

# HISTORY WEEK



# FOOD AS VOICE

*Historical Perspectives*

Aula Capitulare, Mdina, 8-11 November 2017



MALTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



1950

**MHS HISTORY WEEK 2017**

*Aula Capitolare*  
St Paul's Cathedral  
Mdina

***FOOD AS VOICE: HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES***

No food, no life, no history. The acquisition and preparation of food holds a central position in the development of societies, from prehistoric times to the present day. Food forms the basis of the greatest social revolution in history, while laying down the foundations of those structures and institutions we today refer to as 'civilization'. Apart from its physiological importance, food is also a cultural phenomenon. According to Arjun Appadurai, food is 'a highly condensed social fact' and 'a marvellous plastic kind of collective representation'. As a cultural object, food is a means through which humans communicate behaviours. It is a channel leading to understanding of self, of behaviour and of social interactions with others, providing for the study of the multifaceted material and symbolic meaning of food in history.

*Food as Voice: Historical Perspectives* is the theme chosen for the Malta Historical Society's History Week 2017. Over four sessions, history researchers, academics and doctoral students will present innovative and original papers with a historical perspective. A selection of the papers will be published in the Society's *Proceedings of History Week 2017*.



1950

## MHS HISTORY WEEK 2017

## PROGRAMME

## Session I

<b>Wednesday, 8 November 2017, 6.30pm – 9.30pm</b>		
6.30 pm – 6.40pm	Dr David Mallia, Chair, MHS	Introduction
6.40pm – 6.45pm	Mgr Anthony Cassar, Cathedral Chapter	Welcome
6.45pm – 6.50 pm	Prof. Roger Ellul-Micallef, MHS Chairman,	Welcome
6.50pm – 7.10pm	Prof. Simone Cinotto	Keynote
7.10pm – 7.30pm	Christian Mifsud & Chantal Cassar	The Valletta market before ' <i>Is-Suq tal-Belt</i> ': Preliminary findings
7.30pm – 7.40pm	<b>Break</b>	
7.40pm - 8.00pm	Prof. Chris Grech	The Edwardian Experience: The Trappings of Ritual
8.00pm – 8.20pm	Francesca Della Ventura	A 'voice' of the Italian national identity: food as synonymous of ' <i>italianità</i> ' in the visual arts of the Second After- War.
8.20pm – 8.40pm	Dr David Mallia	Q & A / Closing Remarks
8.40pm – 9.30pm	<b>Reception (tbc)</b>	



1950

## MHS HISTORY WEEK 2017

## PROGRAMME

## Session II

Thursday 9 November 2017, 6.30pm – 9.00pm		
6.30 pm – 6.40pm	Simone Azzopardi Chair, MHS	Introduction
6.40pm – 7.00pm	Dr Ciro Romano	Food and everyday life. The case of the Neapolitan monastery of Saint Peter and Sebastian in the early modern age
7.00pm – 7.20pm	Dr William Zammit	'Lands of Hunger': Food scarcity and Famine in Early Modern Malta
7.20pm – 7.40pm	Dr Gabriele Matino	Funerary Memorialization and Food Offering at the Venetian <i>Scuola Grande di San Marco</i> , 1500-1600
7.40pm – 8.00pm	<b>Break</b>	
8.00pm – 8.20pm	Raluca Parfentie	Unwrapping history: Soviet candies - a bitter-sweet propaganda
8.20pm – 8.40pm	Horace Vella	Of Food, Famine and Fortress – an analysis of the June 1942 report on the food situation in Malta.
8.40pm – 8.55pm	Simone Azzopardi Chair, MHS	Q & A
8.55pm – 9.00pm		Closing Remarks



1950

## MHS HISTORY WEEK 2017

## PROGRAMME

## Session III

Friday 10 November 2017, 6.30pm – 9.00pm		
6.30 pm – 6.40pm	Christopher Vella Chair, MHS	Introduction
6.40pm – 7.00pm	Mevrick Spiteri	Salt and Snow: agro-industries from the 17 <sup>th</sup> - to early 19 <sup>th</sup> -century Malta: Managing land and people towards a production and acquisition of food produce.
7.00pm – 7.20pm	Dr Noel Buttigieg & Kenneth Cassar	Serving the Inquisitor's refined tastes: the kitchen complex at the Inquisitor's Palace
7.20pm – 7.40pm	Prof. Geraldine Chouard	Food in Contemporary American Photography: From Still Life to Food Porn
7.40pm – 8.00pm	<b>Break</b>	
8.00pm – 8.20pm	Prof. Yosanne Vella	The case of the slave cook who was accused of trying to poison her mistress
8.20pm – 8.40pm	Prof. Carmen Depasquale	The Table at the Auberge de Provence, at the Holy Infirmary and at the Magisterial Palace
8.40pm – 8.55pm	Christopher Vella Chair, MHS	Q & A
8.55pm – 9.00pm		Closing Remarks



1950

## MHS HISTORY WEEK 2017

## PROGRAMME

## Session IV

<b>Saturday 11 November 2017, 9.45am – 12.20pm</b>		
9.45am – 10.00am	Prof. George Cassar, Chair, MHS	Introduction
10.00am – 10.20am	Dr George Azzopardi	Safeguarding the fruits of the earth: means and strategies
10.20am – 10.40am	Dr Panagiotis Zestanakis	Changing Food Cultures in 1980s Athens
10.40am – 11.00am	Dr Evelyn Pullicino	Food: A Voice from the Nineteenth-Century Criminal Court Records
11.00am – 11.20am	<b>Break</b>	
11.20am – 11.40am	Dr Garritt Van Dyk	The National Sweet Tooth? The Moral Economy of Sugar Consumption in late Eighteenth Century Britain and France
11.40am – 12.10pm	Prof. George Cassar, Chair, MHS	Q & A
12.10pm – 12.20pm		Closing Remarks

## Session I, Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November – Chair: Dr David Mallia

**Simone Cinotto** holds a Ph.D. in American history (2001). He has a strong record of research, teaching, and publication in the U.S., and significant teaching and administrative experience with U.S. and other international students in Italy. His research interests include migration history, food history, Italian and Italian-American history, and consumer society history. Cinotto teaches U.S., European, and Italian history at the University of Gastronomic Sciences, Pollenzo, Italy, where he is the director of the Master's program in Food Culture and Communications: Food, Place, and Identities. He is a member of the Editorial Board of *Quaderni Storici*, *The Italian American Review*, and 'Critical Studies in Italian America' series, Fordham University Press. Cinotto has participated in a number of international research teams and in the organization of international conferences on transatlantic and transnational history. In Italy, he has been the coordinator of public history projects on Italian migrations and the production, consumption, and cultures of food.

**Christian Mifsud** holds a BA degree in Archaeology and Anthropology and a MA degree in Baroque Studies from the University of Malta. Between 2006 and 2010, Christian was active as a freelance archaeologist and has also worked with the Malta Heritage Trust. Since 2010, Christian has been employed with the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage where he serves primarily as a cultural heritage executive consulting on major development projects. In addition, he serves as a case officer on planning application consultations liaising with the Planning Authority. Christian also forms part of the Cittadella World Heritage Nomination Committee. His main research interests include early modern archaeology, urban development, social history and documentation techniques for archaeological and historic sites.

**Chantal Cassar** has a B.A. (Hons) in Archaeology and a dual Master degree in Sustainable Environmental Resources Management and Information Science and Technology from the University of Malta and James Madison University, Virginia, respectively. In 2012, she was awarded a STEPS scholarship for her dual Masters degree. As part of her MA thesis, she conducted an extensive study to analyse landscape change over a period of 300 years focusing on North West Malta. Chantal Cassar is a field archaeologist who has been working with En-Sure Ltd for these past five years as Lead Archaeologist. She has worked with several governmental entities such as the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage and Heritage Malta on various archaeological sites. Some of the more notable ones include Esplora Science Centre, Tritons Pjazza, the Phoenicia Hotel, the GħajnTuffieħa Roman Baths, the Punic Shrine of *Għar ix-Xiħ* in Gozo and the Prehistoric burial site beneath the Kerzem parish church in Gozo. Chantal's main research area is landscape archaeology.

**Prof. Christopher Grech** is a UK-registered architect who has worked for some of the leading British architects such as Arup Associates and Foster and partners. Since 1994 he has also been teaching at universities in the USA including The University of Michigan and The Catholic University of America where he was the founding director of the Master of Science in Sustainable Design degree program. He has authored a number of books on construction technology which have been translated into Italian, German and Japanese. A dual Maltese and UK citizen Christopher has been researching nineteenth-century Malta under British rule and has written articles on the subject for *Treasures of Malta* and *The Sunday Times of Malta*.

**Francesca Della Ventura** is a PhD Candidate at the University of Cologne (Germany), since October 2014. The title of her project is "'A New Spirit in Painting': a revision of the relationship between *Neue Wilde* in Germany and *Transavanguardia* in Italy". In 2011, she graduated in Italy and between 2012 and 2014 she worked as scientific assistant and curator at the Italian Ministry of Cultural Activities and Heritage. Between 2013 and 2014, before her PhD, she attended the *Scuola di Specializzazione in Beni Storico-Artistici* at the University of Udine, focusing on global art and contemporary art and exhibitions. During the last 3 years in Germany, she has collaborated with several cultural institutions and galleries, like the *Museum für Angewandte Kunst Köln*, *Museumsdienst*, Gallery Lethert, and worked as co-curator for the exhibition "Fernweh" at the Kunstfenster Gallery of the Graduate School for the Humanities of Cologne.

## Session II, Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November – Chair: Simone Azzopardi

**Prof. Ciro Romano** holds the position of Assistant Professor at Università Federico II, Naples (Modern History) and Researcher at Univ. of Jyväskylä (Finland) Research on Medieval History and early modern history about History of Naples in late Middle Ages. He was visiting professor of Italian Paleography and Italian History to Turun Yliopisto-Italian Kieli. He is a member of ICARUS (International Centre for Archival Research), Monasteium.net, (European consortium for paleographic studies and for digitalization ancient documents), TUCEMEMS (Turku Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Studies) and of the Support Project management of ENARC (European Network On Archival Cooperation). His research interests are the History of Political Institutions and of the Catholic Church, Religious History, Paleography and Diplomatic as well as research on the digitization of historical sources and the application of new technologies to history studies.

**Dr William Zammit** is Head of the Department of Library Information and Archive Sciences, University of Malta. He has researched extensively in Malta and in European and North American institutions and is the author of various scholarly books and papers. His research interests include the mechanisms of early modern communication through oral, ritual, and printed means, printing history, censorship, and other forms of control as well as bibliographic control of Melitensia. His publications include *Printing in Malta, 1642–1839* (2008) which has been acclaimed as the most comprehensive study about early printing and publishing in Malta. With Thomas Freller, he has co-authored *Knights, Buccaneers and Sugar Cane: The Caribbean Colonies of the Order of Malta* (2015). He is currently the president of the Malta Archives Council. His most recent publication is *Kissing the Gallows: A Cultural History of Crime, Torture and Punishment in Malta, 1600–1798* (2016).

**Dr Gabriele Matino** earned a Masters in Art History at the Ca' Foscari University, Venice (2008) and a PhD degree in Art History at the University of Nottingham, UK (2014). His grants and awards include a 3-year EU research scholarship (2009), an EU travel expenses scholarship (2012) and a Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation Grant for Independent Research in Venice and the Veneto (2014). He is currently a Curatorial Fellow at Save Venice Inc., and a Resident Art Historian at the *Polo Museale Scuola Grande di San Marco*, Venice. As a historian of Renaissance art and culture, his research interests focus on the connections between ritual practice and visual culture. Gabriele has published articles in *Venezia Cinquecento* (2009, 2011, 2015-16), *Studi Tizianeschi* (2011) and *Arte Documento* (2016), and two essays in the volume *La Scuola Grande di San Marco in Venezia* (ed. S. Settis, Modena: Panini 2017).

**Raluca Parfentie** is currently a PhD candidate at the Centre of Excellence in Image Studies, University of Bucharest, exploring food imagery in inter-war Romania. She obtained a bachelor degree in Mass Communication at Moldova State University and two Masters degrees, one in PR and advertising (Moldova State University) and another one in Art History (University of Bucharest). Her research interests are in advertising, food studies, art, persuasion and mass psychology. Her M.A. thesis on Soviet propaganda through candy wrappings was published by Moldova State University in 2016.

**Horace Vella** spent nearly fifteen years in the food and beverage industry, performing various jobs from barman to *chef de rang* in prestigious Maltese restaurants, till he decided to change career paths. Following his childhood passion for our past and the space around us, Horace enrolled for a Bachelor's course at the University of Malta reading History and Geography as a mature student. Horace obtained the degree specialising in History, submitting a dissertation regarding the food factor during the Second World War.



### Session III, Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November – Chair: Christopher Vella

**Mevrick Spiteri** holds a B.A. in History and Archaeology from the University of Malta, and has successfully completed his M.A. studies at the International Institute for Baroque Studies with his dissertation on *Living in Valletta: Civil Dwellings and Socio-Economic Trends from 1650 to 1750*. His research interest lies in landscape studies through an economic and social history, including transformations of space, land use, property, and development. Amongst other papers, he has co-authored 'The formation of the architect-engineer, *perito* and *agrimensore*, and their regulation by the Order of St John in eighteenth-century Malta' which was awarded the 2016 Malta Historical Society publication award for emerging authors.

**Dr Noel Buttigieg** is a lecturer at the Institute for Tourism, Travel and Culture and co-ordinator of the Programme for Mediterranean Culinary Culture at the University of Malta. He has published articles and books about food culture. He has been focusing on the culture of bread, especially in areas related to power, body and identity, and is currently engaged in developing a narrative for the kitchen complex of the former Inquisitors' Palace for Heritage Malta. He is the Hon. Secretary of the Malta Historical Society, a member of the Sacra Militia Council, and Convivium Leader of Slow Food Malta.

**Kenneth Cassar** holds a first degree in History of Art and a MA in Cultural Heritage Management from the University of Malta with a focus on historic house museums. He has since 2008 formed part of Heritage Malta's Ethnography Department, first as curator for Costumes and Textiles and presently as Senior Curator based at the Inquisitor's Palace. His main research interests are the Inquisitor's Palace and Hal Kirkop's history and art historical heritage.

**Prof. Géraldine Chouard** is Professor at University Paris-Dauphine, France, where she teaches American culture. Her area of expertise is American visual culture, with a focus on photography. She is the head of the research center HIMAN (*Histoire des Images en Amérique du Nord / History of Images in North America*) at the University of Paris-Diderot. She recently published *L'Amérique des images. Histoire et culture visuelle des Etats-Unis*. (Paris, Hazan, 2014). Photography of the South is her field of expertise. Her book *Eudora Welty et la photographie: Naissance d'une vision. (Eudora Welty and Photography: Birth of a Vision)* came out in 2012. One of her research interests is also American patchwork, on which she has published extensively. She curated various US quilt exhibitions in Paris (2008-2017). She is a member of the editorial board of the American studies online journal *Transatlantica*, head of the "Trans'Arts" column, on visual arts.

**Prof. Yosanne Vella** is an associate professor in history pedagogy in the Faculty of Education at the University of Malta. She is a history teacher trainer and she lectures on various topics on history teaching. She has authored as well as edited various history pedagogy books, history textbooks/workbooks/online school history activities and academic papers on history teaching methodology. Apart from history pedagogy research work she also conducts archival research on diverse topics but in particular on Women's History both locally and abroad. She has been involved in the U.K's Women's History Network since 1999, publishing various papers in their journal. She was invited by W.H.N to be their keynote speaker at their annual conference in 2016. She is the vice-president of both the Malta Historical Society and of the Maltese History Teachers' Association.

**Prof. Carmen Depasquale** is Associate Professor and former Head of the Department of French at the University of Malta where she lectures in French literature. She was awarded her doctorate from Sorbonne University (Paris IV). Her main areas of interest include works of French Knights of Malta in the Eighteenth Century, French travel literature on Malta and French writers of Maltese origin. She has authored books and numerous articles, read papers at conferences in Europe, the USA, Australia and Canada, and has been a guest lecturer at several European Universities. She has also given public lectures in Malta and abroad. She is a member of a number of academic Societies and was awarded the distinction of *Officier dans l'Ordre des Palmes académiques* in recognition of her contribution towards French culture.

**Session IV, Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November – Chair: Prof. George Cassar**

**Dr George Azzopardi** started his studies in archaeology at the University of Malta where he graduated BA(Hons) and MA. Since then, he has nearly always been employed in the heritage sector. He also graduated PhD from Durham University (UK), having researched on religious landscapes and identities of the Maltese islands in a Mediterranean island setting from Phoenician to late Roman times. He presented papers and posters at international conferences in UK, Germany, and Spain. He also contributed articles to journals on themes related to local Classical archaeology and is the author of the recently published monograph entitled '*Ras il-Wardija* sanctuary revisited' (Oxford, Archaeopress).



**Dr Panagiotis Zestanakis** is a cultural historian. He earned his PhD in contemporary European history from the University of Crete in 2017 with a research project supported by the Greek State Scholarships Foundation and by an LLP European Commission Grant. He has coedited the collective volume (Αντιμιλώντας στις βεβαιότητες. Φύλα, αναπαραστάσεις, υποκειμενικότητες [Speaking to/Against Certainties. Genders, Representations Subjectivities] (Athens: OMIK, 2013), worked in various research projects, presented papers in international conferences and published articles in Greek, English and Spanish in collective volumes and journals such as *Film, Fashion and Consumption, Transfers. Interdisciplinary Journal of Mobility Studies* and *Journal of Greek Media and Culture*. His research interests revolve around the history of everyday life in post-dictatorship Greece, the history of media and representations and the uses of contemporary history in participative web cultures.

**Dr Evelyn Pullicino** has worked in several fields including the Government administrative sector, education as a history teacher and lecturer in private, Government institutions and the University Of Malta International School Of Foundation Studies and in Tourism as a guide and tourist guide trainer. As a History graduate she conducted research on the Maltese master mason Thomas Dingli, the village of Attard, the Catholic Church in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and 19<sup>th</sup> century criminality in Malta. In December 2016, she graduated PhD in History from the University of Malta with the thesis, 'Crime, society and Change – An analysis of the Criminal Court Records in Malta, 1838-1888'.

**Dr Garritt Van Dyk** is a Junior Research Fellow, Enlightenment Studies, in the Sydney Intellectual History Network. He holds a PhD in History from the University of Sydney. His doctoral thesis, entitled *Commerce, Food, and Identity in Seventeenth-century England and France*, examines the role that commerce has played in the transmission of ideas, including the relationship between food and identity, using economic history to examine both commercial and cultural exchange in the trading networks of England and France. Garritt completed his undergraduate studies at Columbia University. His work has appeared in *Petits Propos Culinaires*, and he received the Sophie Coe Prize for Food History at the 2014 Oxford Symposium on Food and Cookery for his research on the role of English consumers in the development of effervescent wine. Garritt also brings the perspective of a practitioner to his research, as a former chef and pastry chef.

***Aula Capitolare***  
**St Paul's Cathedral**  
**Mdina**



	<i>Aula Capitolare</i> , St Paul's Cathedral, Misrah San Pawl, Mdina
	Public Transport Bus Stop – Nos 51, 52, 53