

EURSLAM

Europe, European Integration and Muslim presence

[Abstract](#)

[Background and rationale](#)

[Project teams and staff](#)

[Partnership](#)

Abstract

The JMM EURSLAM aims to provide tools for MA students, citizens and decision-makers to better understand the complex relationships between Europe (understood both as a cultural entity and, above all, as an economic and political subject resulting from the integration process) and the Muslim presence within and outside it, starting from five pillars:

- 1) the EEC/EU policy towards the Southern and South- Eastern shores of the Mediterranean;
- 2) the projection towards the Western Balkans and the question of enlargement towards the South-East, starting with the Turkish issue;
- 3) the EEC/EU migration policies, in relation to arrivals from countries with a Muslim majority;
- 4) the question of freedom of religion, beliefs and worship in Europe, with respect to the growing and plural Muslim presence;
- 5) the debate on the historical-religious roots of Europe, the role of religious minorities and the possibility to defining a European Islam.

With respect to these five petals EURASLAM will develop three actions.

- One, the main one, didactic, by activating teaching modules of 40 hours a year – centred on lectures and seminar activities – conceived for MA students in Historical Sciences and other fields, entrusted to a team of professors, internal and external to the University of Milan, who will deal with the topics from a historical, juridical, geopolitical and sociological point of view.
- A second activity of theoretical elaboration preparatory to research, will be carried out by the same team of professors and researchers, with the contribution of some university and non-university research centres, in three study and planning workshops that will be held annually and will lead to three publications.
- A third action will be the dissemination of the project results, which will be carried out in synergy with the City of Milan and other institutions (e.g. Osservatorio Balcani e Caucaso – Transeuropa and Fondazione Giangiacomo Feltrinelli), in order to share the results with the general public, policy-makers and a group of secondary school students from (at least) three of the city's secondary schools.

[Home](#)

Background and rationale

The question of relations between Europe and the Muslim presence within and outside it touches on a very wide range of issues: historical, legal, geopolitical, sociological and religious. This dimension is present in the events of European integration from the earliest years. The early EEC, through France, also included Algeria, while even after decolonisation the Community developed preferential relations with many African states, some of which were predominantly inhabited by Muslims. Since 1963, Turkey has also enjoyed the status of a country associated with the European Economic Community and then with the European Union. In the following decades, relations with the countries of the Muslim world have been an important aspect of the external policies of the Community, first, and the European Union, later, through a series of association agreements covering the Mediterranean, the Balkan and even the Caucasus area. Relations of association and, in perspective, of accession to the EU (think of Turkey's candidature and those, in the making, of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo), do not represent the EU's only relationship with the Muslim societies. Since the 1960s, increasingly, EEC member states have been reached by significant immigration from countries with a strong Muslim majority: in France mainly from North Africa, in Federal Germany mainly from Turkey, according to a dynamic that in the following decades spread to most countries of the European Community. As a result of these waves of immigration, the Muslim presence now represents one of the most significant and numerous religious components within the EU, according to a trend that appears destined to increase in the coming years.

In the light of this overall context, the project intends to focus on relations between Europe and the Muslim world in a historical dimension, capable, however, of adopting a multidisciplinary approach. To this end, it intends to address five main strands that, considered as a whole, appear capable of sketching the whole of relations between Europe and the Muslim world:

- A. The Mediterranean policy of the EEC and then the EU, starting with relations with the riparian countries on the South and East coasts. This has been an issue since the origins of the Community, due to the French colonial presence in North Africa, and in Algeria in particular. It regained, however, a new centrality starting with the 1978 Cooperation Agreements, established with Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco, replaced, in the late 1990s and early 2000s, by the Euro-Mediterranean Treaty, soon extended also to other East Coast countries with a majority or strong Muslim presence, such as Jordan, the Palestinian Territories and Lebanon.
- B. The EU's relations with the Western Balkans, and the enlargement policy in that area, which also concerns countries with a strong Muslim presence. Also from this perspective, the starting point goes back to the initial phase of the EEC's history and, in particular, to the association agreement with Turkey in 1963. It was, however, from the collapse of the Communist bloc in Eastern Europe and the dissolution of the Yugoslav Federation that the question of relations between the EU and the Balkan states returned to the centre of debate. Among the Western Balkan countries covered by agreements with the EU, but not yet part of the Union, unlike most of the other Eastern European countries - Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo, Bosnia Herzegovina, Albania, Northern Macedonia - three are in fact Muslim-majority countries (Bosnia Herzegovina, Albania and Kosovo), while significant Muslim presences are also present in Northern Macedonia, Southern Serbia and Montenegro.
- C. Migration dynamics and policies adopted by the EEC/EU towards the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean riparian countries. A topic that has become dramatically relevant in recent decades, but which, once again, has been present since the early days of the EEC. It began, in fact, already with the end of European colonisation in North Africa, and the consequent 'repatriations' of populations of European origin or, in any case, linked to the colonial administrations. It then became structural between the 1960s, especially in France and in the Federal Republic of Germany, and the 1970s, when EEC institutions began to play a relevant role in the definition of immigration policies. Finally, this phenomenon, long structural and fairly stable, experienced a dramatic acceleration following the destabilisation of the Mediterranean basin resulting from the Arab Springs of 2010-2011 and their failure.

- D. The issue of freedom of religion, belief and worship. The growing Muslim presence in EU countries forcefully re-proposes the question of freedom of worship for religious minorities, from a formal as well as a substantive point of view. This is, once again, an ancient issue: the great mosque in Paris was inaugurated in 1926, while it was during the second half of the 19th century that European countries adopted secular systems and accepted religious pluralism. This issue has, however, undergone a major acceleration in recent decades, precisely in the face of the emergence of an increasingly large, and heterogeneous, Muslim presence in Europe. Given its technical relevance, and its important aspects also with respect to public policies and political decision-making processes, this issue will be tackled primarily from a legal and legal-historical perspective.
- E. The debate about the cultural and spiritual roots of Europe, the relationship between religious matrices and secular order and the role of religious minorities in the construction of the European unification process. This is an old debate, which was particularly evident as early as the 1940s and 1950s, at the beginnings of the European integration process, then mainly in relation to the different Christian components present in the six founding countries. This debate, which was then long dormant, has been reactivated in particular at the beginning of the 21st century, in connection with the process of drafting a possible constitution and the post-11 September 2001 debate about the controversial 'Jewish-Christian roots' of Europe and the ensuing discussion about the possible identification of a European Islam, and its inclusion within the EU paradigm.

Analysing the five points listed, with specialists identified with respect to each area, **will make it possible to fully meet the general objectives of the call.**

1. EURSLAM **promotes excellence in teaching and research in the field of EEC and EU studies**, bringing together knowledge and disciplines that are related but independent (historical, legal, geopolitical and sociological), creating a formal and informal network between scholars of European integration, scholars of migratory movements, scholars of the Muslim presence in Italy and Europe, lawyers, contemporary historians and historians of Eastern Europe. This network will be led by the Department of Historical Studies of the University of Milan, through the EURSLAM coordinator, and will also involve the Centre for the Study of Foreign Policy and Public Opinion of the University of Milan. Synergies will be developed with other research centres, both university (REDESM - Research Centre Religions, Rights and Economies in the Mediterranean Area, University of Insubria; Jean Monnet Chair CIAK-EU, Link Campus University; Jean Monnet Chair in the History of European Integration Disinformation, Euroscepticism and European Union Policies, University of Bologna; Jean Monnet Module Europe in the Global Age: Identity, Ecological and Digital Challenges, University of Eastern Piedmont) and extra- university: Giangiacomo Feltrinelli Foundation; CNR - Institute for Mediterranean Studies; Balkans and Caucasus Observatory - Transeuropa, ICEI (Institute for International Economic Cooperation). The informal network that will develop from these relationships will allow for continuous interaction, both internally and through discussion with the students involved in the activities. In particular, through a series of annual planning, elaboration and research workshop, it will help to fine-tune and better define the EURSLAM project in all five areas.
2. EURSLAM **will provide the students involved in the module with a detailed knowledge** of these particular aspects of the political, social and religious history of the EEC/EU, as well as of the external projection of the European integration project. It will bring together a core group of students interested in European Union Studies, involving them in the Module, and a group of students less familiar with European issues, who will be introduced to them through the EURSLAM project;
3. EURSLAM will function as **a vector for public diplomacy towards third countries**, showing in a historical perspective the role of the European institutions as central actors in the promotion of cultural diversity, religious pluralism and values of tolerance. From this point of view, the promotion and dissemination of knowledge about the relationship between the EEC and the EU, on the one hand, and the Muslim world, on the other, in the various dimensions mentioned, is central. This objective is of great interest from a

historical, legal and geopolitical point of view. The relationship with the states on the Southern and Eastern shores of the Mediterranean is, in fact, one of the great challenges for the Union of the future, on a par with enlargement towards the South-East and the full integration and enhancement of the growing Muslim component within European society, from a legal, social and political point of view;

4. **EURSLAM involves active outreach and education work to spread knowledge about EU issues to the wider society** (beyond academia and specialised audiences) and to bring the EU closer to the public. It will involve public institutions – starting from the City of Milan (in particular, the Milano è Memoria project and EU Direct Funds Department) –, centres of research and historical dissemination (e.g. Giangiacomo Feltrinelli Foundation, Balkan and Caucasus Observatory - Transeuropa, and ICEI) to share and disseminate the project results through a series of public initiatives, which also involve the students in an active role, aimed at citizenship, and designed to arouse debate in society and confrontation with local, national and European policy-makers, as well as through the creation of multimedia contents. Thanks to the support of the Municipality of Milan, a number of city secondary schools will be identified to be involved in the project in order to disseminate the results.

Conclusion: as is evident from what has been said, **the activation of the EURSLAM JMM appears capable of responding fully to the demands of the call.**

Indeed, **EURSLAM will contribute to strengthening the dialogue between EU institutions and the states and societies of the southern and eastern shores of the Mediterranean**, as part of a general rethinking of the Euro-Mediterranean dialogue. Likewise, it will help make the role of Muslim components within the EU more visible and better understood, **enhancing the contributions of religious pluralism to EU building.**

As is evident from points 3 and 4 above, **EURSLAM will develop important synergies with society, with research centres outside the academy, and with secondary schools.** Collaboration with the Municipality of Milan, will make it possible to involve policymakers, in particular at the local and regional level, in EURSLAM activities, raising their awareness of the project's themes, which appear to be of great interest for the future of the EU. Dissemination activities will inform a wide non-academic audience about multiple aspects of EU policy, regarding external projection in the Mediterranean, enlargement towards the Southeast, migration policies, the protection of religious freedom, and the debate about the cultural and spiritual roots of the continent. Due to its specific focus, EURSLAM will generate historical knowledge and insights that **can support EU policy-making and strengthen the role of the EU** in a globalised world, in particular in the Mediterranean. Analysing the role of Muslim components in European societies from a historical perspective can contribute to **active European citizenship and the protection of European values** of pluralism, multiculturalism and diversity, promote awareness of the Union and encourage the pluralist development of society.

[Home](#)

Project teams and staff

Paolo Zanini

Coordinator and Project Manager
Università degli Studi di Milano

Paolo Zanini is associate professor at the Department of Historical Studies. He teaches Contemporary History (BA in Philosophy) and History of Contemporary Europe (MA in Historical Sciences). He holds a PhD in European History and International Life in the Modern and Contemporary Age. He has been a visiting fellow and scholar at the School of Public and International Affairs, Glendon College, York University in Toronto (Summer 2013 and Fall 2015), the Centre of Italian Studies at the Department of Romance and Latin-American Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Winter-Spring 2015), at the Trier University, III Faculty, Chair of Contemporary History (Winter 2017), at the Department of History, Columbia University, New York (Autumn 2021). He worked and researched in Autumn 2019 at the Harvard Divinity School (University of Harvard, Cambridge MA).

He is a scholar of the Middle East, the Holy See's diplomatic action, the Catholic world, Mediterranean Jewish migration, and the issue of religious freedom in Italy and Europe.

He will coordinate all of EURSLAM's activities, taking part in planning, research, dissemination and teaching. On the teaching side, he will deal directly with Euro-Mediterranean relations before the Second World War (a preliminary topic that will be addressed in the teaching seminars linked to the Contemporary European History course); the question of religious freedom in the European historical-political tradition; the role of the Islam in the development of the idea of Europe. As project coordinator and manager, he will play a central role in organising the three project workshops, teaching, dissemination, coordinating the team and synergies with the academic and non-academic research centres and institutions involved in EURSLAM.

Members of the teaching and research Team

Daniela Saresella

Università degli Studi di Milano

Daniela Saresella is full professor of Contemporary History at the Department of Historical Studies, University of Milan. Her main field of research has been the study of the Catholic world in the twentieth century in Italy, in the USA and in Canada, with a particular focus on Catholic Americanism and Modernism. She has also written about the 1960s and 1970s, and about the political and theoretical debate among Catholic and Marxist intellectuals. In the recent years she focused also on Political Refugees in Republican Italy: exiles, communication networks, political and religious solidarity. She has been head of the PhD Program in Historical Studies at the University of Milan (May 2017-September 2021). She is member of the editorial board of the journals: *Humanitas*, *Historia Magistra*, *Modernism*, *Rivista storica del socialismo*, *Mediterranea - Ricerche storiche*, *Memoria e ricerca*. She is member of the Advisory Committee of the Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism (University of Notre Dame).

With regard to EURSLAM activities, she will participate in theoretical elaboration and design, researching and teaching. With respect to all these activities, her contribution will focus on the political and cultural debate about the cultural roots of Europe, its religious implications and the question of the role of religions in European identity.

Giulia Lami

Università degli Studi di Milano

Giulia Lami is full professor at the Department of Historical studies. She teaches History of Eastern Europe and History of Contemporary Europe between East and West. She is the director of the Centre for the Study of Foreign Policy and Public Opinion at the University of Milan. She is a scholar of the Slavic world, with a particular focus on the Russian and Ukrainian areas. However, she has always shown great interest in historical/religious issues and on

the Muslim presence in Eastern Europe and in the Slavic world. Since 2016 she is President of Commission Internationale des Études Historique slaves of the International Committee of Historical Sciences (ICHS).

Her involvement in EURSLAM will be mainly related to theoretical elaboration and design, research and teaching. In the latter regard, she will mainly deal with Western Balkans, both with regard to the Islamic presence in those countries, and with regard to EU enlargement perspective.

Marco Soresina

Università degli Studi di Milano

Marco Soresina is full professor at the Department of History of the University of Milan, where he teaches History of the Italian Risorgimento and History of Colonisation and Decolonisation. Despite being mainly a scholar of the 19th century, he has also dedicated important studies to the migrations and social movements of the 20th century. He is the author of several books and research articles on all these subjects. Since Autumn 2021 he has been coordinator of the Ph.D. Programm in Historical Studies at the University of Milan.

His involvement in EURSLAM will be mainly related to theoretical elaboration and design, research and teaching. In these activities he will focus his attention on the legal and juridical *status* of the Muslim population in Algeria at the end of the French rule and on the first waves of immigrants from the countries of Maghreb into France.

Cristiana Cianitto

Università degli Studi di Milano

Cristiana Cianitto is associate professor of Ecclesiastical and Canon law at the Cesare Beccaria Department of Legal Sciences of the University of Milano. There, among other things, she has been teaching Islamic law for four years. She has participated in many Italian and international research projects focusing on issues of religious freedom in multicultural societies. Among them, we mention here the FP7 Collaborative project 2010-2013: RELIGARE *Religious Diversity and Secular Models in Europe - Innovative Approaches to Law and Policy*; and the project PriMed – *Prevenzione e Interazione nello spazio trans-mediterraneo* (ID 82382) funded by the Italian ministry of University and Research (MIUR) 2019.

Her involvement in EURSLAM will be mainly related to theoretical elaboration, teaching and dissemination. She will mainly deal with the issue of religious freedom and the possible, but difficult coexistence between Islamic law and the European legal system: a topic on which she has written numerous articles and chapters.

Elisa Giunchi

Università degli Studi di Milano

Elisa Giunchi holds a MA in Islamic Studies and then a PhD in History from the University of Cambridge, UK. She then worked in the field of development cooperation, first for the United Nations in Jordan, then for several NGOs, with frequent field missions in Asia.

She is full professor at the University of Milan, where she teaches Asian History, History and Institutions of Muslim Countries, and History and politics of North Africa and the Middle East. Among other things, she deals with the intersection of religious authority and political power in the Middle

East, the interpretation of sharia law in the judiciary and its gender repercussions, and the normative conflicts affecting immigrant Muslim communities. On these topics she has published numerous articles, essays and books in Italy and abroad and presented numerous papers at conferences and seminars.

Her involvement in EURSLAM will be mainly related to theoretical elaboration and design, research and teaching. In the latter regard, she will mainly deal with the interpretation of sharia law in the judiciary and its gender repercussions among the Muslim communities in Europe; regulatory conflicts affecting immigrant Muslim communities in Europe; relations between the northern and southern shores of the Mediterranean in the second half of the Twentieth century.

Filippo Scuto

Università degli Studi di Milano

Filippo Scuto is associate professor in Institutions of public law at the Department of International, Legal and Historical-Political Studies, University of Milan. Since the academic year 2011/2012, he has been the holder of the teaching of Immigration Law (60 hours, 9 cfu) (Jean Monnet Course until 2015) in the BA in Political Science at the Faculty of Political, Economic and Social Sciences, University of Milan. His field of research and the publications he has produced concern the issues of public and constitutional law, Italian and European, and, in particular: immigration law (Italian and European) and the right of asylum; political parties and political representation; the Italian and European economic constitution; the impact of the European Union in the national legal system; the relations between State, regions and local authorities in Italy; social rights in Italian and European constitutionalism.

Within the EURSLAM project he will mainly deal with aspects concerning immigration in Europe and the rights of immigrant communities, in relation to Italian and European law. On these topics he will participate in the teaching activities and in the elaboration and planning workshops.

Basem Kharma

Università degli Studi di Milano

Basem Kharma is a Ph.D. student in the Doctoral Programme in Historical Studies at the University of Milan. He is working on a doctoral dissertation regarding the Palestinian political movements and their relations with Europe between 1968 and 1982. He graduated in July 2021 at the University of Milan with a score of 110/110 cum laude in Historical Sciences, contemporary curriculum, with a thesis on Pan-Arabist political thought, Arab Socialism and their links with European Left.

He will participate in the JMM EURSAL by helping the coordinator in the management activities and by participating in teaching and dissemination activities. With regard to this second point, he will deal with the reception of the European integration process by public opinion of the riparian countries on the Southern and Eastern coasts of the Mediterranean.

Dominique Avon

École Pratique des Hautes Etudes (EPHE)

Dominique Avon is associate professor of History and has a degree in Arabic. Since 2020, he has directed the IISMM (Institute for the Study of Islam and Societies of the Muslim World), after having coordinated the HEMED Community (*Euro-Mediterranean History*), co-directed the IPRA - *Institute of Religious Pluralism and Atheism*, and chaired the AFHRC - *French Association of Contemporary Religious History*. He is a member of the GSRL-*Groupe Sociétés, Religions, Laïcités laboratory* (UMR 8582) and the LabEx HaStec.

He was a lecturer at the University of Montpellier III, then a professor at the University of Le Mans. He taught in Egypt (1992-1994) and Lebanon (2004- 2005). He has been a visiting professor in the United States (2014), Belgium (winter 2015-2016) and Italy (April-May 2020). He has established ongoing cooperation with academics in Morocco, Tunisia, Switzerland, Germany, Russia and Canada.

His involvement in EURSLAM will be mainly related to theoretical elaboration and design, research and teaching. In these regards he will focus his attention on ideas and doctrines, institutions of formation of religious knowledge, and networks of intellectuals related to the relation

between Europe and Islamic presence within and outside it.

Riadh Ben Khalifa

University of Tunis

Riadh Ben Khalifa is lecturer in Contemporary history at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Tunis. He is member of the Laboratory *History of Mediterranean Economies and Societies* (HESM) and

researcher associated with the Unit *Migration and Society Research* (URMIS-Nice). He is elected fellow at the Convergences Migrations Institute (2021-2024). Expert at the Arab Institute for Human Rights, he is also a member of the Scientific Council of the National Observatory of Migration and the Scientific Committee of the Tunisian Social Observatory within the Tunisian Forum for Economic and Social Rights (FTDES). He has participated in many dynamics within civil society in connection with the defence of migrants' rights. He has been a member of the advisory board of the Peoples' Global Action (PGA). Between 2013- 2017, he was a member of the working group "Rights of migrants and refugees" of the EuroMed-Rights-Tunisia Network - Project *Tripartite dialogue: Tunisian civil society, Tunisian authorities and European authorities*. His involvement in EURSLAM will be mainly related to teaching and research. In this respect, he will focus on trans-Mediterranean migrations and on the EEC/EU policies towards the migratory waves from North Africa and the Middle East in a perspective of *longue durée*.

Mohamed Haddad

University of Carthage (Tunis)

Mohamed Haddad is professor at the University of Carthage - Higher Institute of Languages (Tunis), where he teaches Arab civilisation and Comparative religions. He holds is Ph.D. in Arabic and Islamic Studies from the Sorbonne University (Paris) and is a major specialist in reformist Islam, author and translator of more than twenty books, including *Muslim Reformism: a Critical History*, Springer, 2020. He is former Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Letters in Manouba (Tunis), initiator and former director of the Master's programme in Comparative Religions, and former holder of the UNESCO Chair in Comparative Religious Studies. He is committed to inter-religious dialogue.

His involvement in EURSLAM will be mainly related to theoretical elaboration and design, teaching and research. He will focus on interfaith dialogue, European Islam, internal reformist movements within the Muslim world and its consequences on European society.

Alessandro Ferrari

Università degli Studi dell'Insubria

Alessandro Ferrari is professor of State Laws and Religions and Comparative Law of Religions at the University of Insubria (Varese and Como). He is the director of REDESM, Research Centre *Religions, Rights and Economies in the Mediterranean Space*. He is associated member of GSRL, the CNRS Research Group *Sociétés, Religions, Laïcités* (Paris) and of the Unité Mixte de Recherche *Droit, Religion, Entreprise et Société* of the Strasbourg University and CNRS. He is member of the coordination of the network PLURIEL-Linking Researchers on Islam and Dialogue (<https://pluriel.fuce.eu>). Since 2010 he has been member of the different Councils for the relations with Islam established at the Italian Interior Ministry. He has been Visiting Fellow at the Islamic Legal Studies Program of the Harvard Law School (2019), invited Directeur d'Études at the École Pratiques des Hautes Études, Paris (2018) and Roberta Buffett Visiting Scholar at the Northwestern University (2014). His current research project concerns the development of the right to religious freedom between the two Mediterranean shores read through the prism of the legal treatment of the "Muslim headscarf."

Within the EURSLAM project he will mainly deal with aspects concerning the legal status of Muslims in Europe, the transformation of European secularism and the religious freedom across the two Mediterranean shores. He published many articles on these topics, and on these he will participate in the teaching activities and in the elaboration and research workshops.

Giancarlo Anello

Università degli Studi di Parma

Giancarlo Anello is associate professor of Canon and Ecclesiastical Law at the Department of Humanities, Social Sciences and Cultural Industries (DUSIC), University of Parma.

At this department he taught Anthropology and Institutions of Islam for five years. Winner in 2021 of the KAICIID Minigrant for the project "Global Religions, IRD, And The Academic Public Sphere," in 2019-2020 he was Guest

Editor of the Special Issue "Reconceptualizing Islam in Europe" *Religions Journal* (ISSN 2077-1444). Since 2022, he has been a member of the Advisory Boards of the Institute for Religion Dialogue and Society, IRDD <https://www.irdd.al/> and of the *Iranian Journal of International and Comparative Law*, University of Qom <http://ijicl.qom.ac.ir/>. His areas of research include the Idea of Religious Freedom in an historical perspective; Plural Islam; Islam between East and West; Legal subjectivity in today's multicultural society; Intercultural secularism.

His involvement in EURSLAM will be mainly related to theoretical elaboration and design of the project, research and teaching. In these regards he will focus his attention on the role of the Islamic "Umma" in Europe and the issue of mosques and Islamic places of worship in European countries.

Marco Abram

Osservatorio Balcani e Caucaso – Transeuropa

Marco Abram is researcher and public historian at the Osservatorio Balcani e Caucaso – Transeuropa (Italy). Temporary is also Post-doc Research Fellow at the Znanstveno raziskovalno središče Koper - Science and Research Center Koper. ERC Project "Open Borders". He is a scholar of the Western Balkans. He earned his Ph.D. in History, Cultures and Structures of Frontier Areas" in 2013 at the University of Udine, Department of Historical Sciences. In the following years he worked at the Center for Advanced Studies – South East Europe, University of Rijeka (Croatia); at the Department of History of the University of Rijeka (Croatia); at the Department of History and Sociology of the University of British Columbia - Okanagan (Canada).

He will participate in EURSLAM's teaching and research activities by analysing the Muslim presence in the Western Balkans. As for dissemination and visibility activities, he will collaborate in the preparation of multimedia content.

Giuliana Laschi

Università degli Studi di Bologna

Giuliana Laschi is associate professor of Contemporary History and History of European Integration, University of Bologna, Department of Political and Social Sciences, Forlì Campus. She is Jean Monnet Chair ad personam in History of European Integration. She is Chair of the Scientific Committee of Punto Europa di Forlì - University of Bologna-Campus of Forlì, member of the Self-Steering Committee European Studies of UnaEuropa (University appointment), and local coordinator of the Joint Bachelor of Arts in European Studies of the UnaEuropa Consortium. Over the years, she has led the following Jean Monnet projects: JM Chair *Disinformation, Euroscepticism and European Union Policies – DEEP*"; 2014-2017: JM Centre *The European Union in World Politics: What Power? What Leadership? A multidisciplinary approach*; 2014-2017: JM Chair *Different paths of integration in Europe after the World War II: economy VS politics at the root of EU*; 2011-2014: JM Module *The European integration process and the transatlantic relationship*; 2010-2013: JM Chair ad personam *The European Communities and the world: an historical perspective*. Her major areas of research include Contemporary and international relations History, History of European integration, EEC/EU institutions and policies, European Community external relations, political history of CAP, and history of migration in Europe.

Her involvement in EURSLAM will be mainly related to theoretical elaboration of the project, research and teaching. She will focus his attention on the EU external policies in the Mediterranean basin and on the EEC/EU relations with the countries of Southern and Eastern shores of Mediterranean see.

Filippo Maria Giordano

Link Campus University

Filippo Maria Giordano is associate professor of Contemporary history at the Link Campus University. From 2015 to 2018, he directed the JM Module *Religions for Europe. The confessional factor in European integration: History, culture and identity*, University of Turin. Since 2021 he has been a Research Staff Member of the Jean Monnet Center of Excellence *Artificial Intelligence for European Integration* (AI4EI) of the Department of Culture, Politics and Society of the University of Turin. In 2022 he was awarded the Jean Monnet Chair *Ciak-EU! EU-ropę through*

films: History, Identity, and Policies. He is a scholar of the History of international relations, the principle of subsidiarity, the European integration process, and religious minorities in Italy and Europe, whose role in the European integration process he has deeply highlighted. His involvement in EURSLAM will cover both elaboration and design as well as research and teaching. In particular, he, in synergy with the JMC *Ciak-EU!*, will explore the issue of the representation of the Islamic presence in Europe and intra-Mediterranean relations in European cinematography.

Giorgio Del Zanna

Università Cattolica del Sacro cuore

Giorgio Del Zanna is associate professor at the Catholic University, Milan campus, where he teaches Contemporary history, History of Eastern Europe and History of contemporary Turkey. He is a scholar of the crisis and end of the Ottoman Empire, the history of Christian minorities in the Middle East, the Middle Eastern policy of the Holy See, and the Armenian diaspora in Italy. On all these topics he has published numerous books and articles. Active in the social field, he is very involved in contemporary immigration issues and interfaith dialogue.

He will analyse the policy of the EEC/EU institutions towards Turkey from the beginning of the 1960s until today. This was and still is a very sensitive aspect of European enlargement policy, which became even more urgent in the context of the Cyprus crisis in the 1970s and at the beginning of the 21st century: a period marked by the debate on the cultural and religious roots of the European Union.

Paolo Naso

Università di Roma La Sapienza

Paolo Naso teaches Political Science and coordinates the Master in Religions and Cultural Mediation at the Sapienza University of Rome.

He is a consultant to various institutional bodies: he currently coordinates the Council for Relations with Islam set up at the Italian Ministry of the Interior and sits on the joint Committee between the Ministry of Education, Research and University (MIUR) and the Biblia association for the promotion of biblical culture in schools. He has been a member of the Executive Board of the Sociology of Religion Section of the Italian Association of Sociology (AIS) and he is currently involved in the project PRIMED *Participation and Interaction in the Mediterranean Space*. He also collaborates in the *Atlas project - Atlas of Religious Freedom and Belief*. He is scientific co-director of the research project on *New Religious Pluralism* funded by CARIPO Foundation.

His involvement in EURSLAM will be on the issue of freedom of religion and conscience in contemporary societies, with a special focus on Muslim communities in Europe. He will be active in research design, teaching, dissemination and involvement of policy-makers.

Michele Colucci

CNR Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche – ISMED Istituto di studi sul Mediterraneo

Michele Colucci is senior researcher at the National Research Council - Institute for Mediterranean Studies, where he is the scientific head of research activities in History of Migration. His research focuses on contemporary history, with particular attention to migration phenomena. He teaches History of migration at the University of Roma Tre and he has taught Contemporary history at the University of Tuscia, Viterbo and at the University "L'Orientale", Naples. He is a member of the editorial board of the historical journals *Meridiana* and *Archivio storico dell'emigrazione italiana*, and of the advisory board of *Studi Emigrazione – Emigration Studies*. He has been Principal Investigator on a number of research projects and is actually the PI of the project *Storia delle migrazioni mediterranee in età contemporanea*.

His involvement in EURSLAM will be focused on elaboration and design as well as research and teaching. In particular, in synergy with other researchers of his line of research at the CNR-ISMED, he will analyse the issue of intra-Mediterranean migratory flows and the role of the EEC/EU institutions in regulating them.

Luigi Vergallo

Fondazione Giangiacomo Feltrinelli

Luigi Vergallo holds a Ph.D. in European Society and International Life in the Modern and Contemporary Age at the Department of Historical Studies, University of Milan. He currently coordinates the History and Memory research area of Fondazione Giangiacomo Feltrinelli, where he has been working since 2018. He is researcher and writer. He mainly deals with the history of crime and historical-economic aspects of the contemporary age.

He has published many historical books and essays, short stories, and novels. His articles and short stories have also appeared in the Italian newspaper *La Repubblica*. He contributes and has contributed to some online and print media outlets. His involvement in EURSLAM will be mainly

related to teaching and elaboration and design of dissemination and visibility actions. In this latter regard, he will mainly deal with the organization of the final public conference, the teaching activities at selected secondary schools and multimedia content design and preparation.

[Home](#)

Partnership

The JMM EURSLAM is an autonomous multidisciplinary unit that can support itself in terms of skills, research, teaching, production of contributions and in the organisation of activities and events due to the excellent quality of its Team. However, to deepen certain issues, to enhance the range of its action and to broaden the effects of the dissemination of products and the results of the activities promoted, it will be supported by a number of partners: research centres, within and outside academia, Jean Monnet actions, and public institutions.

THE UNIVERSITY AND NON-UNIVERSITY RESEARCH CENTRES that will be involved in EURSLAM, and whose availability has already been verified, offer the best guarantees for bringing the project to fruition. These are:

The [Centre for the Study of Foreign Policy and Public Opinion](#). It was founded in 1980 at the University of Milan. Its director, professor **Giulia Lami**, is a member of EURSLAM Team. In the same way, another member of the EURSLAM team, professor **Daniela Saresella**, is also a member of the Centre for the Study of Foreign Policy and Public Opinion advisory board.

The [Giangiacomo Feltrinelli Foundation](#). It will be present in EURSLAM through its Research Area *Storia e Memoria*. The coordinator of this Research Area, doctor **Luigi Vergallo**, is a member of the EURSLAM team. The Feltrinelli Foundation will be a strategic partner for EURSLAM, especially for dissemination activities and the elaboration of multimedia content. It is one of the main historical research centres in Italy and it is leader in public history and public engagement.

The [Balkans and Caucasus Observatory – Transeuropa](#). It was established in 2000 and is now the main non-academic Italian centre for the South-Eastern Europe, active both in historical research and public history, and in political and peace-keeping initiative. It will be involved in research and dissemination activities as well as in teaching through its director, doctor **Luisa Chiodi**, and one of its researcher, doctor **Marco Abram**, who is a member of the EURSLAM team.

[ISMED-CNR Institute for Mediterranean Studies](#). It is the most important Italian research centre for the Mediterranean sea. It will be involved in EURSLAM through its Migration Research Line. The director of this Research Line, professor **Michele Colucci**, is member of the EURSLAM team and other researchers will be involved in EURSLAM teaching and dissemination activities.

[ICEI-Institute for International Economic Cooperation](#). It is a centre that works with local communities to improve social and economic conditions and to promote inclusive, equitable and sustainable societies in a participatory manner. Its role within EURSLAM will be relevant for dissemination and research, particularly with regard to the existence of stereotypes about communities of Muslim origin in Europe.

[REDESM-Research Centre Religions, Rights and Economies in the Mediterranean Space](#), University of Insubria. It is a research centre whose mission is to strengthen dialogue between the two shores of the Mediterranean, with particular attention to the promotion of religious pluralism. It will be involved in research, dissemination, and teaching. It will collaborate with EURSLAM through its director, professor **Alessandro Ferrari**, who is a member of the EURSLAM team.

SYNERGIES WITH OTHER JEAN MONNET CHAIRS, MODULES AND CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE will allow EURSLAM to develop in contact with Jean Monnet projects already underway, connecting EURSLAM to many experts in European studies and historical knowledge related to the European integration process. Jean Monnet Chair in History of European Integration [Disinformation, Euroscepticism and European Union Policies](#), University of Bologna, held by professor **Giuliana Laschi**. Professor Laschi is a member of the EURSLAM team. Her participation in EURSLAM activities will focus in particular on the Mediterranean policy of the EEC/EU institutions.

Jean Monnet Chair [CIAK-EU! EU-rope through films: History, Identity, and Policies](#), Link Campus University, held by professor **Filippo Maria Giordano**. Professor Giordano is a member of the EUSLAM team. His involvement in EURSLAM activities will focus on the representation of Muslim presences and communities in Europe and that of Arab countries in European culture.

Jean Monnet Module [Europe in the Global Age: Identity, Ecological and Digital Challenges](#), University of Eastern Piedmont, held by professor **Stefano Quirico**. This JMM is a very important partner of EURSLAM, especially with regard to the issue of the Idea of Europe. Professor Quirico is not officially a member of the EURSLAM team, but he and his research group will be involved in the elaboration and teaching activities of the project.

SYNERGIES WITH THE CITY OF MILAN will be particularly useful to share and disseminate the project results through a series of public initiatives. These will include the final conference and dissemination activities promoted in at least three secondary schools. The relationship with the Municipality will be developed in particular with the [Milano è Memoria](#) project, directed by **Luca Gibillini** and with the EU Direct Funds Department, directed by **Marco Mazziotti**.

[Home](#)