

Call for Applications  
Interdisciplinary Workshop for Early Career Researchers  
IRMC – FMSH – UMR TELEMMe – INAT

*Workshop of the EcoHisMa Network - Fondation des Maisons des Sciences de l'Homme*

Conserving the Sea and its Resources: Actors, Indicators,  
Disagreements and Laws (Mediterranean, 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>th</sup> Centuries)

**Tunis**  
**20-23 January 2026**



Launched in January 2025, the EcoHisMa network ("Eco-history of Marine Conservation in the Maghreb: Discourses, Practices, and Knowledge (19<sup>th</sup>–21<sup>st</sup> centuries)") aims to develop a shared interdisciplinary reflection on the discourses, practices, and knowledge underpinning the policies for managing marine and coastal resources in the Maghreb—and more broadly, in the Mediterranean—since the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. Historical knowledge of marine conservation across the Mediterranean remains extremely limited. Due to archival sources being difficult to access, little to nothing is known about the past mechanisms regulating marine resources and preserving marine environments. The EcoHisMa network invites researchers from all disciplines within the Social Sciences, Humanities, and Marine Sciences to collectively reflect on the historical and contemporary dynamics of conserving plant and animal resources found in Mediterranean ecosystems.

In this context, the network will organize a workshop for early career researchers from 20 to 23 January 2026, in partnership with the Institute for Research on Contemporary Maghreb (IRMC), the National Agronomic Institute of Tunisia (INAT), and UMR 7303 TELEMMe. Titled "*Conserving the Sea and its Resources: Actors, Indicators, Disagreements, and Mechanisms (Mediterranean, 19<sup>th</sup>–21<sup>st</sup> Centuries)*", the workshop aims to bring together young scholars studying various modes of management, conservation, and preservation of marine environments and coastal ecosystems in all their diversity (seabeds, wetlands, lagoons, beaches, etc.), and who are committed to interdisciplinary approaches.

The workshop has two main goals:

1. To showcase and discuss ongoing research, focusing on investigative practices and research tools related to the past, present, and future of marine conservation.
2. To explore the strengths and limitations of the various disciplinary dialogues that can emerge around marine ecosystem conservation as a research object.

Four key thematic axes are proposed:

**Actors:**

To what extent has the growing concern for marine environments since the 19th century fostered the emergence of new actors in marine conservation? Who are the agents and experts involved—at different scales and times—in the management of marine ecosystems? This theme considers both public actors (international organizations, national and local authorities, scientific institutions, etc.) and private stakeholders (NGOs, associations, professional groups, companies, etc.) who are directly or indirectly involved in managing maritime territories and their resources. The aim is to understand the construction, transmission, and heritage-making processes of specifically maritime knowledge and counter-knowledge—whether scientific, lay, or administrative.

**Disagreements:**

Marine environments and their resources are considered common goods. However, competition among different fishing groups continues to intensify. Combined with the decline in global fish stocks, this gives rise to conflicts that redefine the boundaries of fishing zones and marine protected areas. What forms of power relations—both old and new—structure fishing communities? Regulatory norms from commons-based frameworks, national institutions, or international coastal and marine programs intertwine to protect various interests. Empirical and spatio-temporal analyses of this human-environment relationship will shed light on the dynamics of marine spaces in general, and fishing ports in particular.

**Indicators:**

This theme invites reflection on the genealogy and diversity of scientific variables and measurement tools used by past and present experts to develop indicators for marine resource sustainability (stock monitoring and assessment, habitat observation, measuring climate change effects and anthropogenic impacts, etc.). How have these indicators gradually come to incorporate a complexity and plurality of ecological, economic, and social factors? To what extent have their design and interpretation shaped our perception of marine environments and their ecological changes, notably contributing to the “Shifting Baseline Syndrome” described by Daniel Pauly in 1995?

**Mechanisms:**

Whether rooted in traditional practices or technological innovations, aiming at balanced management or full protection, the mechanisms used to manage marine environments and their resources are highly diverse. These draw upon a wide range of knowledge: zoning, reserves, aquaculture, restocking, species introduction or restoration, etc. Reflecting on the evolution of these mechanisms since the 19th century also involves considering how the various disciplines of the Social Sciences and Marine Sciences understand their development, implementation, effectiveness, and their impacts on coastal communities, users, and professionals, whether fishers, tourism operators, etc.

## **WORKSHOP FORMAT**

The sessions will include workshops led by facilitators, participant presentations of their data and sources, and collective field trips. Selected participants are expected to attend all workshops, presentations, and excursions. Discussions will take place in French and English.

The workshop will welcome early career researchers of all nationalities and disciplines working on environmental issues related to marine conservation in the Maghreb and the Mediterranean. Accommodation and lunches will be provided. Travel costs may be covered on a case-by-case basis; participants are encouraged to seek support from their home institutions.

## APPLICATION FILE

During the workshop, participants will be asked to present an aspect of their research, with a focus on methodology and data to highlight the investigative practices used.

Applications must be submitted by **2 June 2025, 8:00 p.m.**, to: **ecohisma@gmail.com**.

The application must be submitted as a **single PDF file**, including the following documents in order:

- A motivation letter (max. 2 pages)
- A curriculum vitae (max. 2 pages)
- A title and abstract of the proposed presentation (max. 1 page)
- One letter of recommendation

Results will be communicated to candidates by mid-June 2025.

### Organizing and Scientific Committee:

Jamila Ben Souissi (INAT) [LR11ES09], Katia Boissevain (IRMC), Tarik Ghodbani (University of Oran 2 / EGEAT), Daniel Faget (AMU / TELEMMe), Hugo Vermeren (CNRS / TELEMMe)

<https://ecohisma.hypotheses.org>

<https://www.fmsh.fr/projets/ecohisma>



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