

Seriya predavanja

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*Venice's Early Modern Letterocracy. Ducal Letters and
Communal Delegations across the Adriatic*

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Can empires be ruled by letter alone? Recent scholarship on early modern state formation has highlighted the importance of information management, the circulation of news, and the creation of archives as tools of government. There is no doubt that the city of Venice was a central hub in a Mediterranean-wide network of news, gossip, and diplomatic reports, but what were the flows of communication within Venice's empire? This talk takes the recent concept of early modern states as "letterocracies" as a departure point to investigate two types of Venetian imperial communication: ducal letters and communal delegations. Both are very flexible instruments of communication and governance that serve complimentary purposes for the Venetian state and for local communities and are essential pieces for understanding the system of political communication between Venetian councils and local elites.

Monique O'Connell is a Professor in the History Department at Wake Forest University. She is the author of *Men of Empire: Power and Negotiation in Venice's Maritime State* (2009) and, with Eric Dursteler, *The Mediterranean World: From the Fall of Rome to the Rise of Napoleon* (2016), in addition to articles on early print culture, political communication, humanist orations, Venetian electoral politics, and the history of botany. Her current work explores political culture in the Venetian domains through a comparative framework.