **Behrouz Boochani**)

A conversation of **Alessandro Triulzi** (AMM - Archive of Migrant Memories) with **Ubah Cristina Ali Farah** (writer, poet, performer, social activist), **Behrouz Boochani** (University of Canterbury (NZ)/University of New South Wales), **Shahram Khosravi** (Stockholm University), **Omid Tofighian** (University of New South Wales/University of Sydney) and **Dagmawi Yimer** (filmmaker).

**Saturday 26 June 2021**

10:00-13:00

### Closing plenary:

Disquieting memories and hidden archives in and across a postcolonial sea

Screening of *"All'aldilàdiqua"* (30', by **Alessandra Cianelli** and **Opher Thomson**)

**Iain Chambers** (University of Naples "L'Orientale")

*Disquieting archives and uncertain narratives*

A conversation of **Liliana Ellena** (BABE-European University Institute) with **Alessandra Cianelli** (artist and writer)

**Closing speech: Jean-Pierre Cassarino** (College of Europe, Natolin Campus).

## PANELS

**Thursday 24 June 2021  
14:30 - 16:30**

PANEL 4A - session 1 (Ita)  
**I dilemmi dell'umanitarismo -  
Etiche e politiche dell'attivismo**  
Luca Ciabbarri (University of Milan),  
Barbara Pinelli (University of Rome  
3).

PANEL 6 (Eng)  
**Border crossings, memories and  
opacity: potentials and limits of  
participatory audio-visual  
experiences**  
Gianluca Gatta (AMM - Archive of  
Migrant Memories).

**Thursday 24 June 2021  
17:00 - 19:00**

PANEL 4A - session 2 (Ita)

PANEL 5 (Eng)  
**Follow the money: migration  
industry, refugees' unpaid labour  
and value extraction**  
Martina Tazzioli (Goldsmiths,  
University of London) and Ana  
Valdivia (King's College).

**Friday 25 June 2021  
09:00 - 11:00**

PANEL 8 (Eng)  
**The implementation of the EU  
Hotspot Approach in the  
Mediterranean Borderscape: A  
Comparative and  
Interdisciplinary Analysis of the  
Infrastructure of Migration  
Management**  
Chiara Pagano (University of  
Bologna), Bilgin Ayata (University of  
Graz), Kenny Cupers (University of  
Basel).

PANEL 4B - session 1 (Ita)  
**I dilemmi dell'umanitarismo -  
Razzializzazione, classe, genere e  
diritti**  
Luca Ciabbarri (University of Milan),  
Barbara Pinelli (Roma Tre  
University).

**Friday 25 June 2021  
11:30 - 13:30**

PANEL 1 (Eng)  
**Ethical dilemmas in migration  
research: beyond protocols and  
procedures towards a politics of  
migrants' voice**  
Monica Massari (University of Milan)  
and Ombretta Ingrassi (University of  
Milan).

PANEL 4B - session 2 (Ita)

**Friday 25 June 2021  
14:30 - 16:30**

PANEL 2 (Ita)  
**2011-2021: dieci anni di  
accoglienza di richiedenti asilo e  
rifugiati in Italia**  
Davide Biffi (University of Milano-  
Bicocca), Emanuela Dal Zotto  
(University of Pavia).  
PANEL 3 (Eng)  
**Collecting memories of solidarity  
on and beyond Mediterranean  
crossings**  
Amira Ahmed (Cairo University),  
Rachel Ibreck (Goldsmiths,  
University of London), Fatma Raach  
(University of Jendouba).

**Friday 25 June 2021  
16:30 - 19:00**

ROUNDTABLE (Eng)  
**The use of law in the struggles  
for freedom of movement:  
opportunity or limitation?**  
Coordinated by: Elena Fontanari  
(Università di Milano), Lucia Gennari  
(ASGI), Carlo Caprioglio (Roma Tre  
University), Francesco Ferri (ASGI)

**FILM PLATFORM** From 17 to 27  
June 2021 a list of films - directed by  
some of the speakers or related to  
the conference themes - will be  
available at:  
[www.archiviomemoriemigranti.net/m  
c-filmplatform/](http://www.archiviomemoriemigranti.net/mc-filmplatform/)