



IX International Military Orders Conference

Documents and Monuments

9-12 September 2026 Malta

Emanuel Buttigieg & Valeria Vanesio

Info:



**L-Università
ta' Malta**



PROGRAMME

9 SEPTEMBER · VALLETTA
ITALIAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE

Formerly, Chancery of the Order of St John
VLT 1190, St. George's Square, Valletta, Malta



18:00-19.00 Registration

Step into the building and get your welcome bag and name tag. Enjoy the 18th-century frescoes in the main hall!

19:00-19.15 Opening Remarks

19:15-20.00 Introductory Lecture

Voices of the Lingua d'Italia: Why Reconstructing Documents and Monuments Matters. By Emanuel Buttigieg and Valeria Vanesio

20.30-22:00 Reception

Fortress Builders – Fortifications Interpretation Centre, Valletta
St. Mark Street, Valletta, VLT 1364, Malta

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10 SEPTEMBER · VALLETTA MALTA UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

Formerly, Jesuits' Collegium Melitense

St Paul Street, Valletta VLT 1216, Malta

8:30

Registration

Our welcome desk and conference rooms are on the ground floor.

9:00-9:15

Opening Speech

By Victor Mallia-Milanes (streamed in each room)

09:15-10:35 Parallel Sessions

Session 1 – Chair: Paula Pinto Costa (Room 2)

Philippe Josserand. *The Military Orders of Holy Land and the Iberian Peninsula: Strength and Limitation of a Jerosolimitan and Trans-Mediterranean Network*

Julia Pavón & Maria Bonet Donato. *Institutional memory and archives of the Hospitaller Priory of Navarre (1120-1349)*

Jose García Cano. *The Impressive Hospitaller Castle of Consuegra (Toledo, Spain) and its Priory Archive. The Legacy of the Order of Saint John in the Heart of La Mancha*

Session 2 – Chair: Ana Echevarría Arsuaga (Room 3)

Simon Phillips. *Hospitaller Kalymnos and Leros in the Sixteenth Century: Documentary and Monumental Evidence*

Nadia Bagnarini. *Viterbo, Perugia and Rome: three examples of Templar urban houses in the Patrimonium Sancti Petri. History and architecture*

Riccardo Giuliano. *Military Orders in the Sicilian Civil War of the Fourteenth Century: Alliances, Conflicts, and Strategies of Power*

Equēs S.S. Mauritiij et Lazari

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Session 3 – Chair: Karl Borchardt (Room 4)

Yanina Ryier. *Rivers as Military Frontiers: Waterborne Warfare in the Teutonic Crusades against Lithuania*

Kamil Wasilkiewicz & Krzysztof Wroński. *The Commandery of the Knights Hospitaller in Łagów: A Unique Manifestation of the Order's Authority on the Brandenburg-Polish Frontier in the Middle Ages*

Dariusz Makitta. *Forgotten Knights Order in Poland from 13th Century. Fratres Milites Christi de Dobrin*

Session 4 – Chair: Gonzalo Carrasco García (Room 5)

Natasha Hodgson. *Glorious champions for the law of God? Military orders in the spectrum of medieval and crusading masculinities*

Marijke Mortier. *Templars and Trade in medieval Flanders*

Giuseppe Perta. *The Hospitaller chapter-general of Naples (1384)*

Session 5 – Chair: Matthias Ebejer (Room 6)

Artemy Streletsky (online). *William of Tyre's account of the origins of the Templars in light of documentary evidence*

Muhittin Çeken & Muhittin-Yasin Çeken-Akmeşe (online). *A General Overview of the Relations between the Hospitallers and the Ottomans in the Process from Rhodes to Malta*

Eylul Irem Atik. *Institutional Visibility and the Visual Construction of the "Frankish Other" in Ottoman Miniature Painting*

Miles Cruciate

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Session 6 – Chair: Claudia Garradas (Board room C)

Isabella Pascucci. *The Madrid reports. Diplomacy and technology between Malta and the Crown of Spain*

Adam Peter Fretwell. *From Treatise to Practice: Embodied Methodologies, Documents, and Arms in Early Modern Malta*

Fernanda Olival. *Early Modern Portugal as a Country of Abundant Military Order Knights*

10:35-11:05 Coffee Break

11:05-12:20 Parallel Sessions

Session 7 – Chair: Simon Phillips (Room 2)

Photeine Perra. *Evidence in Stone and Lead: Material Traces of the Hospitallers in the Peloponnese (Late 14th–Early 15th Century)*

Nicholas Coureas. *Greek Officials in Rhodes and Cyprus and their Interaction with the Hospitaller Order*

Dmitry Korobeynikov. *The Hospitallers, the Genoese, and the Kingdom of Cyprus in the Mamluk correspondence*

Eques Teutonicus

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Session 8 – Chair: Lorenzo Mercuri (Room 3)

Christer Carlsson. *Aslackby - A Rural Templar Preceptory in Lincolnshire, UK*

Michael Chernin & Shay Halevi (online). *On the question of the location of the Hospitaller estates Saltus Muratus and Belveer in the Jerusalem Highlands*

Rabei G. Khamisy & Milad Khamese. *Montfort Castle's Keep – Idea, Influence and Construction*

Session 9 – Chair: Elizabeth Siberry (Room 4)

Ana Cláudia Silveira. *Shaping urban landscapes: the role of the Order of Santiago in the Setúbal Peninsula at the end of the Middle Ages*

João Pedro Alves. *The Commandery's Memory: Remembering Justice in the domains of Avis and Santiago*

Rui Pedro Neves (online). *Seals of Faith and Power: Sigillographic Imagery in the Portuguese Order of Santiago (13th–14th Centuries)*

Session 10 – Chair: Anna Dulcka (Room 5)

Clara Almagro Vidal. *Muslim Vassals for the Military Orders: The Ceremonial of Homage and Fealty and its Implications*

Ana Echevarría Arsuaga. *The Hospitaller Female Monastery of Sijena and its Muslims: Monuments and Documents*

Gonzalo Carrasco García. *Muslim Vassals and the Paradox of Captivity in the Order of Santiago in Medieval Castile*

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Session 11 – Roundtable (Room 6)

Military Orders: Research Visibility and Collaborative Challenges. Coordinated by Anton Caruana-Galizia, Joana Lencart, and Paula Pinto Costa.

This session offers contributors the opportunity to showcase ongoing collaborative projects and the connected research networks. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss their experiences and share knowledge on these initiatives as well as any challenges they face. One avenue of discussion is how these collaborative and /or interdisciplinary initiatives can shape and expand the field. A primary goal of the session is to encourage transregional approaches to the study of military orders. We also aim to stimulate discussion on the public history perspective of this research, with a view to raising the public profile and reputation of the field. A selection of digital posters will be presented for discussion.

12:20–14:00

Lunch (not provided; there are many options around Valletta)

14:15–15:35

Parallel Sessions

Session 12 – Chair: Curtis Callus (Room 2)

Hector Linares (online). *Between King and Pope: Knights' Legal Immunity and the Limits of Royal Authority in the Spanish Military Orders, 1560–1621*

Ignacio Ezquerro Revilla (online). *The villas y lugares of the Priory of Saint John in La Mancha in the Consultas de Viernes of the Royal Council of Castile during the reign of Philip II*

Maria Pia Arana Barbier (online). *A discourse of favours: Diplomatic correspondence and the commanderies of the Order of Saint John in eighteenth-century Spain*

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Session 13 – Chair: Steven Camilleri (Room 3)

Sonia Merli. *San Bevignate in Perugia: From Templar Preceptory to Commendam Benefice*

Eleanor Ashton-Cobb. *The Round Churches of the Knights Templar in Britain and their place in the Order's Religious Architecture*

Lorenzo Mercuri. *Documents for Monuments: Hospitaller Visitations of the Enclos du Temple in Paris (15th–18th Centuries)*

Charlene Vella, Sebastiano d'Amico, Emanuele Colica. *Gothic Continuities: The Church of St Anne at Fort St Angelo and the Hospitaller Architectural Legacy from Rhodes to Birgu*

Session 14 – Chair: Jürgen Sarnowsky (Room 4)

José Manuel Rodríguez García. *Combatant Spirituality and the Military Orders. An Example from the Order of Calatrava*

Michał Koszela. *The Problem of the Presence of the Order of Calatrava in Tymawa in Gdańsk Pomerania. Selected Aspects*

Maria Letizia Curreri. *Holy Water in the 15th century: A New Document for a Hospitaller's Monumental Foundation in Genoa*

Lisa Lillie. *Slaves, Boats, and Bribes: Holy War and the Sinews of State Power in Tuscany and Malta, 1537-1571*

Eques melitensis in Bello

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Session 15 – Chair: Joana Lencart (Room 5)

Matthias Ebejer. *Hospitallers and Sacred Landscapes*

Greg O'Malley. *The Hospitaller Nunnery and Commandery of Mynchin Buckland, 1338-1539/40*

Anna Dulska. *Architectural and Spiritual Spolia: Early Modern Resignification of the Medieval Hospitaller Female Monastery at Bargota (Navarre, Spain)*

Petra Caruana Dingli. *Sanctimoniales and Repentite: The Female Monasteries of the Order of St John in Valletta*

Session 16 – Chair: Rachel Grillo (Room 6)

Christian Mifsud. *Innovation Under Restraint: Francesco Laparelli's Renaissance Vision versus the Order's Traditionalist Impositions in the building of Valletta (1566-1576)*

Jonathan Borg. *Monuments on the Move: Redefining the Antiquarian Landscapes of Mdina and the Gozo Cittadella*

Reuben Grima. *Politics, Patronage and the Collecting of Antiquities: Giovanni Francesco Abela and his potenti adversarii*

Christian Attard. *Jesuit Spirituality and Hospitaller Power in the Transito of Grand Master Despuig*

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Session 17 – Chair: Anton Caruana Galizia (Board Room C)

Fabio Cassani Pironti. *The Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta and its traces in the Caribbean Sea, vestiges from the years 1651-1665*

Elizabeth Siberry. *A soldier and a diplomat: writing Hospitaller history in 19th-century Malta*

Claudia Garradas. *A Sea of Relations: Museums and the Maritime Afterlives of the Order of St John in Malta (20th–21st centuries)*

From 15:35

Free Afternoon

19:30-21:00

Valletta Tour by Christine Jones
(only if registered)

11 SEPTEMBER

A Day through Documents and Monuments

Dear friends and colleagues, today we will walk together through part of the documentary and monumental legacy of the Order of St. John. Today provides a collaborative forum to present our current research projects to you, critically examine broader methodological frameworks, and address the key historiographical challenges inherent to the study of military orders. Through our visits, seminars, and workshops, we look forward to fostering an open debate, sharing interdisciplinary perspectives, and deepening our collective understanding of these institutions in their contexts.

We set up a special exhibiton for you!

VALLETTA NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MALTA

Formerly, Bibliotheca Publica of the Order of St John

36 Old Treasury Street Valletta, VLT 1410, Malta

Conversations at the Library: An Exclusive Experience

8:45

Meeting point at the Entrance

Come on time and join the group for a closed-doors experience in the main Reading Room!

8:50-10:15

Welcome Speech

Cheryl Falzon, CEO Malta Libraries

Introduction and Presentation

Material Traces, Virtual Models: Recreating contexts between Malta and Tuscany. By Christian Mifsud

Presentation

Preserving knowledge, building history: The Bibliotheca Publica and its catalogue, 1760-1798. By Steven Camilleri

MO9 Exhibition Tour

Cor Unum, Multiplicia Nomina: Rethinking the Langue of Italy of the Order of St John in Context(s). By Christian Mifsud, Valeria Vanesio, Emanuel Buttigieg

11 SEPTEMBER

A Day through Documents and Monuments

11:00

Departure from Valletta (Holy Infirmary)

Follow us downhill and join the group of the workshop/seminar you booked. Two coaches will be waiting for us at the Mediterranean Conference Centre (Triq l-Isptar, Il-Belt Valletta VLT 1645, Malta).

11:30

Beginning of the two activities

BIRGU INQUISITOR'S PALACE

Main Gate Street, Birgu BRG 1023

Military Orders Across Borders: Rethinking Methodologies through Material Culture, Spirituality, and Alternative Sources

See the Abstract in the Book of Abstracts

11.30-13.30 **Arrival point at the Birgu Historic City Gate**

Presentation

Reliving the Inquisitor's Palace. Insights from the Cancellaria Project. By Kenneth Cassar, Senior Curator, and Rachel Grillo, Junior Professional Officer Research

Introduction and Workshop

By William Zammit, Matthias Ebejer, Emanuel Buttigieg
Participants will be divided into four subgroups to examine key methodologies and challenges in the study of military orders, focusing on material culture, spirituality, and alternative sources such as the Inquisitor's records.

14:00

Departure to Valletta from the Birgu Historic City Gate

11 SEPTEMBER

A Day through Documents and Monuments

11:00

Departure from Valletta (Holy Infirmary)

Follow us downhill and join the group of the workshop/seminar you booked. Two coaches will be waiting for us at the Mediterranean Conference Centre ([Triq L-Isptar, Il-Belt Valletta VLT 1645, Malta](#)).

11:30

Beginning of the two activities

**RABAT
NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF MALTA**

[National Archives of Malta, Triq L-Isptar, Rabat](#)

Fragments Across Borders: Reconstructing the Histories of Military Orders through Dispersed Archives and Unexplored Collections

See the Abstract in the Book of Abstracts

11.30-13.30 Arrival point at Rabat Bus Terminal

Welcome speech

By Charles J. Farrugia, CEO National Archivist

Introduction and Seminar

By Zvetlana Pace-Cassar, Samuel Azzopardi, Curtis Callus, Rakele Fiott, Valeria Vanesio

Participants will divide into two subgroups to examine key methodologies and challenges in archival reconstruction, cataloguing, and institutional history, drawing on four case studies centred on the Order of St. John's hidden collections to address issues of source fragmentation and dispersion.

14:00

Departure to Valletta from the Rabat Bus Terminal

11 SEPTEMBER

A Day through Documents and Monuments

14:00-18:00 Free Afternoon

Get some rest and enjoy some historic sites and museums in Malta! We will wait for you in the evening at 18.45 at the Inquisitor's Palace, Birgu.

**BIRGU
INQUISITOR'S PALACE**

Main Gate Street, Birgu BRG 1023

19:00-19:45 Keynote Speech by Jürgen Sarnowsky

Hospitaller Sources in the Vatican Library and Archives

19:45-22:00 Taste History Dinner "An Evening with the Inquisitor"

Experience Malta's past like never before. Heritage Malta invites you on an exclusive culinary voyage through history, transforming rich archival evidence into an extraordinary tasting experience. Join expert historians, archivists, and curators to explore—and savour—the changing flavours of 18th-century Maltese and Mediterranean culture. Liam Gauci, Senior Asset Development Manager at Heritage Malta, will guide us through this journey.

Our Conference Dinner will take place in the Inquisitor's Gardens.

22:00 Get some rest!

12 SEPTEMBER · BIRGU FORT ST ANGELO

Xatt l-Assedju l-Kbir 1565, Birgu, Malta

9:00-10:20 Parallel Sessions

Session 18 – Chair: Samuel Azzopardi (Admiral's Hall A)

Wilhelm Ljungar. *A Prioratus de Suecia? Constructing a nationalised Hospitaller presence in Medieval Sweden after the collapse of the Priory of Dacia, 1467-1523*

Zsolt Hunyadi. *Close to the king? Hospitaller leaders in the service of the court in the medieval kingdom of Hungary - case studies*

Marcus Vass. *The Order of St John and Quenington: Local Integration, Regional Power and International significance*

Session 19 – Chair: Maria Letizia Curreri (Admiral's Hall B)

Loïc Chollet. *Chivalric Crusading and the Military Orders in the Late Middle Ages*

Christian Vogel. *The Representatives of the Military Orders and the world outside – evidence from the statutes of Templars and Hospitallers*

Almudena Bouzón Custodio. *The bailiwicks of the Templars in the Crown of Castille and León: frontiers, cities, countryside, and roads*

Session 20 – Hospitaller Research Forum Meeting HRF (Egmont Hall)

Marking four years of activity, this first in-person meeting brings together colleagues and friends in the field of Hospitaller studies to discuss the future of the Hospitaller Research Forum and its upcoming initiatives. Convened by Anton Caruana Galizia, Valeria Vanesio, and Emanuel Buttigieg.

12 SEPTEMBER · BIRGU FORT ST ANGELO

Xatt l-Assedju l-Kbir 1565, Birgu, Malta

10:20-10:50 Coffee break (Admiral's Hall)

10:50-12:10 Parallel Sessions

Session 21 – Chair: William Zammit (Admiral's Hall A)

Anthony Quintano. *The Origin and Nature of the Order of St John's Legislative and Jurisdictional Power in Malta*

Curtis Callus. *Before the Magistrato degli Armamenti: Regulating corsairing in Hospitaller Malta on the eve of 1605*

Isabelle Poutrin. *The Order of Malta in the documentation of the Roman Rota (17th century): general survey and typology of the disputes*

Filip Veber. *Theological Sovereignty: The Order of Malta's Divine Mandate Beyond Territory*

Session 22 – Chair: Luigi Robuschi (Admiral's Hall B)

Aymen Ben Haj Amor. *From Crusade to Diplomacy: The Order of St John and the Regency of Tunis in the Eighteenth Century*

Jiří Kubeš. *An Accelerated Career in the Order of Malta: The Case of Wenceslas Leopold of Harrach (1703–1734)*

Armando Antista & Valentina Burgassi. *Between Malta and Piedmont. Military Architecture Drawings from Masino Castle Archive*

Júlio de Matos. *A Forgotten Hospitaller Monument? The "Obras do Fidalgo" between Malta and Northern Portugal: Unfinished Monumentality Reconsidered*



12 SEPTEMBER · BIRGU FORT ST ANGELO

Xatt l-Assedju l-Kbir 1565, Birgu, Malta

Session 23 – Early Career Workshop (Egmont Hall)

Join us for an engaging session designed to help scholars navigate academic and professional careers in the study of military orders. Participants will discuss common challenges, share insights, and explore future career opportunities across related historical disciplines. Coordinated by Clara Almagro-Vidal and Nicholas Morton.

12:10-13:30 Light Lunch (provided at Egmont Hall)

13:30-14:50 Parallel Sessions

Session 24 – Chair: Christian Mifsud (Admiral's Hall A)

William Zammit. *Woven statements of Magistral Might: The Rhodes to Malta set of Grand Masters' Tapestries*

Laure Bornarel. *A material glorification of knighthood. The burials of the French knights in St John Church (1578-1798)*

Karl Mizzi. *An analysis on 17th century magistral testaments*

Renger de Bruin. *Papers, portraits and bricks. The Heritage of the Teutonic Order Bailiwick of Utrecht*

12 SEPTEMBER · BIRGU FORT ST ANGELO

Xatt l-Assedju l-Kbir 1565, Birgu, Malta

Session 25 – Chair: Clara Almagro-Vidal (Admiral's Hall B)

Maria Starnawska. *The school of the Knights Hospitaller in Wroclaw in the light of the medieval manuscripts preserved from their library*

Marica Camilleri. *Archival Mediation and the Order of St John: Shaping Eighteenth-Century Maltese Historical Narratives*

Maria Magdalena Rueckert. *Reconstruction and Renewal – The Fate of the German Master's Archives*

Anne Brogini. *Writing for merit and glory. Ego-documents and archives of French knights of Malta*

Session 26 – Chair: Nicholas Morton (Egmont Hall)

Luigi Robuschi. *From Kolossi to Treviso: The Grand Commandery of Cyprus and the Corner Family's Hospitaller Strategy (14th–18th Centuries)*

Rebecca Scalvini Spiteri. *The Hospitaller Commandery of Santa Maria Maddalena of Faenza. An attempt at its reconstruction*

Roy Gatt. *Patronal Endowments in the Italian Langue in the Seventeenth Century*

Kurt Villads Jensen. *Administration in the far north. The Hospitaller commandery of Dueholm in Denmark*

**14:50-15:30 Malta Historical Fencing Association Workshop
“History at the Cutting Edge” (Egmont Hall)**

12 SEPTEMBER · BIRGU
FORT ST ANGELO

Xatt l-Assedju l-Kbir 1565, Birgu, Malta

15:30-15:40 An Address by the National Archivist (Admiral's Hall)

By Charles J. Farrugia

15:40-16:30 Keynote Speech by Helen Nicholson and Karl Borchardt (Admiral's Hall)

Norm and Reality. Some Thoughts on Normative Texts of the Military-Religious Orders

16:30-17:00 Concluding Remarks (Admiral's Hall)

By Emanuel Buttigieg and Valeria Vanesio

ENJOY YOUR JOURNEY



Feel free to contact us at militaryordersconf2026@um.edu.mt

THE TEAM BEHIND THE SCENES

Organisers

Emanuel Buttigieg
Valeria Vanesio

International Military Orders Scientific Committee

Mike Carr
Natasha Hodgson
Nicholas Morton
Helen Nicholson
Greg O'Malley
Jonathan Phillips
Emanuel Buttigieg
Valeria Vanesio

Malta Scientific and Organisational Committee

Samuel Azzopardi
Juan Bartolo
Michelle Buhagiar
Curtis Callus
Francesca Callus
Steven Camilleri
Kenneth Cassar
Jordan-rhys Cutajar
Jeremy Debono
Matthias Ebejer
Rakele Fiott
Rachel Grillo
Christian Mifsud
Karl Mizzi
Zvetlana Pace Cassar
William Zammit

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Malta Study Center

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