

## Natividad Planas

### Uninhabited Islands: Ecology, locality, and mobility

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What role did uninhabited islands and 'empty' spaces play in Mediterranean ecologies and migrations from the 15<sup>th</sup> to 19th centuries? The small islands of the Balearic archipelago are renowned for their special natural features (fauna and flora included), but are they timeless? Historical documentation bears witness to the many parts that plants and animals took in the escape of enslaved people, shipwrecks, and the capture of Muslim prisoners. Should we consider uninhabited islands as living spaces or as areas of wilderness? I'm interested in exploring the local statuses granted to these islands as well as the ways in which they were integrated into an ecological and multi-jurisdictional whole, that of the archipelago. I argue that small, inhabited islands play a role as paths between Islam and Christianity. Remarkable places of ecology, conservatories of species, they were at the same time bridges for the mobility of people.