Although expertise is now central to governmental practices, the figure of the expert is in crisis. When urban infrastructures collapse or medical scandals are exposed, scepticism toward experts is increasingly visible: “We have had enough of experts” is a common lament. Because of this loss of confidence, people without particular qualifications claim a right to expert decisions that affect the world in which they live. Sociologists and political scientists have called this new approach “lay expertise” or “citizen expertise”. Although the phenomenon is presented as a 21st-century development, early modern European archives highlight the important role played by ordinary people in political decision-making, who were neither a part of elite society nor of government.
9.30: Introduction
Solène Rivoal (LabexMed, Aix-Marseille University/CNRS, Birkbeck, University of London)

9.45-11.00: Panel 1: Social Expertise and Procedures
- Brodie Waddell (Birkbeck, University of London)
  Petitioners as experts in Early Modern England
- Jean-Baptiste Xambo (EHESS, CRH)
  Servile expertise and Norm making on Louis XIV’s galleys
Discussant: Claire Judde de Larivière (FRAMESPA, University Jean Jaurès of Toulouse)

11.00-11.15: Coffe Break

11.15-12.30: Panel 2: Expertise and social microcosm
- Carla Roth (Department of History, University of Basel)
  Gossip and authority in 16th century St Gallen
- Jérémie Foa (TELEMMe, Aix-Marseille University/CNRS)
  Ordinary expertise and local knowledge in the Saint Bartholomew’s Day massacre
Discussant: Filippo de Vivo (Birkbeck, University of London)

12.30 - 13.30: Lunch Time

13.30- 14.45: Panel 3: Local knowledge and Central Authorities
- Kat Hill (Birkbeck, University of London)
  Social Expertise and migration: Mennonites, movement and knowledge of the land in Early Modern Period
- Hannes Ziegler (German Historical Institute London)
  Informing in the 18th century British Customs
Discussant: Vanessa Harding (Birkbeck, University of London)

14.45- 15.00: Coffe Break

15.00-16.15: Panel 4: Expertise through Experience
- Giovanni Florio (DISLL, University of Padua)
  “Per la informazione havuta da pratici del paese”. The policy of water resources management in Early Modern Venice between local know-how and reason of State
- Romain Grancher (TEMOS, CNRS)
  Power, Knowledge and Expertise in Fishin Wolrd (France, 18th-19th century)
Discussant: Brigitte Marin (TELEMMe, Aix-Marseille University/CNRS, EHESS)

16.30 - 17.30: Roundtable, all the participants
Moderator: Thomas Glesener (TELEMMe, Aix-Marseille University/CNRS)