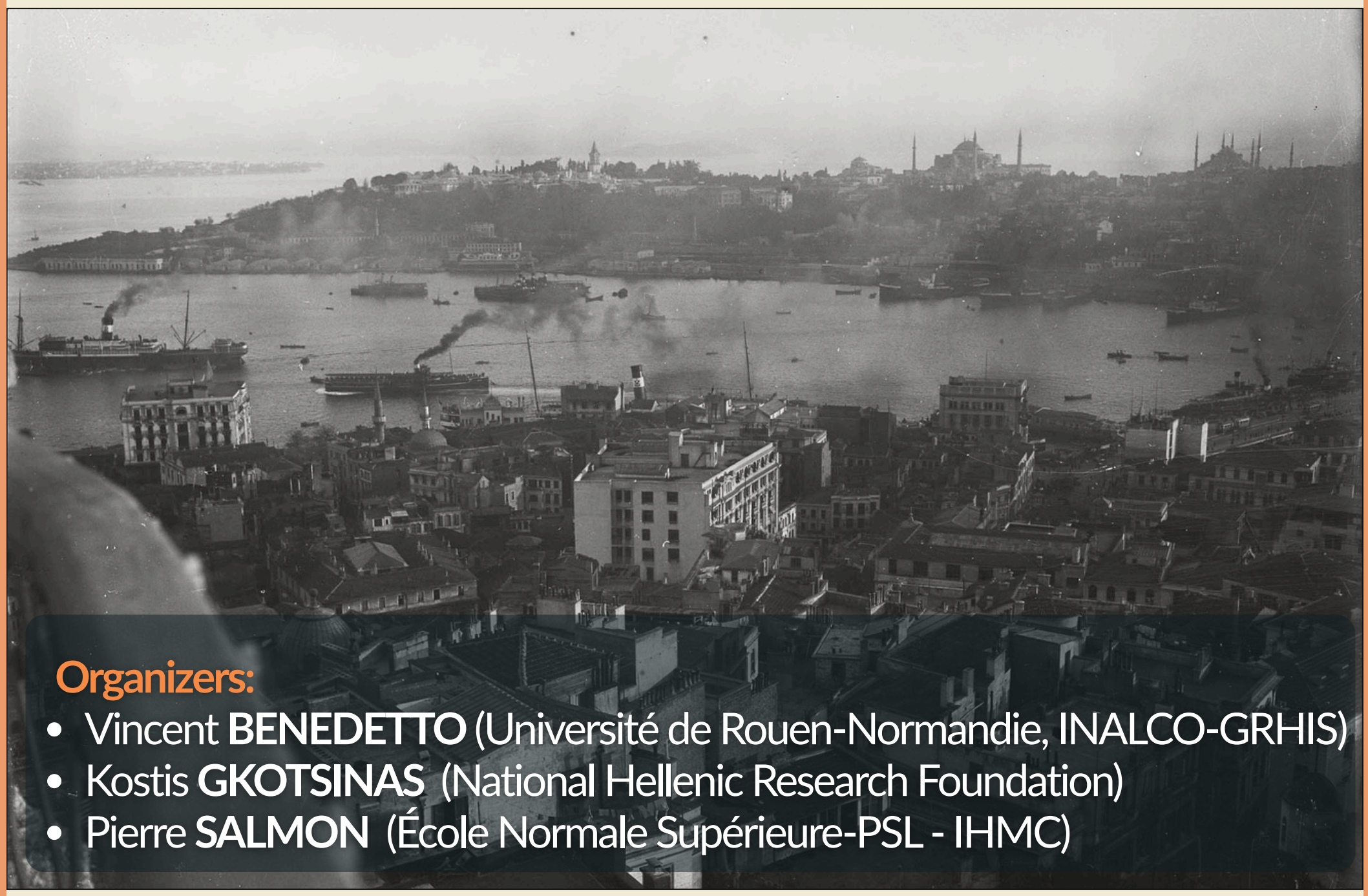
Workshop

"ILLICIT TRAFFICKING IN THE MEDITERRANEAN: A CRITICAL EVALUATION OF SOURCES (1870s-1960s)"



Organizers:

- Vincent **BENEDETTO** (Université de Rouen-Normandie, INALCO-GRHIS)
- Kostis **GKOTSINAS** (National Hellenic Research Foundation)
- Pierre **SALMON** (École Normale Supérieure-PSL - IHMC)

October 2-3, 2025

Hosted by the French Institute for Anatolian Studies
and the French School at Athens
(Project TRAFICMED)

Location: Ayanalıgeçit, Avrupa Pasajı, Istanbul

For more information: benedetto.vincent@gmail.com

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"ILLICIT TRAFFICKING IN THE MEDITERRANEAN:
A CRITICAL EVALUATION OF SOURCES (1870s-1960s)"

Thursday, October 2, 2025

14:30–15:00: Welcome & Introduction (P. Bourmaud, K. Gkotsinas, P. Salmon)

15:00–16:15 (Session 1): Underworld Imaginaries

Chair: Phillipe Bourmaud (IFEA)

- **Haggai Ram** (Ben-Gurion University): *Fanciful Sources and Anti-Cannabis Sentiments: Doing Drug History with Orientalist Legacies*
- **Mitchell Bacci** (Harvard University): *Archiving the Illicit Narcotics Trade in the Late Ottoman and Interwar Eastern Mediterranean*

16:00–16:30: Coffee break

16:30–17:45 (Session 2): Smuggling Trails

Chair: Vincent Benedetto (Univ. Rouen-Normandie, INALCO-GRHIS)

- **Anna Sydorenko** (Institute for Mediterranean Studies-FORTH): *How Do We Approach the "Invisible"? Methodological Approach and Sources for the Study of Inter-Imperial Smuggling in the Port of Odessa (1853–1914)*
- **Daniel-Joseph MacArthur-Seal** (Scuola Superiore Meridionale): *Reading Between the Shipping Lines: Stowaways, Seamen, and Smugglers in and out of the Archive*

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Friday, October 3, 2025

09:45–10:00: Welcome

10:00–12:00 (Session 3): Illegality in the Making

Chair: Alexis Rappas (Koç University)

- **Mogens Pelt** (University of Copenhagen): *Methodology and Chance in Research of Illegal Trade*
- **Dimitris Mitsopoulos** (Columbia University): *Between Surveillance and Civilizing Mission: International Organizations and Sex Work in 1920s Salonica*
- **Arda Akıncı** (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid): *Securing the Empire: Ottoman Intelligence and Surveillance Networks against Illegal Arms Trafficking at the Turn of the 20th Century*

12:00–14:00: Lunch break

14:00–16:00 (Session 4): Looking for Agency

Chair: Kostis Gkotsinas (National Hellenic Research Foundation)

- **Sarah Frenking** (Université de Genève): *The "Underworld" and the Old Port: From Imaginaries of Transnational Crime to Social Realities of the Traffic in Women, 1920s-1950s*
- **Andreas Guidi** (INALCO): *Scattered Lives: The Problem of Experiences and Agency in the Study of Illegal Trade*
- **Paris Papamichos Chronakis** (Royal Holloway University): *"Trading with the Enemy": Information Gathering and the Dialogical Archive of Contraband Trade in Greek Macedonia during the First World War*

16:00–16:20: Coffee break

16:20–18:00 (Session 5): Coworking-Collective Overview of Sources

Chair: Pierre Salmon (ENS-PSL - IHMC)

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