



Broadening HORIZONS 7

Broadening Horizons (BH) 7

Sapienza - Università di Roma, Facoltà di Lettere e Filosofia

February 10-14, 2025

Changes, Challenges and New Frontiers

Organizing Committee: Federico Cappella, Marinella Ceravolo, Licia De Vito, Nathalie Kallas, Valentina Oselini, Chiara Reali, Andrea Titolo, Luca Volpi

Abstract

Broadening Horizons (BH) is a series of international conferences organized by and dedicated to graduate, postgraduate students, and early-career researchers dealing with the broad field of the human past in Western Asia and Egypt, including pre-Classical and Classical periods. The seventh edition - Broadening Horizons 7 (BH7) - has as its overall theme "Changes, Challenges and New Frontiers" and will be hosted at Sapienza University of Rome on February 10-14, 2025. The 5-day conference will take place in a hybrid format, both in-person and online. The conference is structured in five parallel thematic sessions, which promote the scientific exchange between scholars from different fields, including archaeological, anthropological, historical, philological, and cultural heritage studies, as well as related interdisciplinary fields. The framework of the conference provides an important opportunity for students and scholars in the early stage of their careers to present their research or to attend papers presented by both their peers and more experienced colleagues.

For its international environment as well as for its longstanding tradition in South-Western Asian studies, acknowledged worldwide, the Sapienza University of Rome is an ideal venue for the next BH. With an estimated number of 100-150 participants and a host of five international keynote speakers, the BH conference is an ideal forum, through which Sapienza students and researchers can engage with other colleagues from many other universities and countries. It would also be an excellent opportunity to enhance Sapienza's international visibility and attractiveness appealing to the new generations of scholars in the study of the human past in Western Asia. Given its international spirit, English will be the official language of the conference.

Conference Aims

The BH conference aims to provide a forum for early-career researchers to present and discuss their studies with a group of peers and with more experienced scholars. The conference promotes the dissemination of scientific culture, making it accessible also to groups of students and researchers that, due to their early academic stage, are usually less represented in international conferences, by providing a showcase for their research. Moreover, by fostering intergenerational networking, BH promotes the transfer of methodological, conceptual, and scientific knowledge. The Organizing Committee is composed of faculty members and a host of Sapienza's alumni, who are currently research fellows either at Sapienza or at other national and international institutions, a sign that



knowledge acquired at Sapienza bridges over to national and international research milieus. The conference aims to be inclusive and accessible, especially for graduate students, early career researchers and scholars coming from low-income countries. Their participation would be ensured by the hybrid conference format, which enables students and scholars who cannot afford the costs or who cannot travel abroad due to visa or budget issues to access the conference and disseminate their research.

Conference Organization

BH7 is conceived as a 5-day conference (Monday-Friday). It is planned for February 10-14, 2025, and is organized as follows:

- The conference is structured around five parallel thematic sessions with up to 10 presentations each every day.
- The opening day will include institutional welcome speeches and a plenary session with keynote lectures.
- An estimated number of 100-150 participants is expected to be welcomed at Sapienza University of Rome.
- The Organizing Committee is composed of doctoral and postdoctoral researchers of Sapienza University of Rome (Dr Federico Cappella, Dr Marinella Ceravolo, Licia De Vito), several Alumni of Sapienza University of Rome (in alphabetical order, Dr Valentina Oselini, University of Milan; Chiara Reali, University of Vienna; Dr Andrea Titolo, University of Turin; Dr Luca Volpi, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid), and one member of the organizing committee of the last BH conference (Dr Nathalie Kallas, Freie Universität in Berlin) in continuity with the previous BH6 organized in Berlin in 2019.

Conference Description

Since its launch in 2006, Broadening Horizons has organized conferences for over a decade in some of the most relevant academic institutions all around Europe. The six previous meetings were held in Ghent (2006), Lyon (2007), Barcelona (2010), Turin (2011), Udine (2017), and Berlin (2019), and pursued the same interdisciplinary approach as the current one. The last conference was hosted at the Freie Universität in Berlin (Germany) in 2019, and it welcomed 116 people. Italy was represented by 20 early-stage scholars, and it was the second-most represented nation after Germany.

Exactly this great demand of early-career researchers to come together in a meeting to discuss their research and promote networking led to the proposal to host the Broadening Horizons 7 (BH7) at Sapienza University of Rome in 2025. The conference was originally scheduled for 2021 but the coronavirus pandemic has delayed its organization. For the international community of graduate students and early-career researchers that normally attend BH conferences it is very important to restore the regularity of this appointment after such a long break.

The BH7 conference foresees five thematic sessions (described in detail below), delving into the general theme “Changes, Challenges, and New Frontiers”. These sessions will bring people working with different theoretical and methodological approaches together to discuss how the connection between traditional and innovative strategies may open new frontiers and pose new challenges to investigate, understand, and explain past societies.

The regions of interest to the BH7 conference correspond to what is currently referred to as South Western Asia (in alphabetical order, modern countries of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Cyprus, Georgia, Iraq, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria,



Turkey, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen) and Egypt. The conference welcomes papers on pre-historical, pre-classical, and classical Western Asian archaeology, Phoenician and Punic archaeology, Egyptology, history, ancient languages, ancient religions, art history, the use of scientific methods, social science, computer applications, and data science for the investigation and reconstruction of the past, and on the protection, promotion, and communication of Cultural Heritage.

With its focus on the study of ancient Western Asia, this conference also represents an important opportunity to showcase Sapienza's international role in the field of ancient world studies. The Department of Sciences of Antiquity was selected as a department of excellence by the Italian Ministry of University and Research for the period 2023-2027. The significance of the BH7 conference will certainly enhance this prestige.

The proceedings of the conference, edited by the Organizing Committee, will be published in dedicated volumes. Proceedings will give visibility to young researchers' works, as well as to the members of the Organizing Committee as editors of the volumes. Teamwork in organizing the conference and editing the proceedings would allow another important training opportunity provided by the conference, enabling the younger members of the Organizing Committee to learn from the more experienced colleagues about aspects of conference organization and volume editing - another way to improve the learning curve with this conference. The publication is foreseen within 2 years after the conference (to be ideally presented during the following edition of the BH conference, BH8).

Conference Program and Thematic Sessions

BH7 conference is structured in five parallel thematic sessions, starting after an opening plenary session with keynote lectures.

The proposed thematic sessions are described in detail below:

1) Exploring Archaeology as a Global Science.

This session aims to highlight the current dynamics of interdisciplinarity, multidisciplinary, and transdisciplinarity in the field of Archaeology. We invite submissions presenting research outcomes, examining archaeological data through diverse approaches borrowed from other research domains ranging from computational analysis and hard science, to social sciences. We encourage contributions that illustrate the rich tapestry of methodologies shaping modern archaeological research.

2) Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Study of Ancient Economies.

The study of ancient economic systems plays a pivotal role in reconstructing past societies. Subsistence strategies, resource control and management, trade dynamics, and the acquisition of luxury goods and essential raw materials mirror the social and political organization of ancient communities, and their interactions with each other. Material culture and textual sources reveal diverse micro and macro aspects of these complex intertwined systems on both rural and urban scales. This session invites papers that analyze ancient economic systems drawing evidence from textual, archaeological, or combined sources employing theoretical approaches, traditional or modern methodologies.

3) Urban and Landscape Studies: Finding Interpretative Approaches.



Landscape studies fuelled debates on urban and rural environments in the ancient world, focusing on settlement patterns and territorial socio-economic strategies of cities. Analyzing the diachronic development of the ancient socio-economic landscape involves considerations such as resource exploitation, communication networks, and demography. Similarly, a synergy of geological, paleo-environmental, and textual datasets may shed light on the relationships between cities, rural, and pastoral communities. This session invites papers that encompass both theoretical and empirical approaches, dealing with urbanism and its definition in different historical and geographical contexts, examining interactions between urban and non-urban settlements, and the exploration of long-term landscape change patterns in different regions.

- 4) Crafting Identity and Clusters through Material Culture, Iconography and Texts. The study of the various elements of material culture and textual communication is pivotal for the understanding of how people constructed identities and created connections across space and time. Delving into evidence may reveal valuable insights into how material culture was used for shaping social identities, delineating individual status within a community, and signaling the inter- and cross-community relations. This session welcomes papers that explore material culture and iconography as manifestations of group identity. Whether through traditional analytical methods, interdisciplinary approaches integrating texts and images or art history, or the adoption of methodologies from different fields such as cognitive science, semiotics, sociology, or political communication. The aim of this session is to enhance our understanding of the multiform nature of identity construction and social dynamics across diverse contexts and periods.
- 5) Public Engagement and Cultural Heritage. The Role of Communication and Dissemination in the Humanities.

This session seeks papers that discuss activities of awareness-raising, capacity-building, and innovative strategies for dissemination and communication of Cultural Heritage. Papers dealing with new analytical approaches and open-access research data accessible to both academic and non-academic audiences are highly welcome. Of particular interest are projects leveraging the use of innovative technologies, such as digital tools for virtual reconstructions of artifacts and museums, GIS predictive modeling for safeguarding archaeological sites, and the digitization of archival materials for broader dissemination.

Likewise, special attention will be given to talks that discuss the involvement of local communities as active actors in the preservation and presentation of their local past, and the results of collaboration efforts between scholars and non-academic partners from different countries.



Call for Papers and Posters

The deadline for submitting abstracts for papers and posters is **September 15th, 2024**.

Papers proposal

Those who wish to participate in the conference and present a paper should submit an abstract in English of about 200 words (or 1500 characters). Abstracts should be submitted via the registration form.

The Organizing Committee will assess the abstracts received concerning their quality and pertinence to the conference theme and relative sessions; accepted papers will be notified shortly afterwards (maximum within a month after the submission deadline).

All speakers are requested to observe a 20-minute limit for presenting papers. Presentations will be given in English with PowerPoint presentations.

Posters

Posters are also welcome and have to be prepared in A1 or A0 format; they will be displayed throughout the conference, and a time slot will be dedicated to a poster session.

Please note that poster proposals should also be submitted via the registration form.

Registration fees/participation costs

	Early fee (by November 30, 2024)	Late fee (until January 10, 2025)
Paper presentation (in person)*	€90	€110
Paper presentation (online)*	€60	€80
Poster presentation (in person)*	€60	€80
Simple conference attendance (in person)*	€60	€80
Simply wishing to attend the conference online*	Please contact the Organizing Committee	

* Participants, travelling from the SWANA region, and those living in the SWANA region and wishing to participate online will not be charged any fee.

Guidelines for presentations and posters

All speakers are requested to observe a 20-minute limit for presenting papers. Presentations should be given in English with PowerPoint presentations. Posters have to be prepared in A1 or A0 format; they will be displayed throughout the congress, and a time slot will be dedicated to a poster session.



Participation Certificates

All registered conference participants will receive a participation certificate on-site when they check in at the registration desk. We understand that such documentation may be used by your institution as evidence of your participation to justify reimbursement of expenses. Our participation certificates verify your registration and attendance at BH7, hence you must pick them up in person. Participation certificates do not contain any specific information about presentations as part of the conference program.

Proceedings

After the conference, presenters will be invited to submit their papers for review and publication in the Conference Proceedings.

For any inquiries don't hesitate to email us: bh7.sapienza@uniroma1.it.