

Seminar Series 2025-2026

Emotional Grammars  
of Globalization



Vicente Carducho, *La expulsión de los moriscos*, detail, ca 1627  
Madrid © Museo Nacional del Prado

## HOUSSEM EDDINE CHACHIA

University of Tunis  
**Between Despair  
and Hope:  
An Emotional History  
of Sephardic  
and Morisco Exile**

**6 May 2026  
15.00-17.00**

**University of Florence  
Online Seminar**

[meet.google.com/ccr-wbqc-yqy](https://meet.google.com/ccr-wbqc-yqy)

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UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
FIRENZE

Dipartimento di Storia,  
Archeologia, Geografia,  
Arte e Spettacolo  
Eccellenza 2023-2027



SOCIETY FOR THE  
**HISTORY of  
EMOTIONS**



Laboratorio di Tecniche della Mediazione  
dei Conflitti (LM-64/B242)



## ABSTRACT

This lecture examines Sephardic and Morisco exile through the lens of the history of emotions. Rather than treating expulsion only as a political or religious event, it approaches exile as a lived experience marked by fear, grief, uncertainty, and hope. By comparing Sephardic and Morisco narratives of displacement from Iberia to North Africa, the lecture asks how expelled communities understood, narrated, and emotionally processed loss and resettlement.

Its main argument is that exile did not generate a single emotional response. Although both Sephardic and Moriscos experienced forced removal, displacement, and resettlement in the Maghrib, the meanings they attached to these experiences differed. Some Sephardic narratives framed exile as catastrophe and rupture, while several Morisco narratives reinterpreted it as providential deliverance or as a painful but meaningful passage toward a new life.

Through selected examples, the lecture explores key emotional moments in the experience of exile: the shock of expulsion, the fear of the journey, the sorrow of dispossession, the uncertainty of living between two worlds, and the fragile emergence of hope in spaces of reception.

## THE SPEAKER

**Houssem Eddine Chachia** is Associate Professor of Early Modern History at the University of Tunis and Shawwaf Visiting Associate Professor at Harvard University (2025–2026). His research focuses on Moriscos and Sephardic Jews, especially questions of exile, settlement, identity formation, and transnational networks in the early modern Mediterranean. He also studies Mediterranean diplomacy and cross-cultural relations between European and North African powers. He received his PhD in History in 2014 and his Habilitation to Supervise Research in 2023 from the University of Tunis. His book *The Morisco Landscape* won the Sheikh Zayed Book Award in 2024.