

## **The Cultural Broker**

### Comparing Modes of Dis/integration of Cultural and Religious Otherness in the Mediterranean World and Beyond\*

Institut d'Estudis Medievals, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona,  
Bellaterra, October 31, 2014

Torre Vila-Puig, Campus de la UAB

Our Barcelona Workshop will focus on processes of exchange of knowledge and phenomena of connectivity, as well as on modes of integration and disintegration, and their effects on the entanglement, hybridization and palimpsesting of cultural layers. Culture has always been 'hybrid' to a certain degree, as it is the result, not the by-product, of processes of social, religious, economic and technological transfer and transformation. Despite its relatively biologicistic dimension, the concept of hybridization allows us better than the related but colonially connoted notion of "métissage" to introduce the 'cultural broker' as the central agent of these processes of intermediation. He or she may not necessarily be an intellectual: Brokers crossing borders can also be merchants, soldiers, refugees or slaves. Additionally, we should not expect brokerage only between distant cultures; on the contrary, it may be an exciting scholarly enterprise to see how narrower transcultural phenomena can be assessed on the customary scale of cultural taxonomy. The central aim of our workshop is to filter out and compare different types of 'cultural brokerage' and their agents in times of groundbreaking societal upheavals between Late Antiquity and Early Modern Times, and last but not least to foster comparative studies on the typology of ancient, medieval and early modern text corpora of representations of cultural brokerage.

9:30 **Welcome**

ALEXANDER FIDORA (Barcelona): Greetings

MATTHIAS M. TISCHLER (Barcelona): Introduction

10:00 **Key Lecture**

WALTER POHL (Vienna): Cultural Brokerage and Identity Building: Some Observations on Recent International Research

10:45 **Coffee Break**

### **Transformation of the Roman and the Frankish World**

11:00

HELMUT REIMITZ (Princeton): Historians as Cultural Brokers in Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages

11:30

MAX DIESENBERGER (Vienna): Cultural Brokers in the Border-Regions of the Carolingian Empire: Preaching Activities in the Eighth and Ninth Centuries

12:00

Discussion

13:00 **Lunch Buffet at Sirius, Hotel Campus UAB**

### **Transformation of the Euromediterranean World**

15:00

MATTHIAS M. TISCHLER (Barcelona): Transcultural Historiography and Cultural Brokers: Assessing Arabo-Latin Processes of Historiographical Transfer and Transformation in the Medieval Mediterranean World, Tenth to Thirteen Centuries.

15:30

ALEXANDER FIDORA (Barcelona): Translators as Cultural and Religious Brokers: The Case of the Latin Translation of the Talmud in the Thirteenth Century

16:00

Discussion

16:30 **Coffee Break**

17:00

ULISSE CECINI (Barcelona): Johann Albrecht von Widmanstetter and His Annotations to the 'Mahometis Theologia' (1543): Synthesis of the Plural Other between Traditional Islam and Jewish Wisdom

17:30

MATTHIAS M. TISCHLER (Barcelona): Summary and General Discussion

20:00 **Dinner Suggestion: Ébano Gastro-Bar, Bellaterra**

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**GERDA HENKEL STIFTUNG**

