



Global Dispersal: Extra-European peoples and goods between Renaissance Lisbon and Florence

Workshop with Prof Kate Lowe (London), Basel, 2 November 2017

At first glance, Renaissance Florence might appear an unlikely place to find traces of the worldwide Portuguese trading empire that by the mid sixteenth century encompassed the whole of Africa, India and the Far East. Florentine involvement may be categorised as largely indirect, but it took the form of ‘new’ peoples and goods being quickly inserted into the culture, fabric and spaces of fifteenth and sixteenth-century Florence. This workshop will examine the trajectories of Lisbon and Florence side by side. It will look at connections between the two cities, and at the effects of empire in both places, by focusing on selected parts of the population, types of object and specific global sites within the cities. For instance, whereas 10% of the population of Lisbon was estimated to be from sub-Saharan Africa by 1500, Florence had a much smaller, but highly visible, black population, imported from Lisbon as domestic slaves. The terminology used in relation to these peoples and objects – particularly with regard to their presumed places of origin – will also be analysed and compared.

Venue: Department of History, University of Basel, Hirschgässlein 21, 4051 Basel, Seminar Room 2

Registration: bgsh.geschichte.unibas.ch/registration (no later than 19 October 2017)

Further information: bgsh.geschichte.unibas.ch