In this talk, Konstantina Zanou places herself together with the figures of some obscure—and less obscure—intellectuals who lived along the coasts of the Adriatic Sea in the first half of the nineteenth century, in order to understand how she came about to write her recent book *Transnational Patriotism in the Mediterranean, 1800–1850: Stammering the Nation* (Oxford University Press 2018). In treating herself and her topic as two parallel stories which developed simultaneously, she attempts to answer some questions concerning biography, transnationalism and Mediterranean intellectual history.