Spaces of Expectation is the title of a collaborative research project between Södertörn University Stockholm (Sweden) and Ca’ Foscari University of Venice (Italy). Its purpose is doing comparative research on mental mapping, historical imagination, and political uses of historical narratives in the Baltic Sea and Mediterranean Regions. The project is funded by Östersjöstiftelsen (Foundation for Baltic and East European Studies), Stockholm.

Comparative Area and Transregional Studies is the first public international workshop in the framework of ‘Spaces of Expectation’. It is co-funded and hosted by Ca’ Foscari University (Department of Linguistics and Comparative Cultural Studies, School of International Relations) and Centro Tedesco di Studi Veneziani. Other workshops on mental mapping and conceptual history will follow. The aim of these workshops is creating a dialogue between the project members and distinguished international scholars of history, political science and other disciplines, such as geography, to improve the methodology of the research and develop its self-reflective theoretical dimension.
13 November
Centro Tedesco di Studi Veneziani
Palazzo Barbarigo della Terrazza, San Polo 2765 A

14:00-14:15 Welcome
Romedio SCHMITZ-ESSER
Director of Centro Tedesco di Studi Veneziani
Anna CARDINALETTI
Director of the Department of Linguistics and Comparative Cultural Studies, Ca’ Foscari University of Venice

14:15-15:45 Project Presentation
Norbert GÖTZ, Janne HOLMÉN, Jussi KURUNMÄKI, Deborah PACI, Rolf PETRI, Vasilis PETROGIANNIS

Break

16:15-17:45 Historical Regions
Diana MISHKOVA
Centre for Advanced Study Sofia
*Conceptualization of Historical Regions and Boundaries*

David G. KIRBY
University College London
*From Conflict to Collaboration: Changing Concepts of the Baltic*

Comment:
Jussi KURUNMÄKI
Södertörn University Stockholm

18:00-19:00 Keynote
Martin BAUMEISTER
Istituto Storico Germanico Rome
*The Return of Ulysses: Varieties of the ‘New Mediterranean’ between Mediterraneanism and Southern Thought*

14 November
Università Ca’ Foscari – Dip. Studi Linguistici e Culturali Comparati
Palazzo Cosulich, Dorsoduro 1405, Fondamenta Zattere: Sala Media

09:30-11:00 Narratives
Jörg HACKMANN
University of Szczecin
*Between Domination and Co-operation: Narratives of Baltic Space in Central and Eastern Europe*

Luis F. BENEDUZI
Ca’ Foscari University of Venice
*Representations of the Mediterranean in Latin American Narratives*

Comment:
Deborah PACI
Ca’ Foscari University of Venice

11:30-13:00 Region Building
Mark BASSIN
Södertörn University Stockholm
*Eurasia: A Postmodern Trans-Regional Region*

Paolo GIACCARIA
University of Turin
*Genealogies for a Post-Colonial Sea: From Vidal de la Blache to Bruxelles*

Comment:
Janne HOLMÉN
Södertörn University Stockholm

Break

14:30-16:30 Roundtable ‘Area Studies’
Bo PETERSSON
Malmö University
‘We don’t do Area Studies’: Regional Studies from a Political Science Perspective

Matteo LEGRENZI
Ca’ Foscari University of Venice
*The Oxford ‘School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies’: A Critical Evaluation*

Markus KOLLER
Ruhr University of Bochum
*Perspectives on Mediterranean Studies: The Centre for Mediterranean Studies at the University of Bochum*

Rebecka LETTEVALL
Södertörn University Stockholm
*Constructing Area Studies after the Cold War: A Critique from a Cosmopolitan Point of View*

Break

17:00-18:00 Discussion and Conclusion
Henrik STENIUS
University of Helsinki
*Reflections on the Conference Debates*

Moderation of the final debate:
Norbert GÖTZ
Södertörn University Stockholm
and Rolf PETRI
Ca’ Foscari University of Venice

Further participants:
Massimiliano BAMPI Ca’ Foscari University of Venice
Vera COSTANTINI Ca’ Foscari University of Venice
Paola GANDOLFI University of Bergamo
Evelyn KORSCH University of Erfurt
Chantal MARAZIA University of Strasbourg
Ivana TRKULJA Centre for Advanced Study Sofia