

Hispano-Arabic Mirror in the Mediterranean: How Art and Culture Keep Crossing Paths in the Basin

"The knowledge that has not come down to us is larger than the knowledge that has." Ibn Khaldun¹

Description of the Volume:

This seminal study contributes to the advancement of hybrid cultures and identities, the editors of this monograph aim to scan and materialize the multiple connections across the Mediterranean basin that often times are overlooked. Cross-cultural intertwining between the Arab culture and the region of Northern Africa and Spain have been constant since the middle ages, as Andalusia, for example, was a melting pot of ethnicities. The mirror (evoking the "buried mirror" concept developed by Carlos Fuentes in 1992 in the book entitled the same), reflecting north and south, south and north, has been hiding in plain sight for centuries and this intertwined history has countless manifestations, including a current revival of this connection due to global migratory trends. The volume aims to bring to light new ways of understanding these imbrications. The goal is to contribute to the debate and enhance the relevancy and current nature of these relationships from different perspectives, focusing on how much these cultures have in common rather than looking at the differences. For this reason, this project welcomes proposals that analyze past and present literary, filmic, artistic or cultural manifestations, and new ways in which these civilizations keep sharing paths, inevitably. This volume is also open to other themes and lines of research not explicitly mentioned but that align with the central vision of the volume.

Possible lines of study, but not limited to:

- Artistic influences, a two directional path
- Aesthetic intertwine and crosspollination
- Literary shared spaces and intertextuality
- Visits, invasions, settlements, and legacies
- History of ideas: Intersections between art and society
- Thought and progress, contributions and mutual symbiosis
- Visible and not so visible overlaps and common understanding
- Revisions of manifestations that highlight the Mediterranean connection
- From the basin to the world: fusion culture exported or implanted in other parts of the world
- Hybridity conceptualization and theoretical analysis in relation to the Hispano-Arabic culture

Timeline:

April 15th 2026: Reception of proposals: Title and Summary (200 words approx.).

November 31st 2026: First full version of the chapter to be completed.

Year 2027: Publication of the volume.

Length and Style:

No more than 20-22 pages (including notes, bibliography, illustrations, etc.) MLA style format (word length between 6000-8000 words), written in English.

Send proposals in English to:

Jorge González del Pozo jorgegdp@umich.edu & Wessam Elmeliqi elmeliqi@umich.edu

<https://umdearborn.edu/people-um-dearborn/wessam-elmeliqi>

<https://umdearborn.edu/people-um-dearborn/jorge-gonzalez-del-pozo>

¹ *The Muqaddimah: An Introduction to History*. By Ibn Khaldun, and Danyal Nicholson, Translated by Franz Rosenthal. Purity Publications, 2015.