

The beginning of the Safavid dynasty coincided with a renewed European interest on Iran, and thanks to an increasing number of printed narratives describing the voyages of Western travellers both the country and its rulers became household names in Europe for the following two and a half centuries. Though Iran had been object of earlier travel writings by Europeans since the Middle Age, the discovery of the printing press made these travelogues available to a larger audience, thus disseminating more information on the country, its history, people, religion and habits than ever before.

However, not all travel writings are travelogues, and not all travelogues were published. As the travelogue became a literary genre in Renaissance and Baroque Europe, Iran came to be one of the countries traditionally depicted in these writings. This profusion of narratives, either manuscript or printed, testifies to the interest aroused by Safavid Iran among its contemporaries, and also bears witness to the fascination felt by travellers from different cultural backgrounds during their Iranian sojourn.

The rise of Safavids was contemporary with another event in Asian history, the arrival of European powers and their settlement in Asia in the sixteenth century, which meant that more people travelled through Iran than the Italian forerunners of the medieval period did. Starting with the Portuguese and continuing with the Dutch, the English, the French, and including the Poles and the Russians, a plethora of merchants, spies, diplomats, missionaries, pilgrims, globetrotters and many other Europeans travelled over Safavid Iran.

The emerging image of Safavid Iran in these travel writings was never one sided, it was complex, though some stereotypes appeared to appeal for the taste of the exotic among its European readers. Religion may have worked as the main filter of alterity, but in time Iranian otherness was established in other comparative categories in Western travel writings. Words and iconography (prints, drawings, paintings) ended up by forming a more complete image of Iran, which left an enduring impression in European minds and imagination.

#### Scientific Committee:

Ana Paula Avelar (UAb; CHAM, FCSH Universidade NOVA de Lisboa e CEC, CH Universidade de Lisboa)

João Teles e Cunha (CHAM, FCSH Universidade NOVA de Lisboa, IEO/FCH-UCP)

José Cutillas Ferrer (Universidad de Alicante)

Rui Manuel Loureiro (CHAM, FCSH Universidade NOVA de Lisboa)

#### Organizing Committee:

Ana Paula Avelar (UAb; CHAM, FCSH Universidade NOVA de Lisboa e CEC, CH Universidade de Lisboa)

João Teles e Cunha (CHAM, FCSH Universidade NOVA de Lisboa, IEO/FCH-UCP)

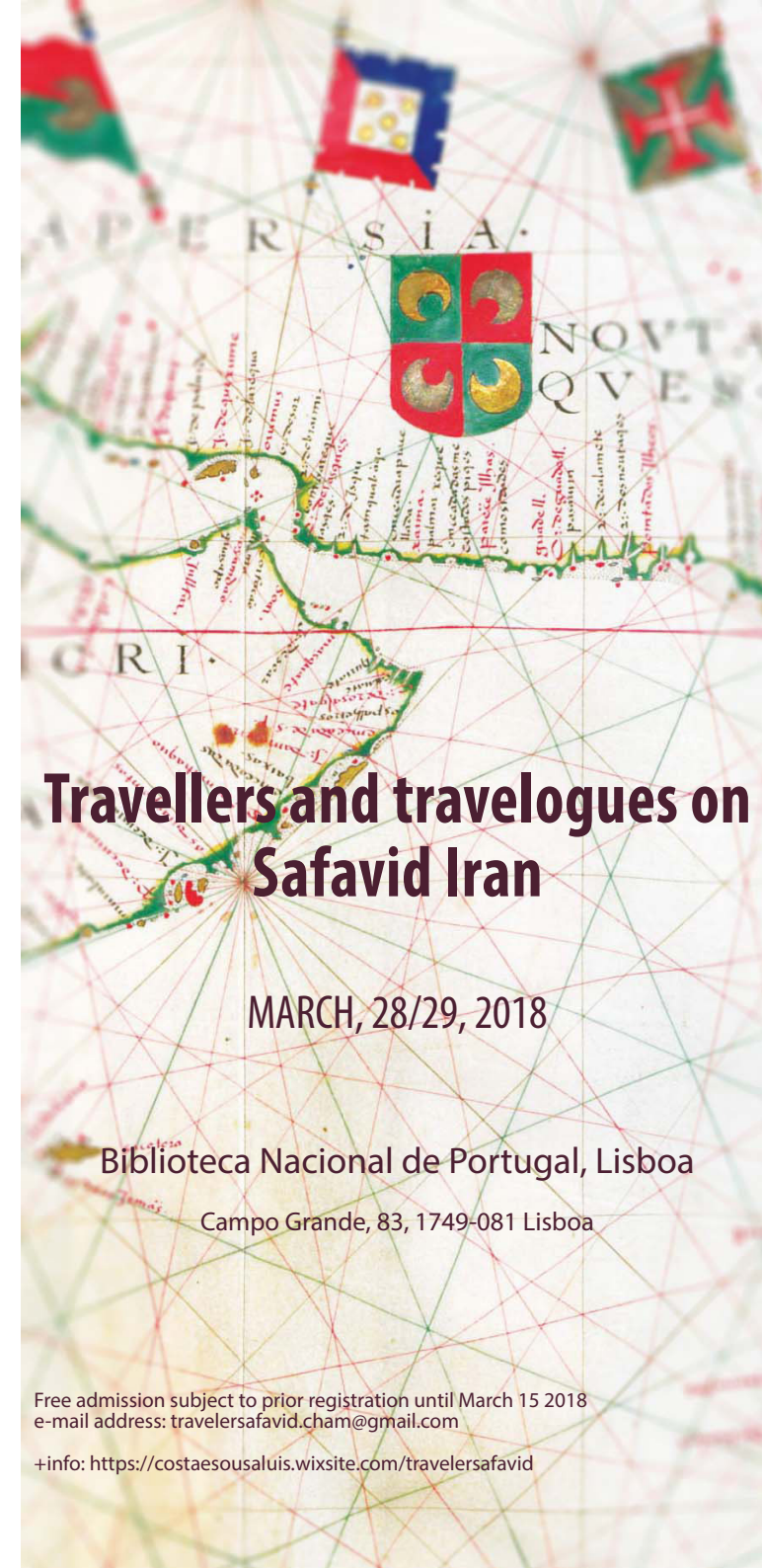
Luís Costa e Sousa (CHAM, FCSH Universidade NOVA de Lisboa, IUM)

Nuno Vila-Santa (CHAM, FCSH Universidade NOVA de Lisboa)



Collaboration:

EUROEST: Proyecto de Excelencia 2016-2019 «La otra Europa: individuos y grupos de la Europa oriental y del Imperio Safaví en España y la América Española de la Edad Moderna», HAR2015-64574-C2-1-P e C2-2-P (MINECO/ FEDER)



# Travellers and travelogues on Safavid Iran

MARCH, 28/29, 2018

Biblioteca Nacional de Portugal, Lisboa

Campo Grande, 83, 1749-081 Lisboa

Free admission subject to prior registration until March 15 2018  
e-mail address: [travelersafavid.cham@gmail.com](mailto:travelersafavid.cham@gmail.com)

+info: <https://costaesousaluis.wixsite.com/travelersafavid>

**WEDNESDAY — MARCH, 28**

09:30 Opening session

09:45 Keynote speaker:

Rudi Matthee, University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware  
*Safavid Travel Writing: The Dutch Contribution*

10:30 Coffee break

11:00 1st session:

Ana Paula Avelar, UAb; CHAM, FCSH Universidade NOVA de Lisboa  
e CEC, CH Universidade de Lisboa  
*Safavid Iran topoi in Portuguese travel writing*

Carla Alferes Pinto, CHAM, FCSH Universidade NOVA de Lisboa  
*Afonso de Albuquerque and Shah Ismail gift-exchange. Artificios, artistic objects, and material culture*

Sussan Babaie, The Courtauld Institute of Art, University of London  
*Culinary taste: European travelers, Persian dishes and dishes*

13:00 Lunch

14:30 2nd session:

José Alberto Tavim, Centro de História, Faculdade de Letras, Universidade de Lisboa  
*The transit of Iberian Jews through Safavid Iran*

Isaac Donoso, Universidad de Alicante  
*Persia seen from Manila in the early modern age*

16:00 Coffee break

16:30 3rd Session

Angelo Cattaneo, CHAM, FCSH Universidade NOVA de Lisboa  
*Beyond Humanism. Travelers in Safavid Iran and the Discovery and Construction of Another Space of Ancient Languages*

Luis Gil, Universidad Complutense de Madrid  
*El memorial de Juan Mendez de Vasconcelos sobre la 'carreira da Índia*

**THURSDAY — MARCH, 29**

09:30 4th session:

Alain Servantie, Independent researcher, Brussels  
*The mission of Gianni Balbi to Iran (1530)*

Rui Manuel Loureiro, CHAM, FCSH Universidade NOVA de Lisboa  
*João de Barros and Safavid Persia: Impressions of an armchair traveler*

11:00 Coffee break

11:30 5th session:

Halima Naimova, Independent researcher, Lisbon  
*Pedro Teixeira (XVI/XVII) – Persia for readers: quest for the original source*

Anastazja Grudnicka, University College London  
*Rethinking the Oriental 'Other': Imagining Safavid Persia in Sir Anthony Shirley: his Relations of his Travels into Persia (1613)*

13:00 Lunch

14:30 6th session:

João Teles e Cunha, CHAM, FCSH Universidade NOVA de Lisboa,  
Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Lisbon  
*On whose footsteps? D. Álvaro da Costa and the Iranian part of his travelogue*

Pedro Marques, Direção-Geral de Educação & UNIARQ,  
Universidade de Lisboa  
*Impressions of Safavid Iran on the Itinerário of Frei Gaspar de São Bernardino*

José Cutillas Ferrer, Universidad de Alicante  
*Round trip to Asia. The story of Gutierre de Monroy and Pedro de Parede*

16:30 Coffee break

17:00 7th Session

Dejanirah Couto, EPHE, Paris  
*Caravans and caravanserais: Les beautés de la Perse of André Daulier Deslandes (1663-1666)*

Michele Bernardini, Università degli Studi di Napoli l'Orientale  
*Gemelli Careri's Persia. Some notes*

18:30 Closing session