

UNIVERSITY OF ZADAR
Department of Geography
Department of History



BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY
Harpur College
The Fernand Braudel Center



FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS

**NEGOTIATING LIMITS BETWEEN EARLY MODERN
SOVEREIGNTIES:
Venetian Dalmatia and Ottoman Bosnia
15th – Early 18th Centuries**

Sponsors

The Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation
The Lila Acheson Wallace Special Project Grant, Villa I Tatti,
The Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies

Zadar (Croatia), 25-28 May 2016

GENERAL INFORMATION

„In the modern conception [of political life], state sovereignty is fully, flatly, and evenly operative over each square centimetre of a legally demarcated territory. But in the older imagining, where states were defined by centres, borders were porous and indistinct, and sovereignties faded imperceptibly into one another. Hence, paradoxically enough, the ease with which pre-modern empires (...) were able to sustain their rule over immensely heterogeneous, and often not even contiguous, populations for long periods of time.”

Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*.

- ❖ In his landmark book Benedict Anderson described the proprietary relationship to land on the part of the bounded state, a geo-body belonging to the order of modernity, for which the national survey map may stand as an index. He then alluded to the paradoxical ease with which earlier and often geographically disjointed states managed the permeable edges of their territories.
- ❖ This three-day conference offers a different set of assumptions when it comes to “the older imagining” of empire, before the rise of nationalisms in the nineteenth century. It focuses on the operations employed by early modern states in ongoing efforts to establish or maintain peaceful relations as neighbors while managing the heterogeneous and often mobile populations in the interstices of their rule. The conference is part of a larger collaborative project examining the geopolitics of borderlands in early modernity (<https://binghamton.academia.edu/KarenedisBarzman>).
- ❖ Given the current configuration of the scientific committee, our initial focus is on the historically dense contact zone between Venetian Dalmatia and Ottoman Bosnia–provinces in states of vastly different political and religious orders, with footprints in present-day Croatia. The timeline runs from the fifteenth century, when the Venetians and Ottomans formally acquired territory in the region, to the Treaties of Carlowitz (1699) and Passerowitz (1718), which for the first time established seamless borders between the states via printed maps distributed as public affirmations of binding peace accords.¹ The instrumental use of cartography in detante is taken as a watershed and establishes the temporal end point for the conference.
- ❖ Suggested paper topics include the composition of negotiating teams and protocols of diplomacy in determining borders (from elaborate gift exchange to the authentication of earlier treaties as points of departure or comparison); the practical aspects of work in the field (travel by foot or mule, provisions and lodging, interviews with local populations, communication via translators, land survey and production of sketches and drawings); the material practices used in marking sovereign limits on the ground (building earthen mounds or piles of stone, carving signs on trees, drilling iron rings into live rock); the spatial practices of borderland populations that hindered the maintenance of detante and, from the perspective of the states, the ability to “live well as neighbors” (a rhetorical trope found in both Venetian and Ottoman political discourse). The conference will combine formal presentations, round-tables, and a one-day field trip using GPS to map

¹ While these treaties also involved the Austrian Hapsburgs, the conference is limited to Ottoman-Venetian relations due to the rich nature of the archival material and practical matters concerning the fieldwork.

the borders that can be reconstructed with archival material and ground markers, featuring the borders negotiated after the Third and Fifth Ottoman-Venetian Wars (the “War of Cyprus,” 1570-73, and “Long War of Candia,” 1645-69) both of which had significant theatres of operation in the borderlands between Dalmatia and Bosnia.

- ❖ The conference findings and relevant archival material will be made available digitally on the web, followed by publication of the conference proceedings.

The official language of the conference is **English**. Anyone planning to attend is asked to register in advance. Only registered participants will be able to present formal papers, contribute to discussions, and/or participate in the field trip.

We invite proposals for formal 20-minute papers related to the topics outlined above. Proposals should include

- an abstract of 250 words
- a 1-2 page CV
- contact information, including current institutional affiliation

Proposals for papers should be sent to Karen-edis Barzman (kbarzman@binghamton.edu) and Josip Faričić (jfariacic@unizd.hr) by **29 February 2016**. Notification regarding acceptance will follow within two weeks.

Registration forms for attending the conference (available here and by email request) should be sent to Karen-edis Barzman (kbarzman@binghamton.edu) and Josip Faričić (jfariacic@unizd.hr) by 15 April **2016**.

For all registrants we will provide conference programs, daily refreshments, transportation for the field excursion, and tourist guidance through Zadar. Participants have to organize accommodations in Zadar on their own. For information on lodging, see below.

Venue of conference

The opening of the conference and all sessions will be held at University of Zadar in the old town center (Zadar peninsula). The building is situated in the southeastern part of Zadar peninsula, directly on the shore of the Adriatic.

The address: Obala Petra Krešimira IV / 2, 23000 Zadar

Zadar is an old European university town. Founded as a *studium generale* in 1396 in a Dominican monastery in the city, the institution later became known as the Universitas Jadertina or University of Zadar. Ranked as a mid-sized university in Europe, it is in many respects a leader in higher education reform in accordance with standards established by the EU. The County and City of Zadar regularly support the activities of the University, including the organization of congresses, round tables, scientific conferences, and symposia.

For more information on University of Zadar, please follow the link:

<http://www.unizd.hr/Aboutus/tabid/5239/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

How to get to Zadar?

Depending on where you are coming from, we recommend traveling to Zadar by plane or by bus. The Zadar airport has several low cost flights (Ryanair), mainly to western and middle European countries. The airport is located near Zadar; travellers can easily reach the centre of town by bus (fares approximately 3.5€) or by taxi (approximately 13.5€). For those traveling from places without direct flights to Zadar, you also have the option to fly to Zagreb or Split and then travel by bus to Zadar, which usually takes 3.5 hours from either location.

Accommodations

Zadar offers a variety of accommodations for its visitors. These include hotels of different standards as well as a number of budget-friendly hostels. It is also possible to rent an apartment for the period of the conference. Apart from the standard of accommodation, the rates usually depend on the distance to the city centre. Consequently, it is advisable to check whether the location is easily accessible on foot or by public transport. Before making a decision, it is always wise to consult the respective hotel website directly for all necessary information. The majority of the hotels are located in the city centre of Zadar and the surrounding area. There are many travel and tourist agencies that provide budget-friendly accommodations in private houses (room and apartment renting). The rates are per room, per night, including breakfast and local VAT.

In addition you can find a web page of the Zadar tourist board:

<http://www.tzzadar.hr/en/accommodation/tourist-agencies>

For online booking go to: <http://www.booking.com>

If you would like assistance making reservations or have any questions regarding lodgings, please contact us at jfaricic@unizd.hr.

Currency

Please note that the official currency in Croatia is Kuna (1 Kuna /HRK/ is subdivided into 100 Lipas) and you can exchange Euros easily in any bank, postal office or exchange office. The exchange rate is currently about 7.6 HRK to 1 Euro.