

**Roundtable 2:** “What perspectives and methodologies can we engage with to develop a new environmental and multi-species history of the Mediterranean?”

### Tracking European Sugar Consumption Using Late-Medieval Municipal Sources

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Late-medieval municipal treasury records from various cities and towns spaced throughout the Christian-ruled Crown of Aragon document the frequent consumption of sugar (generally in the form syrups), procured at considerable cost by local governmental leaders, to serve a variety of goals from refreshment to curing sickness. These attitudes align with Jewish and Islamic sources from elsewhere in the Mediterranean document, which, as scholars well know, manifest a similar interest in such sugar-based products for striking analogous sorts of applications. In this position paper, I would like to consider how the alignment of different ethno-religious cultures spaced around the Mediterranean with respect to the importance they assigned to high-value, medicinal products like sugar facilitated trading relationships and encouraged European speculation in Mediterranean plantations during this critical period predating cultivation projects in the eastern Atlantic. The goal here is to consider by what means we can interpret the information contained in these underutilized sources and in what ways it variously reinforces or pushes against received scholarly impressions of European consumption and trade derived from other bodies of evidence, such as merchant and apothecary account books.