



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI NAPOLI
"L'Orientale"

DIPARTIMENTO DI SCIENZE UMANE E SOCIALI
UFFICIO DIDATTICA

SCHEDA LABORATORIO

A.A. 2021/2022

Titolo	Africa and the Indian Ocean World
Docente responsabile	Maria Suriano (University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg) maria.suriano@wits.ac.za
Corsi di laurea destinatari	Relazioni e istituzioni dell'Asia e dell'Africa (magistrale - DSUS) Lingue e culture dell'Asia e dell'Africa (magistrale - DAAM)
Numero Ore	12
Numero CFU	2
Semestre	Secondo
Data Inizio attività	Lunedì, 4 Aprile 2022
Prenotazione richiesta (si/no)	Si
Indirizzo mail prenotazioni	maria.suriano@wits.ac.za
Programma attività	Sei incontri in modalità telematica, in lingua inglese o italiana a seconda delle esigenze e preferenze dell'Università e degli studenti, nei seguenti giorni e orari: Lunedì 8:30-10:30 Giovedì 9:30-11:30 La descrizione del programma è in appendice (si veda la pagina seguente). Durante l'ultima settimana del laboratorio sono previste brevi presentazioni orali degli studenti.

Africa and the Indian Ocean World

Lecturer: Dr Maria Suriano (maria.suriano@wits.ac.za)

Themes: A history of the flows of people, goods and ideas in the western Indian Ocean

Description: Taking a transnational perspective and using a combination of thematic and chronological approaches, this workshop focuses on the key networks of cross-cultural exchange and circulation of people, goods, services and ideas across the western Indian Ocean region in the *longue durée*. It examines the formation of cosmopolitan identities in the area comprised between eastern Africa, Southwest Asia (the Arabian Peninsula, especially Yemen, Oman and Persia/Iran), and the Indian subcontinent.

The workshop first surveys the recent historiography of the Indian Ocean, the main advantages of maritime history, the concept of maritime communities and the notion of the western Indian Ocean as a unified region or 'world'. It then presents an overview of the regional trading system on the western Indian Ocean rim, the growth of port cities in the area stretching from the Red Sea Coast of Somalia to the Mozambique Channel, and the early Indian diaspora. Regular contacts between Africa, the Arabian Peninsula, Persia and India, together with the process of Islamisation, brought about the Swahili civilisation.

The workshop then examines the impact and limits of Portuguese domination (1498-1698), and the age of global empire. The advent of the steamship and the rise of the British Empire in the 19th century accelerated the movements of people and shaped new diasporic communities. We will ask: to what extent did the Indian Ocean turn from an "Islamic Lake" to a "British Lake"? What is the utility of the notions of webs of empire and horizontal connections? What was the role of India and its diasporic communities (intendured labourers, "coolies", traders, settlers, sailors) in eastern and southern Africa from 1860 to 1920? How is Mohandas Gandhi's presence in South Africa and his printing press related to the formation of the idea of India?