Among the most dynamic Italian literary texts of the sixteenth century, Ludovico Ariosto’s *Orlando Furioso* (1532) emerged from a world whose international horizons were rapidly expanding. At the same time, Italy was subjected to a succession of debilitating political, social, and religious crises. This interdisciplinary conference takes its point of departure in Jorge Luis Borges’ celebrated poem “Ariosto y los Arabes” (1960) in order to focus on the Muslim world as the essential ‘other’ in the *Furioso*. Bringing together a diverse range of scholars working on European and Near Middle Eastern history and culture, the conference will examine Ariosto’s poem, its earlier sources, contemporary resonance, and subsequent reception within a matrix of Mediterranean connectivity from late antiquity through the medieval period, into early modernity, and beyond.

Organized by Mario Casari, Monica Preti, and Michael Wyatt.
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18

**Introductory Remarks**

09.30 Alina Payne (Villa I Tatti / Harvard University)

09.40 Mario Casari (‘Sapienza’ - Università di Roma)
Monica Preti (Musée du Louvre)
Michael Wyatt (Independent Scholar)

**Keynote**

10.00 Karla Mallette (University of Michigan)
Endings: Storytelling from a Mediterranean Perspective

10.45 Coffee

**Textual Contexts: Inside the Furioso**
Chair: Lina Bolzoni (Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa)

11.00 Stefano Jossa (Royal Holloway, University of London)
Between Two Worlds: Ariosto’s Religion

11.30 Maria Pavlova (University of Oxford)
Orlando Furioso: the Saracen Perspective

12.00 Discussion

13.00 Buffet lunch

**Textual Contexts: Around the Furioso**
Chair: Joseph Luzzi (Villa I Tatti / Bard College)

14.30 Jacopo Gesiot (Università di Udine)
Chivalric Plurilingualism as a Motif in Italian Literature from Pulci to Ariosto

15.00 Fabrizio Lelli (Università del Salento)
Jews and Judaism in Ludovico Ariosto’s Literary Production

15.30 Vincent Barletta (Stanford University)
“A un giovine Africano si donò in tutto”: The Marriage of Africa and India in Ariosto and Camões

16.00 Discussion

16.45 Coffee

17.00 Claudia Ott (Georg-August-Universität, Göttingen)
Orlando and the World of the Arabian Nights

17.30 Thomas Bauer (Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität, Münster)
Literary Life in Mamluk Syria and Egypt (1250-1517)

18.00 Discussion

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19

**Ferrarese Contexts**
Chair: Marzia Faietti
(Gabinetto Disegni e Stampe degli Uffizi)

10.00 Giovanni Ricci (Università di Ferrara)
“Popul la più parte circonciso”: Ariosto in Ferrara and the Muslim World of His Time

10.30 Massimo Rossi (Fondazione Benetton Studi Ricerche, Treviso)
Cultura geocartografica alla corte estense tra Tolomeo e il Furioso

11:00 Discussion

11.30 Coffee

11.45 Vincenzo Farinella (Università di Pisa)
L’immagine di Rodomonte: l’ambiguo fascino del nemico nel Furioso e nella tradizione figurativa aristostea

12:15 Discussion

13.00 Buffet lunch

**PerformatIve contexts**
Chair: Julie Cumming (Mc Gill University, Montreal)

14.30 Dwight Reynolds (UC Santa Barbara)
“. . . and of these things a dream was left behind called ‘ Antar’: Arabic Performative Traditions and Epic Poetry

15.15 Adam Goldwyn (North Dakota State University)
Performing the Medieval Greek Romance from Digenis Akritis to the Erotokritos

15.45 Michael Wyatt (Independent Scholar)
‘Trobar’, ‘Cantar’, ‘Recitar’ - The Performance of Chivalry from Andalusia to Ferrara and Palermo to Cairo

16.30 Discussion

17.00 Coffee