

International Conference

Cultural encounters in 15th century Europe and beyond

Padua and Venice, **6-7 March 2023**

Call for papers

In 1432, a group of ships wrecked, and the surviving crew members landed in Ultima Thule closed to the Lofoten Islands in Northern Norway. The group was composed of merchants from Venice, who had ended off the track en route to Flanders, a known meeting point with the Hansa merchants, who managed the Baltic trade. After surviving in the open sea for days, they finally reached the small island of Røst, where the locals sheltered them, offering a safe refuge during the harsh arctic winter.

After the winter, the castaways returned to Venice, using the well-known trade and pilgrimage routes over Norway, Sweden, and the European continent. Once in Venice, Pietro Querini and two crew members – Cristoforo Fioravante and Nicolò di Michiel - recorded the story of the journey as one of the earliest narratives made by southern Europeans of the northern fringe of Europe.

Their story, a casual encounter characterized by hospitality and mutual respect, became an important source of understanding of medieval culture and ideas, as well as an insight into the ideology and views on otherness in late medieval Europe. These men's travel also shed light on the trade routes and encounters between people from different cultures and the contemporary concepts of humanity, religion, hospitality, and helpfulness.

To promote interdisciplinary research, we aim to bring together researchers to address some of the themes connected with the events of 1432. In particular, we ask scholars to focus on concepts like otherness, travels, cultural encounters, trade routes, religion, and ideology, as well as humanity and humanism during the medieval and early modern period. The papers will offer theoretical reflections on the approach and examples for this rich field of research.

The papers will be presented and discussed in a hybrid workshop taking place in Padova and Venice on **6 and 7 March 2023**. (Online participation is possible)

Please, send proposals of no more than 400 words to sc@viaquerinissima.net. Please include a short bio (max 100 words). The deadline is **30 November 2022**, and we will get back to you by **10 December 2022**.

Deadline for the submission of the abstract: **30 November 2022**

Communication of acceptance: **10 December 2022**

Scientific Committee: Steinar Aas (U. Bodø), Antonello Alici (U. Politecnica delle Marche), Silvia Beltramo (U. Turin), Massimo Bustreo (IULM, Milan), Andrea Caracausi (U. Padova), Ludovica Galeazzo (U. Padova), Miguel Tain Guzman (U. Santiago de Compostela), Iosif Klironomos (FORTH), Mary Landing (U. Oslo), Claire Judde de Larivière (U. Toulouse), Rolv Petter Amdam (BI Oslo), Stefania Montemezzo (I Tatti - The Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance studies), Nicola Orio (U. Padova), Luca Quaratino (IULM), Chiara Rabbiosi (U. Padova), Maria Stella Righettini (U. Padova), Elena Svalduz (U. Padova).

In cooperation with:

Department of Cultural Heritage: Archaeology and History of Art, Cinema and Music (U. Padova)

Department of Historical and Geographic Sciences and the Ancient World (U. Padova)



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