



7<sup>th</sup>

MEDITERRANEAN  
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NETWORK  
CONFERENCE  
ABSTRACTS

University of Zadar,  
Department of History,  
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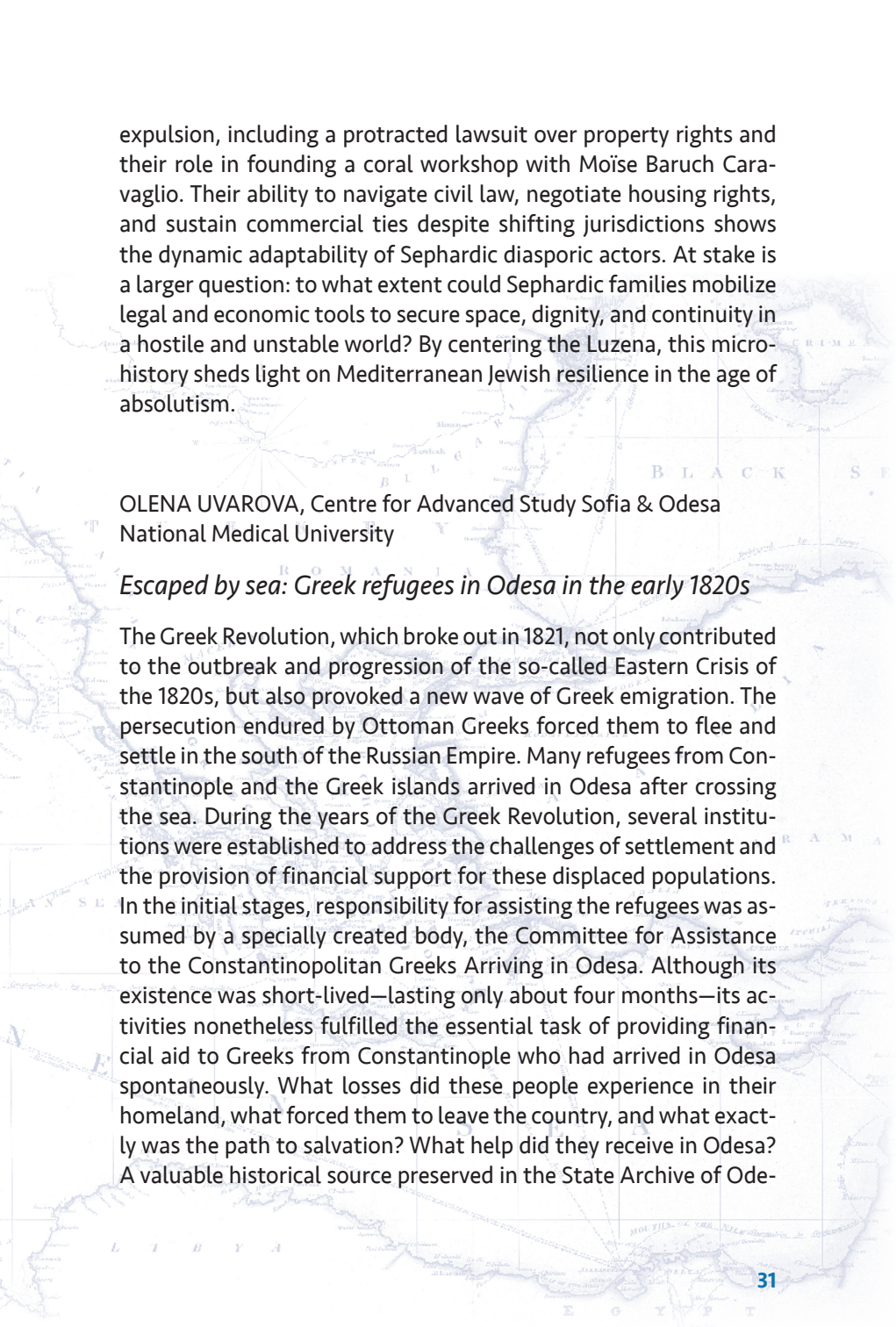
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expulsion, including a protracted lawsuit over property rights and their role in founding a coral workshop with Moïse Baruch Caravaglio. Their ability to navigate civil law, negotiate housing rights, and sustain commercial ties despite shifting jurisdictions shows the dynamic adaptability of Sephardic diasporic actors. At stake is a larger question: to what extent could Sephardic families mobilize legal and economic tools to secure space, dignity, and continuity in a hostile and unstable world? By centering the Luzena, this micro-history sheds light on Mediterranean Jewish resilience in the age of absolutism.

OLENA UVAROVA, Centre for Advanced Study Sofia & Odesa  
National Medical University

### *Escaped by sea: Greek refugees in Odesa in the early 1820s*

The Greek Revolution, which broke out in 1821, not only contributed to the outbreak and progression of the so-called Eastern Crisis of the 1820s, but also provoked a new wave of Greek emigration. The persecution endured by Ottoman Greeks forced them to flee and settle in the south of the Russian Empire. Many refugees from Constantinople and the Greek islands arrived in Odesa after crossing the sea. During the years of the Greek Revolution, several institutions were established to address the challenges of settlement and the provision of financial support for these displaced populations. In the initial stages, responsibility for assisting the refugees was assumed by a specially created body, the Committee for Assistance to the Constantinopolitan Greeks Arriving in Odesa. Although its existence was short-lived—lasting only about four months—its activities nonetheless fulfilled the essential task of providing financial aid to Greeks from Constantinople who had arrived in Odesa spontaneously. What losses did these people experience in their homeland, what forced them to leave the country, and what exactly was the path to salvation? What help did they receive in Odesa? A valuable historical source preserved in the State Archive of Ode-

sa Region consists of petitions submitted by the refugees, some of them handwritten in Greek, which shed light on individual destinies and the challenges of daily life. These documents, along with other records associated with the Committee, make it possible to trace how and under what circumstances Greeks—primarily from Constantinople but also from other parts of the Ottoman Empire, including the islands—sailed to Odesa in search of refuge.

**15:30 – 17:30**    **SESSION III – Ports, Connections and Costal Shipping in the Mediterranean**

**Chair: ANNA SYDORENKO, Institute for Mediterranean Studies – FORTH**

**MAJA PERIĆ, Croatian Institute of History**

*How Vienna connected the ports of Antwerp and Rijeka. The story of the sugar factory and the Privileged Company of Trieste and Fiume from 1750-1775*

In 1750, with the support of the Viennese court and Maria Theresia, the free ports of Rijeka and Trieste were granted a patent regarding the import of various types of exotic products for consumption throughout the whole territory of the Habsburg Empire. The ports received specific privileges which meant among other things the exemption of taxes and tolls related to maritime trade and the Privileged Company of Trieste and Fiume was established. One of the most important raw materials imported because of its status as a luxury product was sugar. Consequently, a sugar refinery was established in Rijeka, which became the most important maritime location for sugar production in the Habsburg Empire and in South-eastern Europe. The Viennese court carefully selected experienced leaders to manage the factory: wealthy merchants and bankers from Antwerp who invested in the Company and factories. In this way, Vienna succeeded in connecting two of its relatively distant

