

## CALL FOR PAPERS

### INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

#### *Christians, Jews, and Muslims: Trajectories and Interactions in the Mediterranean*

**BNE and CCHS-CSIC (Madrid)**

**9–12 June 2026**

**Steering Committee:** Aitor García Moreno, Flor Herrero Valdés, Laura Rodríguez Pozo, and Jan Thiele  
(ILC, CSIC)

Since the medieval period, the Mediterranean has been a space of intense contact among Christians, Jews, and Muslims—contacts in which the construction of religious identities has played a fundamental role. Conceived by some as a historical, anthropological, and economic unity, by others as a fragmented space, and still by others as a mere intellectual construct, the Mediterranean has served as a framework for studying both the—often idealized—exchange among these monotheistic communities and the various conflicts that arose between them. This international congress will explore the dynamics among these groups within the Mediterranean context over a broad chronological span, proposing a critical approach to notions such as coexistence, tolerance, pluralism, cultural confrontation, and exclusion, and analyzing interaction and its impact on processes of cultural transmission and transformation among communities.

The International Congress “Christians, Jews, and Muslims: Trajectories and Interactions in the Mediterranean,” organized by the Institute of Languages and Cultures of the Mediterranean and the Near East (ILC-CSIC) in collaboration with the Common Action Forum (CAF), seeks to offer a comprehensive approach to the topic, bridging academic research with public outreach and citizen science. To this end, it will bring together specialists from diverse disciplines to foster interdisciplinary debate and present new perspectives on the political, cultural, and religious history of the Mediterranean, with particular emphasis on the analysis of textual sources and their circulation in multiconfessional and multilingual contexts. With this dual focus, the congress aims to demonstrate the public role of academia by translating historical and philosophical perspectives into reflections on contemporary challenges: the trajectories that have shaped the development and evolution of the Mediterranean up to the present day have much to reveal about the end of geographical and historical barriers, as well as about the immediacy and misinformation that characterize the modern age. In an exercise of scientific and academic diplomacy, the congress seeks to open a dialogue connecting past interactions with the challenges of today’s technological era.

The congress will open on **9 June 2026** at the **National Library of Spain (BNE)** with an inaugural session aimed at the general public, featuring distinguished speakers Belén Altuna, Fernando Amérigo-Cuervo, Ángeles Espinosa, and Juan José Tamayo, who will address questions concerning

the perception of the “Other” and the role of religions in the historical and cultural configuration of the Mediterranean world. The academic section of the congress will continue at the **Center for Humanities and Social Sciences of the CSIC (CCHS-CSIC)** over the following three days—corresponding to the three main thematic sections (“Sacred Texts, Profane Tongues?”, “Empires and Minorities,” and “Philosophy, Science, and Theology”), each described at the end of this call for papers. These sessions will approach the overall theme of the congress through the analysis and study of written sources in their multiple dimensions.

Each section, which has its own scientific committee working jointly with the congress’s organizing committee, will feature a **45-minute keynote lecture** delivered by an invited specialist and **nine selected 20-minute presentations**, each followed by a **10-minute discussion period**.

There is **no registration fee** for the congress. The organization will cover coffee breaks and lunches for participants during the academic sessions held at the CCHS-CSIC.

**Submission of proposals** (in either Spanish or English) is now open, according to the following schedule:

- **Deadline for submission of proposals:** 31 December 2025
  - **Notification of acceptance by the Scientific Committee:** 1 February 2026
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### **Section: “Sacred Texts, Profane Tongues?”**

(CCHS-CSIC, 10 June 2026)

**Scientific Committee:** Pablo Roza Candás and Katarzyna K. Starczewska (ILC, CSIC)

**Invited Speaker:** Gerard Wiegers (Universiteit van Amsterdam)

This section, primarily philological in nature, is devoted to the analysis of the expression, translation, and adaptation of religious texts in multilingual and multiconfessional contexts. Particular attention will be paid to the ways in which Mediterranean communities have reinterpreted and transmitted sacred scriptures in languages other than those in which they were originally codified. From a linguistic standpoint, the section seeks to deepen understanding of the processes of sacralization of vernacular languages (rhetorical and pragmatic strategies, discursive traditions, lexical specialization, etc.). Regarding textual materiality, attention will be given to the transmission, circulation, and reception of texts, both within and beyond their respective communities. Finally, in terms of textual criticism, aspects such as composition, sources, and mechanisms of copying and translation will be examined.

### **Section: “Empires and Minorities”**

(CCHS-CSIC, 11 June 2026)

**Scientific Committee:** Raúl Estangüi Gómez and Katja Šmid (ILC, CSIC)

**Invited Speaker:** Edhem Eldem (Boğaziçi University)

Starting from the coexistence of different religious communities within the various imperial systems of the Mediterranean, this section will explore the relationships between imperial forms of power and religious minority communities. It will examine both policies of integration and exclusion and strategies of resistance and adaptation. Special attention will be paid to the circulation of normative and polemical texts, as well as to the writing and preservation of minority memory across diverse imperial contexts.

### **Section: “Philosophy, Science, and Theology”**

(CCHS-CSIC, 12 June 2026)

**Scientific Committee:** Delfina Serrano Ruano and Pablo Toribio Pérez (ILC, CSIC)

**Invited Speaker:** Cornelia Schöck (Universität Bochum)

This section will examine the interaction among different religious communities in the fields of philosophy, theology, and science in the medieval and early modern Mediterranean. The contacts that took place within these domains of knowledge played a crucial role in the intellectual development of such geographical and chronological framework. Attention will also be given to the various perceptions expressed within each community regarding the reality of these interactions, which were often more frequent and fruitful than participants themselves explicitly acknowledged in their writings. From a philological perspective, the section will analyze the sources and textual traditions that supported these exchanges, as well as their transmission through translations and commentaries. Methodological reflections on new approaches to these questions, and on the potential of digital text-analysis technologies to uncover previously unidentified connections and sources, will be especially valued.

### **Information and Registration:**

[https://www.cchs.csic.es/es/event/cristianos-judios-musulmanes\\_mediterraneo](https://www.cchs.csic.es/es/event/cristianos-judios-musulmanes_mediterraneo)

### **Academic Secretariat:**

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