The establishment of permanent embassies in fifteenth-century Italy has traditionally been regarded as the moment of transition between medieval and modern diplomacy. This talk proposes an alternative history of early modern diplomacy, centered not on states and their official representatives but around the figure of "the refugee-diplomat." Through a trove of diplomatic and mercantile letters, inquisitorial records, literary texts, and marginalia, the talk recovers the agency of religious refugees in international affairs, revealing their impact on the emergence of early modern diplomatic culture and practice.

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