

Literary Production in Muslim Sicily and al-Andalus

Panel Organizers:

Nicola Carpentieri (University of Connecticut)

Mirella Cassarino (Università degli Studi di Catania)

Chairs: Francesca Corrao, William Granara

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The historical, political, social and cultural relationships between Sicily and al-Andalus, considered in the wider context of Maghribi culture, have been the subject of a number of studies which have attempted to comparatively define elements of similarity and difference in the conquest and presence of Islam in the two *Jaziras*. (Gabrieli 1950; Rizzitano 1975; Guichard 1990; De Simone 1999; Kennedy 1995).

The aim of this panel, whose participants have worked for many years on the areas under consideration, is to focus on Arabic literary texts, in both poetry and prose, penned in Sicily and al-Andalus, which deserve further attention, exploration, scrutiny and interpretation (al-Dūrī, 1980; ‘Abbās, 1994; De Simone, 1999). Our frame of reference is, fundamentally, literary, and within this context, families of texts and typologies of writing emerge which differ from one another, being laid out not as mirrors of reality, but rather as a reality represented through specific filters and codes, which may alter it or make it more transparent.

Contributors are invited to present analyses of texts by Sicilian Arab and Andalusian authors, adopting a comparative approach grounded on philological evidence that aims to go beyond the concept of “influence” and strives to capture connections and intertextualities, as well as peculiarities and differences. It is also our aim to examine the complex orchestration of forms and tropes that are repeated or acquire new meanings in their transposition, and in the known dialectic relationship between tradition and innovation that has characterised Arabic literature since its origins. The panel will pay particular attention to specific poetic genres (*madīḥ*, *rithā’*, *zağal* and *muwashshahāt*), as well as less-explored categories of texts, such as epistles and prosopography.