



Gunnar Hering Lectures

Gunnar Hering (Dresden, 2 April 1934 – Vienna, 22 December 1994) was a prominent historian of South East Europe. Having held various academic positions in Mainz, Freiburg im Breisgau and Göttingen, Hering eventually became the first Professor of Modern Greek Studies at the University of Vienna in 1983. Known as a specialist in Greek and Bulgarian cultural history and church history as well as in the history of political parties in South East Europe, with excellent skills in a number of East and South East European languages and cultures, Hering decisively opened his field of study to interdisciplinary and trans-national approaches. He developed several research projects dedicated to the travel literature and conceptual history of modern South East Europe. With this lecture series, we honour his memory and wish to promote a lively academic dialogue on Greek and South East European history.

PRE-REGISTRATION for this online event is mandatory.

In cooperation with:

ÖGNS/Austrian Society of Modern Greek Studies
Department of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies
Faculty of Historical and Cultural Studies of the University of Vienna



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5th Gunnar Hering Lecture

Tuesday, 15 June 2021 18:00 - ONLINE
Department of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies
Augasse 2-6, 1090 Vienna



5th Gunnar Hering Lecture

"Tous ces consuls de bazar": French consulates and Greek staff in the early modern Mediterranean (17th-18th centuries)

For long in the shadow of ambassadors and other high-ranking diplomats, consuls and consular systems have only recently become the focus of historical studies, most of them dealing with the early modern Mediterranean. More than the mere “rediscovery” of seemingly minor players in issues of international trade and cross-cultural contacts, this new interest has led to a broader reassessment of their role in both the implementation of early modern trading policies, the social and political life of foreign “nations” abroad, and the process of “bureaucratization” of Ancien Régime state institutions. France is a case in point, as the standard narrative has it that by the end of the 17th century, Colbert had turned the medieval, Marseille-operated, consular system, into a modern, state-run, and national institution. Evidence however suggests that this process was in fact more complex and nuanced than is often assumed: hence, the role of Greek reayas in some of the more remote consular posts in the Eastern Mediterranean. My talk therefore aims to investigate the recruitment policies, career strategies and administrative practices of these ‘non-national’ staff. I will seek to understand what prompted them to enter the French consular service (sometimes alongside that of other European powers), against the backdrop of 17th- and 18th-century policy reforms that sought to give preference to French nationals for the exercise of consular duties. At a time when consular services became part of a complex process of definition of state sovereignty, the way these multiple, allegedly exclusive loyalties were articulated, sheds new light on issues of “foreign” and “national” in the making of the modern state.

This year's speaker:

Mathieu Grenet holds a doctorate from the European University Institute of Florence (2010) and is a lecturer in Modern History at the INU Champollion in Albi, a researcher in the UMR 5136 Framespa, a junior member of the Institut Universitaire de France (2019-2024) and the editorial director of the review *Diasporas. Circulations, Migrations, Histoire* (<https://diasporas.revues.org>). He is the author of *La Fabrique communautaire: les Grecs à Venise, Livourne et Marseille, 1770-1840* (Rome and Athens, 2016), as well as of several books and articles on international mobilities, intercultural contacts and identity constructions in the Mediterranean in the modern period.

Program

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Welcoming address

Sebastian Schütze

Dean, Faculty of Historical and Cultural Studies

Christophe Erismann

Chair of the Department of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies

Maria A. Stassinopoulou

President of the Austrian Society of Modern Greek Studies

Dimitrios Kousouris

Department of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies

“Tous ces consuls de bazar”: French consulates and Greek staff in the early modern Mediterranean (17th-18th centuries)

Mathieu Grenet / INU Champollion

Respondent:

Peter Becker

Professor of Austrian History and History of the 19th and 20th century
Speaker of the Vienna Doctoral School of Historical and Cultural Studies
