Barbary Captivity Narratives
Tales of Mediterranean Pirate Encounters

Piracy and captivity were important issues for almost all Muslim and Christian regions that were to some degree involved in Mediterranean trade in the early modern era. Most of them had to cope with corsairs capturing trading goods and enslaving members of their communities. Some survivors of Mediterranean piracy and enslavement later wrote or published accounts of their experiences. Besides recounting the adventures of their protagonists, these Barbary Coast captivity narratives touch upon issues of acculturation, the cultural and ethnic melting pot of the Barbary Coast, inter-Christian relations, the Islamic faith, as well as issues of gender, sexuality, and homecoming.

The aim of this conference is to look at these narratives in a variety of languages from a literary perspective, while putting them into a proper historical and cultural context. Although the narratives as such stand at the center of the conference, some papers will address larger issues pertinent to the production and reception of these texts.

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Piracy and Captivity in the Mediterranean
1530 - 1810

Barbary Coast Captivity Narratives

International Conference

June 16 – 18, 2016
Claudiana
Herzog-Friedrich-Str. 3, Innsbruck

Organization
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Schedule:

Thursday, June 16

09:00-09:30 Opening Remarks
TILMANN MÄRK - Rector, University of Innsbruck
SEBASTIAN DONAT - Dean, Faculty of Humanities (Language and Literature), University of Innsbruck
Mario Klarer - Head of the Department of American Studies

09:30-10:30 Keynote Lecture I
NABIL MATAR (University of Minnesota)
Two Arabic Accounts of Captivity in Seventeenth-Century Malta

11:00-12:00 Keynote Lecture II
CHRISTINE SEARS (University of Alabama, Huntsville)
‘Arab Speculators’ and Slavery in the Late Eighteenth and Early Nineteenth Century Western Sahara

14:00-15:00 Keynote Lecture IV
DANIEL J. VITKUS (University of California, San Diego): From Ransoming Captives to Human Trafficking: English Texts, Commercial Transformation, and Barbary Captivity in the Early Modern Period

Friday, June 17

10:00-12:00 Workshop Panel 2
Processing Captivity (Chair: L. Kattenberg)
MICHAEL GORDON: Spanish cautivo Literature and the Return of the Jew to the Iberian Peninsula
MARCUS HARTNER: Rereading Captivity: Hybrid Genres and Narrative Experimentation in Early Modern Captivity Narratives
GIULIA BONAZZA: The Color of the Skin in the Mediterranean Slave Exchanges: Palermo, Livorno, Algiers and Tunis

14:00-15:00 Keynote Lecture IV
DANIEL J. VITKUS (University of California, San Diego): From Ransoming Captives to Human Trafficking: English Texts, Commercial Transformation, and Barbary Captivity in the Early Modern Period

15:30-17:00 Parallel Workshop Panels 3
Workshop A: Negotiating Identity (Chair: G. Bonazza)
CECILIA TARRUELL: Running Away from the Barbary Coast: Successful Fugitive Christian Captives and Slaves, Late 16th-Early 17th Centuries
SALVATORE BONO: L’esclave religieux di Antoine Quarter (Tripoli, 1660-1668), come fonte storica
ROBERT SPINDLER: Identity Crisis: Returning from the Barbary Coast
Workshop B: Orientalism and the Orient (Chair: R. Rebitsch)
ANNA DIAMANTOULI: Beyond Orientalism: Re-Reading American Barbary Captivity Narratives
MAIJ KETTI:U: Islam’s Blonde Conquests on the Barbary Coast
ERNST PETER RUHE: Images from the Dey’s Court: The Artist as Slave in Algiers

17:30-18:30 Keynote Lecture V
GEORGE A. STARR (University of California, Berkeley)
Barbary Slavery and Robinson Crusoe

Saturday, June 18

10:30-12:00 Parallel Workshop Panels 4
Workshop A: Captivity and Life Stories (Chair: M. Gordon)
ROBERT REBITSCH: Michael Heberer as Prisoner in the Ottoman Navy
CHRISTINE ISOM-VERHAAREN: Captivity Tales and the Captive Admiral, Venedikli Hasan
PETER MARK: Ahmed Al-Mansur and Antonio de Saldanha: The Muslim Ruler as Enlightened Despot

Workshop B: Images of Slavery (Chair: J. Östlund)
LISA KATTEMBERG: Muslims, Morality and Commercial Success: The Captivity Narrative of Emanuel d’Aranda, 1640-1682
MAGNUS RESSEL: Putting Christian Slavery into Perspective. On Johann Frisch’s Schauplatz barbarischer Schlävery (1666)
SEBASTIAN ZYKLINSKI: Gotha and Its Lost Seamen – The Image of Slavery in Central Germany in the First Half of the 18th Century

14:00-15:00 Keynote Lecture VI
WOLFGANG KAISER (Université Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne)
Persuasion and Plausibility. Narrative Elements in the Ransoming Process

15:30-16:30 Keynote VII
JEREMY POPKIN (University of Kentucky)
Émile in Chains: A New Perspective on Rousseau and Slavery

16:30-17:00 Closing Remarks

All keynote lectures take place in the Claudiaaal. Workshops A take place in the Claudiaaal. Workshops B take place in the Türingsaal. All talks are open to the public.