

# CITY ON THE SEA

Diocletian's Palace, displacement, and space

COST ACTION PIMo WG4  
Workshop in conjunction with  
the Institute of Art History - Cvito Fisković Center  
Split Croatia

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The development of cities – their intricate spatial and social architectures – are inextricably linked with human movement. The Palace of Diocletian in Split on the Dalmatian coast, is only one of the most picturesque examples of this phenomenon. Built in a shape of military garrison, this complex structure became a retirement palace on the Adriatic for the Dalmatian-born Roman Emperor Diocletian (who ruled from 284 to 305 CE). Over the next two millennia the Palace served as a place of refuge for migrations of peoples from within the Balkan Peninsula and across the Eastern Mediterranean.

These communities (Roman builders and workers; exiled members of Diocletian's family after his death; refugees from the seventh-century invasion of the Avars and the Slavs; the Jewish community; and displaced people of multiple trade routs and conflicts in this area between East and West) inhabited and reshaped this house into a city, adopting and adapting its architecture in a living system which is at once formed in stone, and thoroughly human.

Using the history and example of Diocletian's palace to think with, this workshop proposes to explore the ways that space – built environment, landscape, and the natural world – can contribute to our historical understanding of the movement and displacement of people around the Mediterranean. How can material histories – stone, architectural elements and adaptations, streets, homes, and markets – contribute to the 'immaterial' or more transient histories of living, space, movement, and displacement? Can the space of Diocletian's Palace present a potential methodology for reconsidering human movement across the Mediterranean?

**Important dates** We accept provisional titles and short abstracts (c. 300 words) until November 15, 2020. A final program will be announced by December 8, 2020.

**Please send your contributions to** Ana Šverko (asverko82@gmail.com)  
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