



UNIVERSITÀ DI NAPOLI
L'ORIENTALE

DAAM
DIPARTIMENTO ASIA,
AFRICA E MEDITERRANEO



CSACTI Lecture series - Spring 2025

The Order and Disorder of Communication in the Early Modern Ottoman Empire

Nir Shafir

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In the seventeenth century, Muslims in the Ottoman Empire became embroiled in a polarizing cultural war over the permissibility of everyday practices like worshipping at saints' graves, smoking tobacco, and an odd medical procedure called "chickpea cauterization."

This talk traces this widespread religious and political polarization to the rise of a new "communication order," focusing in particular on the advent of "pamphlets": short, mobile, and polemical tracts, all copied by hand. The talk paints a new picture of the entire ecosystem of books in the manuscript culture of the early modern Ottoman Empire and how it fell into supposed disorder as middling readers stoked polemics, falsified authorship, and fashioned new reading publics.



lunedì 19 maggio ore 17:00

**Antisala degli Specchi - Palazzo Corigliano (IV piano)
P.zza San Domenico Maggiore, 12 NAPOLI**

Presentazione del volume: *The Order and Disorder of Communication in the Early Modern Ottoman Empire* (Stanford University Press, 2024)

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