



## *Beyond appearances.*

*Information, communication, espionage  
(16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> centuries).*

### **Alcalá de Henares (Madrid)**

**22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> July 2014**

Recently spies reappeared on the headlines of most important newspapers: discovering international scandals and plots brought back the discussion about limits of our privacy. For several decades we are subjected to a propaganda about the Free Information Society, daughter of New Technology, that suddenly fell against interests of the International Diplomacy. Public opinion felt a deep sense of distrust, bordering betrayal, toward institutions.

Although media repeatedly insists about the exceptionality of our age, information control it is not a peculiarity of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Actually, news reception is in the foundation of modern Europe. Just like today, in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, control of confidential data such as geographic discovers, production of new goods or military innovations, were kept circumscribed and confidential, at least at first, among royal courts and merchants groups. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century more efficient communication among different areas and the achievement of preferential information were facilitated by the development of networks available from every corner of the *Mare Nostrum*.

In Early Modern Age, spies' life was strongly tied to financial and military necessities of two great empires: Hispanic Monarchy and the Sublime Porte whose rivalry shaped the destiny of the entire Mediterranean. Territorial and maritime, religious and cultural, financial and social frontiers rendered the acquisition of news about the neighbour, the other and often enemy fundamentally important. It was not a mere coincidence that both the Habsburgs and the Ottomans invested very considerable amount of money just to put forward the moves of their enemies.

In order to reach their aims, intelligence organizations employed a multitude of figures living between two worlds. Based on enemy's territory, secret agents produced an immense volume of information, that are the basis of a literature conditioned by the image of the other. With time news contained in spies' dispatches were actually spread within the society in general and stories about the frontier became an archetype through which Europe of the time perceived foreign lands.

Main purpose of the Summer School is introducing the most recent studies about Mediterranean espionage within the context of Ottoman-Habsburg Rivalry. Special attention will be paid to lexicon and topics of secret dispatches which nourished an inedited representation of the

other, that had a consistent impact on the European perception, from erudite culture to the most common stereotypes.

Subscription is open to everybody who is interested in the subject (students, Ph. D. candidates, investigators). Each lesson will last one hour and end with a discussion about the subject presented by the mentor. Summer School students will attend a workshop about the sources of Hispanic-Italian agents in Levant. The archive's documents that will be analysed are from "digitalización de los avisos" project, realized by CEDCS (Centro Europeo para la Difusión de las Ciencias Sociales). Furthermore the two directors of "Cine Corsario" will present to public the first episode of the series.

As a result, lessons will be included in a book aiming to collect a historiographical consideration, based on multiple points of view, about confidential informations during the Early Modern Age. Due to this reason, Summer School students are requested to present a final essay about one of the debated questions (deadline 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014). Essays can be in Spanish, English, French and Italian. Following, essays will be edited in section "clásicos mínimos" of the web page [www.archivodelafrontera.com](http://www.archivodelafrontera.com), while one of the articles will be rewarded by the managing commission with its printing within the book.

**Subscription Fee:** Euro 20

**Subscription Deadline:** 18<sup>th</sup> July 2014

### **Summer School Directors**

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