Connecting Research across the Byzantine-Islamic Mediterranean: Landscapes, Cultures and Heritage

First meeting of I-LINK project (ILINK25035)
"Byzantine-Islamic Coastalscapes: Bridging the Shores of the Medieval Mediterranean from Archaeo-historical Patterns to Heritage Protection"



1–2 DECEMBER 2026 | ESCUELA DE ESTUDIOS ÁRABES (EEA-CSIC) | HYBRID EVENT

Salón de actos del Carmen de los Mínimos · C. Frailes de la Victoria, 7 · Albaicín, Granada

TUESDAY · 1 DECEMBER

09:30–09:40 **Juan Pablo Arias Torres & Angelo Castrorao Barba**
EEA-CSIC
Welcome and introduction

RESEARCH AT EEA-CSIC

09:40–10:10 **Angelo Castrorao Barba**
EEA-CSIC
From Coastal to Rural Landscapes: Approaching the Late Antique-Byzantine-Islamic Transition in Sicily and al-Andalus

10:10–10:25 **Montserrat Benítez Fernández & Estefanía Valenzuela Mochón**
EEA-CSIC
Arabic Linguistics at the School of Arabic Studies

10:25–10:40 *Discussion*

10:40–11:00 **COFFEE BREAK**

I-LINK TEAM

11:00–11:30 **Alexander Sarantis**
Leibniz-Zentrum für Archäologie (LEIZA)
Warfare, Diplomacy, and Socio-Economic Change in the Borderlands of the Early to Middle Byzantine Empire, 4th–9th c.

11:30–12:00 **Tommaso Giuliodoro**
University of Bologna
North Africa, Byzantium, and the Western Mediterranean: Entanglements and Transformations

12:00–12:15 *Discussion*

12:15–12:45 **Anna Leone (online)**
Durham University
Crumbling History: Making, Remaking and Losing the Built Landscapes of North Africa

12:45–13:15 **Anita Radini (online)**
University College Dublin
Byzantine Traditional Craft Heritage and its Potential

13:15–13:25 *Discussion*

13:25–14:30 **Lunch · Carmen de la Victoria**

15:00–17:00 **I-LINK Team Working Meeting**

WEDNESDAY · 2 DECEMBER

RESEARCH AT EEA-CSIC

09:30–09:45 **María de los Ángeles Utrero Agudo**
EEA-CSIC
Early Medieval Monastic Architecture on the Iberian Peninsula: Between Christians and Muslims

09:45–10:00 **Pedro Jiménez Castillo & Manuel Pérez Asensio**
EEA-CSIC; Independent Researcher
From the Byzantine-Visigothic Frontier to al-Andalus: Rural Settlement and Material Culture in the Guadalentín Valley

10:00–10:15 *Discussion*

I-LINK TEAM

10:15–10:45 **Antonia Bosanquet**
Utrecht University
Changing Allegiances in Early Islamic Ifrīqiya, 650–850

10:45–11:15 **Maja Kominko & Mariusz Drzewiecki (online)**
University of Warsaw
History, Archaeology, and Heritage Protection: The Work of the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology

11:15–11:30 *Discussion*

11:30–11:50 **COFFEE BREAK**

11:50–12:20 **Nikolas Bakirtzis (online)**
The Cyprus Institute
Science and Technology Approaches to the Medieval Heritage of Cyprus and the Eastern Mediterranean

12:20–12:50 **David Cardona**
Heritage Malta
Heritage Malta's Underwater Cultural Heritage Unit and the Archaeological Research Unit

12:50–13:00 *Discussion*

13:00–13:30 **Giuseppe Bazan**
University of Palermo
Historical Vegetation Ecology: Linking Past Legacies to Landscape Trajectories

13:30–13:40 *Discussion*

13:40–14:30 **Lunch · Carmen de la Victoria**

15:00–17:00 **I-LINK Team Working Meeting**

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