

XVI Convegno SeSaMO

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SOCIETÀ PER GLI STUDI SUL MEDIO ORIENTE

**TITOLO/TITLE:** Red-lines: revolutionary knowledge and transformative action in the Trans-Mediterranean space (1950s-1970s)

**PROPONENTE/I – PROPONENT/S:** ANDREA BRAZZODURO, ROSSANA TUFARO

**ABSTRACT (1500 parole/words):**

During the so-called 'long 1960s', against the backdrop of – among others – the consolidation of the Cold War order, Khrushchev's repression of the Hungarian revolution, the Suez War, and the explosion of decolonization and anti-imperialist liberation movements in the Global South, a global New Left emerged, succeeding to impress a permanent change on both the socio-political developments of the local arenas it acted into and the existing grammars of dissent. Within this 'movement of movements,' as the progressive convergence of the revolutionary inputs those movements stemmed from contributed to forging a global network of radical forces, the intense transnational circulation of texts and activists, ideologies, and experiences played a crucial role in shaping common ideational frames, agendas, and contentious strategies/practices. The Middle Eastern region represented in this sense no exception.

In 1954-64, for instance, the Algerian revolution against French colonialism made the North African country a fundamental landmark in the emerging geographies of Third World liberation. On another level, in the Arab Levant and the Gulf, starting from the mid-1960s, a new generation of activists and intellectuals started to grow out and split, seeking a radical re-foundation of the principles and strategies through which re-vivify the struggle for the radical emancipation of Arab societies. To trigger their dislocation intervened the bureaucratic and authoritarian turn taken by the existing radical organizations (Socialist, Communists, Arab Nationalists), the failure of UAR's experiment, and, above all, the loud Arab defeat of the June War. In their process of soul-searching, the horizon of their revolutionary imaginary shifted quickly from Cairo and Damascus to Havana and Hanoi, with Third-Worldism, Maoism, Eurocommunism, and Marxism-Leninism cleared of the Soviet doxa providing the new ideological framing for action. This led to the emergence of new radical and globally interconnected network of leftist vanguards which, from Algeria to Oman, Lebanon, Palestine, Yemen, Kuwait, and Bahrein, played a leading role in the development of the social, political, and liberation struggles that defined the historical development of the MENA region for the following decades. Similarly, the same Arab revolutionary experiences significantly influenced the imaginary, thoughts, agendas, and practices of the radical New Lefts and liberation movements outside of the region. In both cases, the process of mutual influencing and cross-fertilization was vehiculed by a variety of embodied practices of encounter and diffusion (cultural, political, individual, organizational, etc.) which produced equally embodied practices of struggle.

By bringing together original case-based studies from different polities and disciplinary vantage points, the following panel aims to enlarge the understanding of the forms and ways in which the circulation of revolutionary knowledge from/to the Arab region contributed to producing transformative action. To this

aim, the panel welcomes papers focusing on - but not limited to - the following thematic axes:

- embodied dynamics and practices of circulation of revolutionary knowledge;
- forms and terrains of transformative action;
- actors and geographies of transformative circulation.

The panel privileges the trans-mediterranean space as main geographic focus, including as nodal point of wider trajectories of circulation.

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#### PROFILO ACCADEMICO DEL/DELLA/DEI/DELLE PROPONENTE/I – SHORT BIO OF PROPONENTS

Andrea Brazzoduro Andrea Brazzoduro is assistant professor at the University of Naples L'Orientale, Department of Social Sciences and Humanities where he teaches Social History. Andrea is also associate member at the Faculty of History, University of Oxford and Maison française d'Oxford. He is a historian of modern Europe and the world, specialized on France and the Mediterranean, with a particular interest in decolonization, and the relationships between France, Algeria, and Italy.

Rossana Tufaro is a Postdoctoral Fellow in Contemporary History of the Middle East at Sapienza, University of Rome, Department Italian Institute of Oriental Studies. Her research interests and specializations are the labor history of the Arab Levant, and the history of the Arab Lefts, with a specific focus on Lebanon and the 'long 1960s'.

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