

Epigraphy.info IX programme: 2 April 2025 (Day 1)				
Time	Room	Hands-on 1 Room 1420-234	Hands-on 2 Room 1420-228	Hands-on 3 Room 1422-132
9:00-10.40	see HO session 1422-132 / 1420-234 / 1420-228	Winfried Kumpitsch, Wolfgang Spickermann <i>Celtic Divine Names in Latin Inscriptions in the southern region of the Germania Superior and in the province of Raetia</i>	Chiara Cenati, Silvia Evangelisti, Francisca Feraudi Gruenais <i>Encoding verse inscriptions in MetriCa and MAPPOLA</i>	Petra Hermankova, Tom Brughmans <i>Reconstructing Past Social Networks from Inscriptions: Practical Hands-on Session</i>
10.40-11.00	1422-132	Coffee break [catered]		
11.00-12.00	continued	HO1 continued	HO2 continued	HO3 continued
12.00-13.00	1422-132	Registration; Self-catered lunch		
13.00-14.00	1422-132	<b>Welcome to Aarhus</b> & practical info Epigraphy.info representative, AU representative, Petra Hermankova, Tom Brughmans ( <i>Past Social Network Project</i> )		
14.00-15.00	1422-132	<b>Keynote Lecture</b> Jessica Munson; Matthew Looper: <i>Royal Titles and Ritual Traditions in Classic Maya Monumental Inscriptions</i>		
15.00-15.30	1422-132	Coffee break [catered]		
15.30-16.40	1422-132	<b>Social networks session [part 1]</b> Introduction - Tom Brughmans - Francesca Mazzilli; José Carlos López-Gómez: <i>Interplay between Religious, Social, and Spatial Networks in Lusitania and Baetica</i> - Christina Videbech: <i>Networks of Faith: Mapping Early Christian Interaction and Identity through the Christian Graffiti of Rome's central fora (4th-8th centuries CE)</i> - Christoph Klose, Wolfgang Filser: <i>Villas as nodes: Social Networks evolving from the results of the excavations at the maritime Villa of Capo di Sorrento</i>		
		short break, walk through the secret tunnel		
17.00-19.00	<a href="#">Antikmuseet</a>	<b>Reception at the Antikmuseet</b> [catered] Welcome by the museum director Vinnie Nørskov <i>The Roman Connections</i> exhibition by Tom Brughmans		

<b>Epigraphy.info IX programme: 3 April 2025 (Day 2)</b>		
<b>Time</b>	<b>Room</b>	<b>Programme</b>
8.30-9.00	1422-132	Breakfast (croissant & coffee, tea)
9.00-10.30	1422-132	<b>Metric inscriptions &amp; standards</b> - Silvia Evangelisti, Pietro Liuzzo: <i>MetriCa - reuse and cooperation in digital epigraphy</i> - Gianmarco Bianchini, Rebecca Benefiel: <i>Finding the poetry in ancient graffiti</i> - Eleni Sfyridou, Georgios Papaioannou: <i>Documenting inscriptions: a CIDOC CRM based model for epigraphical data documentation</i> - Annie Burman: <i>Etruscans in the Archive: Digitising an epigraphist's archive in the digital age</i>
10.30-11.00	1422-132	Coffee break [catered]
11.00-12.00	1422-132 / 1420-234 / 1420-228	Working groups meetings <i>Everyone is welcome to join!</i>
12.00-13.00	1422-132	Lunch [catered]
13.00-14.30	1422-132	<b>Social networks session [part 2]</b> - Petra Hermankova, Matteo, Mazzamurro, Michele, Coscia, Tom Brughmans: <i>The Economic Complexity of the Roman Empire seen through Inscriptions</i> - Melinda Szabó: <i>Social and Business Relations along the Amber Road</i> - Eleonora Selvi: <i>Multivariate SNA and linguistic choices: an analysis of funerary inscriptions from Hellenistic Pamphylia</i> - Andrea Santamaria: <i>Social Network Analysis and the materiality of writing: a case study from 2nd millennium BCE Cretan Hieroglyphic seals</i>
14.30-16.00	1422-132	Coffee break / <b>Poster session</b> [catered]
16.00-17.00	1422-132	<b>Roundtable discussion</b> Marietta Horster, Jonathan Prag, Silvia Orlandi, Rebecca Benefiel, Petra Hermankova, Imran Asif <i>From EAGLE to LOD: Examining FAIR and Sustainable Practices in Digital Epigraphy</i>
		<i>break, transport to dinner (tram/bus or walk ca. 35min)</i>
18.00-20.00	<a href="#">Nicolinehus</a>	<i>OPTIONAL: Social dinner [self-paid; registration needed for table booking]</i>

Epigraphy.info IX programme: 4 April 2025 (Day 3)		
Time	Room	Programme
8.30-9.00	1422-132	Breakfast (buns & coffee, tea)
9:00-9.45	1422-132	<b>Keynote Lecture</b> Laila Kitzler Åhfeld: <i>Runestones and the quest for social networks: tracing the carvers by 3D-analysis</i>
9.45-10.30	1422-132	<b>New insights</b> - Tomas Glomb, Sebastian Kheml: <i>The impact of Malaria on the spatial distribution of inscriptions dedicated to Asclepius in the Roman Empire</i> - Joe Sheppard, Jerome Mairat, Marguerite Spoerri-Butcher: <i>Integrating Numismatics and Epigraphy: The Roman Provincial Coinage Online and EpiDoc Project at the Ashmolean Museum (Oxford)</i>
10.30-10.50	1422-132	Coffee break [catered]
10.50-12.30	1422-132	<b>(New) Projects</b> - Cristina de la Escosura Balbás, Margarita Vallejo Givés; Jordi Pérez González; Mariano Rodríguez Ceballos; Leyre Gómez-Pantoja Güemes: <i>Hispania Epigraphica Online: life, problems and future of funded databases</i> - Dimitar Iliev, Nicolay Sharankov: <i>Epigraphic storytelling in collaboration: the PROMETHEUS Project [virtual]</i> - Beatrice Luci, Giorgia Maria Annoscia, Federica Cosenza, Lorenzo Curatella: <i>From stone to web: MADE and the dissemination of Medieval Epigraphy [virtual]</i> - Daria Russo: <i>SculpSi. A Digital Edition of Greek and Roman Sculptors' Signatures (323 BCE-138 CE). Project presentation [virtual]</i>
12.30-13.15	1422-132	Lunch [catered]
13.15-14.30	1422-132	Community discussion and reports, decisions, Steering Committee election
14.30-		End of programme, departure
		<p><i>Optional 1: Visit to Den Gamle By [free tickets]</i></p> <p><i>Optional 2: Talk at the Antikmuseet [free, no registration needed, 15:01-16.15]</i></p> <p><i>Nikos Manousakis (Academy of Athens): Old masters, new attributions: Greek drama and Machine Learning</i></p>

## Practical info

### Book of abstracts

You can access the online [PDF](#) file or scan the QR code with your phone



### Welcome reception location

Antikmuseet - The Museum of Ancient Art (<https://antikmuseet.au.dk/>) hosts our welcome reception. You will get a chance to look at the current exhibitions, including the exhibition of the Roman roads "*Roman Connections*".

### Social dinner location

Nicolinehus <https://www.nicolinehus.dk/>, Nicoline Koch Plads 31, 8000 Aarhus. Social dining food hall located on the famous artificial island, Aarhus Ø, ca. 35min tram/bus or walk from the venue. The dinner is self-paid.

### Den Gamle By <https://www.dengamleby.dk/>

Den Gamle By - The Old Town Museum is an open-air town museum, allowing you to immerse yourself in the rich history of Danish market towns across four distinct time periods: 2014, 1974, 1927, and 1864. You can use your free tickets any day before the expiration date (noted on the ticket).

### New members of the Epigraphy.info Steering Committee

[Steering Committee](#) Election on Day 3 - everyone is more than welcome to put their name forward by sending an email to [info@epigraphy.info](mailto:info@epigraphy.info). [See the Election process](#) for details.

### Epigraphy.info X

Bid for the location of the next Epigraphy.info meeting - send your proposals to [info@epigraphy.info](mailto:info@epigraphy.info). The next host of Epigraphy.info will be announced by the end of the Aarhus meeting.

### Join the Epigraphy.info community - become a member

Fill in the [membership registration form](#) and stay updated! [https://epigraphy.info/join\\_us/](https://epigraphy.info/join_us/)

### Quiet rooms

If you need a quiet space during the conference, you are welcome to use rooms 1420-234 / 1420-228, with the exception of Hands-on sessions and Working group meetings.

For further **assistance** during the conference, please, email Petra Hermankova at [petra.hermankova@cas.au.dk](mailto:petra.hermankova@cas.au.dk) or Mie Egelund Lind at [miege@cas.au.dk](mailto:miege@cas.au.dk)  
In **urgent** cases, call Mie at +45 93 51 77 72 (during the conference).

**If you need an immediate emergency assistance due to injury or life-threatening situation, call 112 immediately.**

# BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

## KEYNOTES

[Jessica Munson](#) (Lycoming College); Matthew Looper (California State University Chico)

***Royal Titles and Ritual Traditions in Classic Maya Monumental Inscriptions***

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Inscriptions on stone carved monuments dated to the Classic period (ca. 300 – 900 CE) offer concise historical accounts about the political lives of the Maya nobility. Recorded in their indigenous script, these dated texts include details about the wars, alliances, royal marriages, ritual ceremonies, and acts of subordination that gave shape to a shifting and fragmented political landscape. As indexes of political power, these monumental texts can also provide evidence for the relative importance of personal rulership, degrees of political centralization and political domination, from the point of view of the authors of these texts. Examining the distribution and diversity of these royal titles, we explore the representation and organization of ancient Maya governance as it was expressed in hieroglyphic inscriptions to question unidimensional models of Classic Maya rulership. To potentially explain these patterns of variation, we consider the role of ritual as it relates to different forms of governance. For the Classic Maya, public ritual and performance were highly charged political events where meaning and power could be negotiated, which created opportunities for identity formation and community integration. We construct a ritual network using community detection methods to identify clusters of sites based on ritual similarity while multivariate analyses examine the diversity of rituals practiced by these groups and their relationship to the distribution of royal titles. Results of this study shed new light on the nature of governance and different political strategies employed during the Classic period.

**2 April, 14.00-15.00, room 1422-132**

**Laila Kitzler Åhfeldt (Swedish National Heritage Board)**

***Runestones and the quest for social networks: tracing the carvers by 3D-analysis***

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Viking-Age runestones (c. 9th-11th C AD) are memorials in the landscape, generally raised by the close relatives to the deceased person - although some stones concern relations beyond the family, like companions and brothers in arms. Through the inscriptions, families can often be followed through generations. The rune carvers behind these monuments, recognized as artists and the first native writers of Scandinavia, appear in their own constellations, with networks of their own as well. In this paper, I intend to show how groove analysis by 3D-analysis, multivariate statistics and experimental studies can contribute to studies of social networks and interactions between the rune-carvers. The method is based on the premise that carvers practising their craft, like any craftworkers, develop their own individual motor performance. This means that, with time and experience, they develop their own distinctive ways of working, which in turn creates a personal signature in the rune grooves. The method has been applied to various research questions, for example to compare specific inscriptions, to study rune-carvers' work organisation and mobility, investigate secondary additions and related issues. The method is not limited to runes: by adapting the parameters, the method can be applied to other types of epigraphy and cultural contexts.

**4 April, 9.00-9.45, room 1422-132**

## PRESENTATIONS

### Day 1: Social Networks 1 (15.30-16.40)

**Francesca Mazzilli** (Royal Holloway University of London, King's College London);  
**José Carlos López-Gómez** (Universidad de Málaga)

***Interplay between Religious, Social, and Spatial Networks in Lusitania and Baetica***

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Lusitania and Baetica are two Roman provinces of Hispania that has left behind a great number of interrelated religious expressions as a result of the voice of mainly individuals and interplay between the urban and rural world in a plurality of gods of different nature. This paper aims to show how this complex religious network can be systematically untangled through a comprehensive quantitative analysis of inscriptions in Lusitania and Baetica through the innovative combined methodology of network and spatial analyses. Our goal is to compare the patronage of cult sites with that of the different benefactors, examining the worshipped deities and analyzing the distribution of sanctuaries, their typologies and the spread of main deities in this two through spatial analysis. The proximity between cult sites, natural features, and road networks will be evaluated to understand the potential facilitation for the spread of cults and circulation of worshippers between these provinces. Our target is to reach a better understanding of religious networks beyond the restrained political boundaries; while assessing to what extent the political power had an impact into the religious sphere also in the countryside and how it varied in the two provinces.

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**Christina Videbech** (University of Bergen and the University of Aarhus)  
***Networks of Faith: Mapping Early Christian Interaction and Identity through the Christian Graffiti of Rome's central fora (4th-8th centuries CE)***

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Through the lens of social network theory, this paper investigates the Christian graffiti within the Forum Romanum and the Imperial Fora, many of which have never been analyzed. Focusing on the symbols, images, and texts scratched into the monuments, it examines how graffiti may have served as carriers of communication and religious expression within the network of the Christians frequenting the fora between the 4th and the 8th centuries.

Using metrics such as centrality, clustering, bridging, and betweenness, the graffiti's spatial distribution and content are mapped and compared to Christian written sources. The goal is to identify potential patterns and hubs of communication within these spaces traditionally associated with paganism. Social network theory thus provides a valuable framework for examining if Rome's fora — despite their pagan past — were reappropriated as hubs for Christian interaction and information exchange, fostering communal ties and the spread of early Christian identity during a period of significant religious transition.



(The paper is part of the project “The Fora of Rome and their Christian Graffiti” (FROG), funded by the Norwegian Research Council and housed by the Universities of Bergen and Aarhus. FROG aims, among other things, to digitalise the forgotten Christian graffiti in an online database)

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**Christoph Klose (Berlin Coin Collection (Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz) / NFDI4Objects), Wolfgang Filser (University of Copenhagen, Saxo-Institute)**  
***Villas as nodes: Social Networks evolving from the results of the excavations at the maritime Villa of Capo di Sorrento***

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In the study of Roman villas of the late republic and early imperial period, questions of ownership attribution and social-hierarchical categorisation of user groups have played a central role ever since. In addition to the often uncertain attribution by means of written records, various epigraphic evidence is used (e.g. inscriptions, graffiti, stamps on lead pipes, pottery and bricks etc.). Rather than for the (supposed) identification of the owners, who could in fact change within a short period of time due to political changes and (sometimes associated) property speculation, the epigraphic evidence therefore seems to be more suitable for analysing socio-economic networks. Thus the villa serves as a node from which relationships to people, objects and places can be visualised.

The new excavations of the villa maritima of Capo di Sorrento have also yielded epigraphic material, mainly brick stamps. On the basis of the personal and family names identified, an attempt will be made to plot a social network. The focus is not on retracing possession, but rather on reconstructing dynamic social and economic links that have left their mark in construction and renovation work as well as in agricultural production, stressing the significance of cross-domain approaches integrating linked open data (LOD). In this way, a social network can be mapped out that is connected to places, people and objects and that is potentially suitable for transfer to other villas as well as for the integration into the contemporary regional living and economic conditions. At the same time, this contributes to the contextualisation of the villa site.



## **Day 2: Metric inscriptions & standards (9.00-10.30)**

**Silvia Evangelisti (Università degli Studi di Foggia), Pietro Liuzzo (Bibliotheca Hertziana)**

***MetriCa - reuse and cooperation in digital epigraphy***

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In our talk, we would like to explain the technical and scientific features of the new Project Metrica. In particular, we would like to highlight the advantages of working with existing tools provided by other digital epigraphy projects, and specifically EdEp, which relies on TEI-Publisher, Fore and the EpiDoc Stylesheets. Metrica edits and publishes metrical inscriptions from Campania, based on existing EpiDoc transformation of the EDR data, improving them with respect to relevant aspects of metrical encoding. In addition to illustrating the purposes of Metrica, the connections with existing projects on metrical inscriptions which use other technologies and workflows, will become evident in an excellent example of collaboration and reuse of existing data to forge new and innovative online resources.

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**Gianmarco Bianchini (Università della Campania 'L. Vanvitelli'), Rebecca Benefiel (Washington and Lee University)**

***Finding the poetry in ancient graffiti***

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Our paper demonstrates the value of collaborative initiatives in the realm of digital epigraphy, with a particular focus on editing metrical graffiti. A year ago, the teams of The Ancient Graffiti Project and MetriCa (Metrical Inscriptions of Campania) designed a collaborative program centered on verse inscriptions, with the goal to complete the digital editions of the metrical texts not yet in the Epigraphic Database Roma and to prepare a fully edited corpus of the metrical wall-inscriptions from Pompeii. We present our paper in three parts:

- 1) Metrical graffiti in The Ancient Graffiti Project: identification, preparation, and presentation;
- 2) The aims of MetriCa: apparatus, linguistic and literary information;
- 3) Improved readings resulting from this collaboration.

In this third section, we discuss a selection of case studies. For example, editors attempting to interpret the prosody of CIL IV 3948 (talía te fallant utinam mendacia copo / tu vides acuam et bibes ipse merum) noted some irregularities but overlooked other elements that help portray the author as someone creating their own (low-level) poetry. CIL IV 10015 (Tu firmus te purus et bonus (?) eris) reveals a poetic influence never noticed before: the graffito's author might have taken Propertius 2.26.56 (purus et Orion, purus et Haedus erit) from its original context (the poet's love voyage on a calm sea under a clear sky) and adapted to Firmus.

We conclude with an overview of the resources for studying metrical inscriptions now available as a result of this collaboration.

**Eleni Sfyridou, Georgios Papaioannou (Ionian University)**

***Documenting inscriptions: a CIDOC CRM based model for epigraphical data documentation***

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The development of semantic models in the fields of cultural heritage and especially in the field of archaeology and digital epigraphy has gained a continuous and growing interest in the digital and information science world. Towards this end, this article explores the use of ontologies and especially the CIDOC CRM ontology and its extensions (namely CRMtex, CRMarchaeo, CRMsci and CRMgeo) to represent archaeological and epigraphic information in an interdisciplinary approach aiming at the standardisation and integration of information in the field of cultural heritage.

The key question we address is whether ontologies such as CIDOC CRM and its extensions can effectively represent epigraphic/textual data and if ontologies can provide a framework to support the documentation and interpretation. Also, how could ontologies secure the integration of the archaeological and cultural information that inevitably accompanies epigraphic / textual data? We have addressed this question using a corpus of early byzantine Greek funerary inscriptions and in this paper, we continue by expanding our model to decree inscriptions and applying it to the famous Rosetta Stone, currently at the British Museum in London.

With this research work, we develop a model and a CRM-based automated system to assist scholars in the coding and documenting any kind of ancient inscriptions brought to light by archaeological research.

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**Annie Burman (Istituto svedese di studi classici a Roma / Uppsala University)**

***Etruscans in the Archive: Digitising an epigraphist's archive in the digital age***

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Olof August Danielsson (1852-1933) was professor of Greek at Uppsala University, but he is best-known for his work on Corpus Inscriptionum Etruscarum. When he died in 1933, after 48 years of involvement with the CIE, Danielsson left behind a huge collection of squeezes, photographs and epigraphic field-notes, covering over a third of all known Etruscan inscriptions. This makes the collection an important but, until now, difficult-to-access resource.

Ninety years after this collection was donated to the Uppsala University Library, it is now being digitised as part of the project "Etruscans in the Archive: Epigraphy and Intellectual History through the Lens of the Uppsala Etruscological Collection". The collection will be made available on the cultural heritage platform Alvin, which was created by Uppsala University and a number of other Scandinavian universities. Each object will be given detailed metadata. A digital finding-aid will be published on Zenodo. It will be navigable using both Trismegistos identifiers and references to CIE, CIL and Etruskische Texte and will differentiate between different types of material in the collection.

This paper will explore the benefits and drawbacks of using an existing cultural heritage platform, ranging from guaranteed long-term storage to the issues of reaching the right audience. It will also examine the question of how to best create a finding-aid that is cheap to produce and easy to use.

## **Day 2: Social Networks 2 (13.00-14.30)**

**Petra Hermankova, Matteo Mazzamurro, Michele Coscia, Tom Brughmans (Aarhus University, ITU Copenhagen)**

***The Economic Complexity of the Roman Empire seen through Inscriptions***

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Inscriptions provide a unique lens into the economic fabric of the ancient Roman world. By cataloguing occupational data on inscriptions, researchers can gauge the economic complexity of different regions, revealing the extent of specialisation and interconnectedness within communities. Regions with diverse occupational records suggest a higher degree of economic specialisation, supporting resilient and adaptable economies. Such complexity is often associated with greater social stability and adaptability—traits crucial for a community's long-term survival and growth. This study integrates economic complexity theory and network analysis [1,2] to examine Latin inscriptions [3], offering a fresh perspective on Roman provincial economies. While traditional approaches have primarily emphasised wealth disparities, economic complexity shifts the focus to occupational diversity, specialisation, and interdependencies across sectors. The analysis highlights Latium's central role as a hub for highly specialised occupations, yet it also questions the assumed correlation between the Eastern provinces' higher wealth and greater economic complexity. Our method includes adjustments to formally address the inherent biases in epigraphic data, such as the uneven distribution across regions and demographics, as well as different levels of research attention. This enables us to distinguish patterns caused by research biases from genuine past economic patterns. By bridging ancient and modern studies of economic complexity, our analysis invites a discussion on the lasting value of economic diversity and specialisation, providing insights into the impact of complexity on community resilience across centuries.

[1] Hidalgo, César A. 2021. 'Economic Complexity Theory and Applications'. *Nature Reviews Physics* 3 (2): 92–113. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s42254-020-00275-1>.

[2] Brughmans, Tom, and Matthew A. Peeples. 2023. *Network Science in Archaeology*. Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009170659>.

[3] Kaše, Vojtěch, Petra Heřmánková, and Adéla Sobotková. 2024. 'Latin Inscriptions in Space and Time (LIST)'. Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10473706>.

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**Melinda Szabó (Eötvös Loránd University)**

***Social and Business Relations along the Amber Road***

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The epigraphic material from Pannonia is, in some respects, quite schematic, but it is at least sufficient in terms of quantity. While its quality and number cannot be compared to

those from Rome or Italy, it still offers valuable insights into social networks, and examining it is worthwhile. Due to the brevity and schematic nature of the inscriptions, it was essential to develop a new methodology to extract as much information as possible from the epigraphs. As a case study, I would like to explore the potential uses of Gephi in examining the merchant families along the Amber Road. Using traditional methods, some interesting patterns have already been observed. For example, certain towns appear to have been more prominent than others, some families had members spread across different towns along the Amber Road, and some families had more members concentrated in a single town, and so on. However, without visualizing social networks and quantifying the data, these observations lack the precision they could achieve. This presentation and research represent the first attempt to apply network exploration software to the study of the merchant families in this region.

This ongoing research addresses questions such as: Using Gephi and SNA, is it possible to examine the connections between the towns of the province based on the relationships of the merchants? Can we gain a deeper understanding of the merchants' social networks within their own towns, using Gephi and SNA to analyze not just their relationships with colleagues in neighboring towns, but also their local connections? As I hope, using the new tool for exploring networks and applying SNA will provide new insights into the social structures of Pannonia.

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**Eleonora Selvi (Università di Verona)**

***Multivariate SNA and linguistic choices: an analysis of funerary inscriptions from Hellenistic Pamphylia***

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This study applies multivariate Social Network Analysis (SNA) to funerary epigraphy to investigate the relationships between linguistic choices, identity, and material culture in Hellenistic Pamphylia (3rd–1st centuries BCE), a multilingual and multicultural region corresponding to modern Antalya, Turkey. SNA has been already applied successfully to sociolinguistics in alive languages (e.g., Dodsworth & Benton 2017). By applying multivariate SNA to linguistic, epigraphic, and archaeological data from approximately 100 funerary inscriptions examined autoptically at the Antalya Museum, the study provides a comprehensive analysis of how socio-cultural and identity dynamics influenced the diffusion of linguistic practices.

In Hellenistic Pamphylia, speakers of epichoric languages such as Pamphylian Greek and a late Anatolian language, along with Indo-Aryan and Semitic migrants, were pressured to adopt Koine Greek, the lingua franca of the Hellenistic kingdoms (Colvin 2014). The funerary stelae reveal diverse combinations of local linguistic features and Koine Greek, reflecting variations in linguistic choices both within and across communities (Selvi 2023).

The multivariate SNA maps the distribution and diffusion of phonological and morphological features and examines their correlations with the material, aesthetic, and topographical characteristics of the stelae, tracing: (1) linguistic and alphabetic features likely

subject to intentional manipulation; (2) trends in linguistic choices based on origin; and (3) interactions between linguistic and material features of the monuments. Multivariate SNA thus proves essential in tracking the spread of linguistic traits across a multilingual region and linking this diffusion to the socio-cultural identities of the speakers.

The study is organized into four sections: (1) data preparation and error minimization strategies; (2) Pamphylia's multilingual context and inscriptions; (3) interpretation of SNA results; and (4) potential applications of SNA in future research.

#### References:

Dodsworth, R. & Benton, R.A. (2017) Social network cohesion and the retreat from Southern vowels in Raleigh. *Language in Society* 46(3): 371-405.

Colvin, S. (2014). Perceptions synchroniques des dialectes et de la koine. In Sophie Minon (ed.), *Diffusion de l'attique et expansion des koinai dans le Péloponnèse et en Grèce centrale. Actes de la journée internationale de dialectologie grecque du 18 mars 2011, université Paris-Ouest Nanterre*, pp. 19-28. Genève.

Selvi, E. (2023). Koineization and the Pamphylian alphabet. Instability and compromise. In Mora-Marín, D. & Cahill, L. (eds.): *On the Systematic Nature of Writing Systems* [Written Language and Literacy 26/1], pp. 76-95.

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#### Andrea Santamaria (Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel)

##### ***Social Network Analysis and the materiality of writing: a case study from 2nd millennium BCE Cretan Hieroglyphic seals***

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The beginning of the 2nd millennium BCE in Crete marks the emergence of Cretan Hieroglyphic, the earliest fully developed writing system in Europe, half of whose total attestations come from seals and seal impressions. Seals from Crete have traditionally been regarded as key indicators of their owners' administrative rank and economic status (Relaki 2009; Finlayson 2024; Driessen & Letesson 2024). This study explores the visual strategies employed by seals inscribed in Cretan Hieroglyphic to communicate their owners' socio-administrative status. To this end, I applied Social Network Analysis to examine how the seals' physical attributes (i.e., material, shapes, colors, sizes, and readability) and textual features (i.e., number and type inscribed sequences, paleography, and epigraphic attributes) collectively displayed the social positions of the seal owners. The results challenge the traditional view that Hieroglyphic seals reflect a strict hierarchy between high- and low-ranking administrators (Poursat 2000). Instead, I argue for an administrative system combining hierarchical and heterarchical elements, in accordance with the social structure inferred from independent archaeological evidence (Schoep 2010; Legarra Herrero 2022; Driessen & Letesson 2024). The findings reveal the potential of Social Network Analysis to address the 'materiality' of an epigraphic corpus. Through the discussion of how the network accounts for multiple features of the inscriptions simultaneously, the study proposes an applicative model that can be easily utilized far beyond the scope of the present investigation.

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### **Day 3: New insights (9.45-10.20)**

**Tomas Glomb, Sebastian Kheml (Masaryk University)**

***The impact of Malaria on the spatial distribution of inscriptions dedicated to Asclepius in the Roman Empire***

[tomas.glomb@mail.muni.cz](mailto:tomas.glomb@mail.muni.cz)

Malaria, a mosquito-borne infectious disease caused by Plasmodium parasites, posed a significant health risk to populations in the Roman Empire. Through a combination of archaeological records and ancient literary sources, including works by Strabo and Pliny the Younger, we can identify regions where malaria likely exerted considerable pressure on communities. The most comprehensive assessment of malaria endemicity in the ancient Mediterranean remains the work of Daniel C. Browning, who mapped malaria risk across the Roman Empire in a GIS by examining environmental conditions conducive to its spread, such as elevation and proximity to water sources. Crucially, Browning's analysis relies on Torelli's pre-eradication maps of malaria in Italy and Sardinia, which provide the foundational data on malaria-prone zones. Building on these resources, our study investigates cultural responses to malaria in the Roman Empire. Specifically, we examine whether regions with higher malaria risk show more frequent worship of Roman healing deities, such as Asclepius and Apollo. In this regard, we use Latin inscriptions dedicated to these healing deities based on the Latin Inscriptions in Space and Time dataset (LIST) as a proxy for the spatial distribution of these cults in the Roman Empire. In the paper, we present preliminary results of quantitative spatial proximity analyses measuring the spatial closeness of the epigraphic data (for Asclepius, Apollo, and other cults) to zones with a high probability of Malaria occurrence.

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**Joe Sheppard, Jerome Mairat, Marguerite Spoerri-Butcher (the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford University)**

***Integrating Numismatics and Epigraphy: The Roman Provincial Coinage Online and EpiDoc Project at the Ashmolean Museum (Oxford)***

[joe.sheppard@ashmus.ox.ac.uk](mailto:joe.sheppard@ashmus.ox.ac.uk)

With the assistance of a fine-tuned OpenAI model, the Roman Provincial Coinage Online and EpiDoc Project at the Ashmolean Museum has to date expanded, translated (into English), and marked up (in .xml) new and highly structured critical editions of over thirty thousand unique coin legends– and is on track to complete the entire corpus of RPC by early 2025 (including the still unpublished volumes IV-VI, VIII, and X). This project is the first major numismatic reference work to make legible and accessible for a wide public audience the full range of texts written on coins of the ancient Mediterranean – from formulaic abbreviations to cryptic symbols and contested interpretations – that have typically only been transcribed by scholars and collectors, often without explanation or translation for non-specialists. This paper begins with the claim that the sub-disciplines of numismatics and

epigraphy must be reintegrated more comprehensively as historical sources after centuries of institutional separation, because coins should be understood as only one of many genres of inscribed media within the epigraphic habits of the Roman provinces. First, more traditional epigraphic methods are applied to other types of mass-produced texts (especially stamped metal and terracotta) and also to a selection of inscribed monuments represented on RPC coins, in order to demonstrate quickly and simply what can be gained by such an integrated approach. Then a brief overview of developments in publishing online inscriptions (i.e. the EpiDoc guidelines) and coins (i.e. the Nomisma framework of Linked Open Data) will allow us to explore rapidly some of the didactic and scholarly implications of such a large corpus of texts that is easily searchable by chronological, geographical, linguistic, onomastic, and sociopolitical parameters. The final section summarizes some of the results from one particular new line of scholarly enquiry afforded by this project, namely what numismatic data can tell us about the various forms of koinē Greek in use throughout the Levant over the first three centuries of our era, which have so far been studied only with reference to epigraphic, papyrological, and paleogeographical sources.

### **Day 3: (New) Projects (10.50-12.30)**

**Cristina de la Escosura Balbás, Margarita Vallejo Girvés; Jordi Pérez González; Mariano Rodríguez Ceballos; Leyre Gómez-Pantoja Güemes (University of Alcalá)**  
***Hispania Epigraphica Online: life, problems and future of funded databases***  
[hepol@uah.es](mailto:hepol@uah.es)

Joaquín Gómez-Pantoja created Hispania Epigraphica Online in 2002. For over twenty years, HEpOI had been a constant source of information for academics working on the Roman inscriptions of the Iberian Peninsula, students at Spain and Portugal universities, historians, museums, and aficionados. The death of Prof. Gómez-Pantoja in 2020 was a tough time for HEpOI, its members, his family, and the Ancient History department at the University of Alcalá. Also, to every one of us, as we were going through pandemic times. In that context, the changes put in motion by Gómez-Pantoja were halt and the future of the server and domain became uncertain. However, the work continued, and the datasets were constantly updated. But it is now in 2024 that new events permitted us to return to where Gómez-Pantoja was. For that reason, we ask the Steering Committee for the possibility to address the community and inform it about the current state of play and prospects for HEpOI in its new (formal) “home” at the University of Alcalá.

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**Dimitar Iliev, Nicolay Sharankov (University of Sofia)**  
***Epigraphic storytelling in collaboration: the PROMETHEUS Project***  
[dimitar.illiev@gmail.com](mailto:dimitar.illiev@gmail.com)

Ancient inscriptions in Greek and Latin form a significant part of the heritage of South-Eastern Europe, spreading across national borders and connecting the region to the wider cultural and political context of the Mediterranean. Formerly accessible mainly to experts, epigraphic monuments are now made available to the general public by the first digital epigraphic databases from the region such as the Telamon collection of ancient Greek inscriptions from Bulgaria. EpiDoc projects, collaborations, and workshops have also taken place in recent years in Serbia and North Macedonia, for example, the Digitizing Ancient Epigraphic Heritage from Serbia Project. Such activities are necessarily being conducted in collaboration with various museums. However, the work done so far only emphasizes the need for closer ties between academic and GLAM institutions. Furthermore, the common activities inspire both academics and museum workers to get the wider public better acquainted with this rich and various branch of cultural and historical heritage in its diverse aspects and curious intricacies.

Thus, several academic and GLAM institutions from North Macedonia, Serbia, and Bulgaria have started the PROMETHEUS project in the framework of the Creative Europe Programme. This cooperation aims to bring together the existing successful practices in Digital Epigraphy to create a common digital collection of inscriptions. The collection will serve as a basis for the establishment of a storytelling platform. In an engaging and inspiring

way, the storytelling would reveal, through the documents written on stone, the everyday lives, loves, deaths, beliefs and hopes of the inhabitants of the Balkans during Antiquity, stressing the common culture and the universal values they shared. Various workshops, conferences, as well as education and dissemination events, will take place in all of the countries involved in the project. Educational and dissemination materials will be distributed in English as well as in all of the languages of the region (Macedonian, Bulgarian and Serbian, as well as possibly Turkish, Roma, Armenian, etc.). Training videos for scholars, field archaeologists, and GLAM institution employees will also be created, acquainting them with good practices in (Digital) Epigraphy and Public Outreach.

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**Beatrice Luci, Giorgia Maria Annoscia (Università degli Studi di Roma 'La Sapienza'),  
Federica Cosenza, Lorenzo Curatella (Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg)**

***From stone to web: MADE and the dissemination of Medieval Epigraphy***

[beatrice.luci@uniroma1.it](mailto:beatrice.luci@uniroma1.it), remote presentation

The talk will present the Middle Ages Digital Epigraphy (MADE) web Platform (and its social media page), which focuses on the medieval epigraphic material (7th-15th centuries) of Rome and Upper Lazio (Italy). The MADE Project has two principal objectives. The first is to create a database in which each piece of data from both extant and lost inscriptions is catalogued in accordance with the FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable) approach. At the same time, the data is georeferenced on OpenStreetMap®, if the original location is known, which allows it to be dynamically displayed on a map. The second objective is to disseminate this heritage by communicating it to the general public and encouraging the participation of individual users in the generation of content and the recognition of relevant processes. In addition to its function as a valid research tool, MADE also aims to establish a new model of communication in the field of epigraphy, which can also be accessed by a wider, non-specialist public. In order to achieve this, the platform has been enhanced with two functions linked to the Project's Instagram page. These functions enable users to expand their knowledge of epigraphy through the epigraphic micro-stories presented in the form of reels, published periodically on social media. Additionally, users can engage directly through social participation in the #adottauniscrizione challenge. The second function will facilitate user engagement with medieval epigraphic heritage among users, while also enabling researchers to assess the preservation status of epigraphic artefacts over time.

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**Daria Russo (CNRS, UMR 7041 ArScAn)**

***SculpSi. A Digital Edition of Greek and Roman Sculptors' Signatures (323 BCE-138 CE). Project presentation***

[daria.russo@cnrs.fr](mailto:daria.russo@cnrs.fr), remote presentation

Sculptors' signatures provide essential information for researchers in various fields of study. These documents were recently compiled, with brief commentaries, in S. Kansteiner, K. Hallof, L. Lehmann, B. Seidensticker, and K. Stemmer (eds.), *Der Neue Overbeck: Die antiken Schriftquellen zu den bildenden Künsten der Griechen*, 2nd edition, Berlin-Boston 2022. Nevertheless, a systematic study of these texts is lacking: they have received little attention from epigraphists, while art historians tend to reference and analyze them separately as evidence on individual artists, rather than as a complete body of evidence. Encoding the signatures in EpiDoc is the first step in opening up a fresh study of these crucial sources: marking up chronological, topographical, and linguistic data will allow us, for example, to trace the movements of both sculptures and sculptors precisely and recognize signature practices specific to certain eras and regions.

As a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow of the ESPRI-LIMC team in Nanterre (CNRS, UMR 7041-ArScAn) and in collaboration with UMR 5189-HiSoMA in Lyon, since October 2023 I have been running the SculpSi project—a digital edition focused on signatures of sculptors active from the death of Alexander the Great (323 BCE) to that of Emperor Hadrian (138 CE) within the territories of Roman Italy and the provinces of Achaëa and Asia. The texts encoded are based on previous studies and, whenever possible, new autoptic examinations, with particular attention given to the material characteristics of the stones. At the Epigraphy.info IX Workshop, I am presenting the project and its first results.

## HANDS-ON SESSIONS (2 April, 9.00-12.00)

### 1. Winfried Kumpitsch, Wolfgang Spickermann (University of Graz)

#### ***Celtic Divine Names in Latin Inscriptions in the southern region of the Germania Superior and in the province of Raetia***

The project “Celtic Divine Names in Latin Inscriptions in the southern region of the Germania Superior and in the province of Raetia” is part of the F.E.R.C.AN. (FONTES EPIGRAPHICI RELIGIONVM CELTICARVM ANTIQVARVM) project of the Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften (ÖAW). It is a follow-up project to “Celtic Divine Names in the Inscriptions of the Roman Province Germania Inferior: A Case Study on Religion in the Context of Cultural Contacts and Cultural Transfer” and “Celtic Divine Names in Latin Inscriptions of the Military Zone in Germania Superior on the Left Bank of the River Rhine: Religious Phenomena in a Cultural Contact Zone,” which did the same research in the whole of Germania Inferior and the northern military zone of Germania Superior.

The project's objective is the comprehensive collection, evaluation and re-edition of epigraphic monuments with Celtic divine names in southern Germania Superior and Raetia. The project not only applies new computer-assisted techniques for the (re-)reading of inscriptions in bad conditions, but also publishes the results as a digital inscription edition on GAMS (Geisteswissenschaftliches Asset Management System) of the Austrian Centre for Digital Humanities (ZIM) at the University of Graz. In order to improve the workflow of this digital edition, the PATRIMONIVM-Editor has been adapted to facilitate data acquisition for the digital edition of inscriptions, forming a modular, customisable and integrated web application for the management of epigraphic corpora, based on the eXist-db platform.

In this hands-on-session, project lead Wolfgang Spickermann and post-doc researcher Winfried Kumpitsch will first give a short introduction to the Editor before the participants can experiment themselves with filling in the data they want in the PATRIMONIVM-Editor and most importantly, encode on their own the majuscule and minuscule transcription of any inscription in XML by using the built-in text converter. Through this practical approach, the participants can familiarise themselves with the behind-the-scenes workflow for the preparation and curation of an epigraphical online-database.

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### 2. Chiara Cenati, Silvia Evangelisti, Francisca Feraudi Gruenais (University of Vienna - MAPPOLA, Università di Foggia, Heidelberg Akademie der Wissenschaften)

#### ***Encoding verse inscriptions in MetriCa and MAPPOLA***

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Recent years have seen significant progress in digital projects encoding verse inscriptions, with several new initiatives emerging. Despite varying aims and research questions, these

projects share many methodological approaches which necessitate community discussion to establish common standards, including specific vocabularies and TEI-EpiDoc markup tags. Initial steps towards this goal were taken during the workshop “Encoding Metrical Inscriptions,” organised by Silvia Evangelisti and the members of the project MetrICa on Metrical Inscriptions from Campania, held at the University of Foggia (14–15 November 2024). The discussion initiated in Foggia will continue during regular online meetings of the projects involved (these include MAPPOLA, MetrICa, CLEO, Wikibase Greek Metrical Inscriptions, EDEp, Musisque Deoque). As a milestone in this process, a hands-on session within the upcoming Epigraphy.info workshop will provide the participants with practical training on encoding verse inscriptions. This session will also evaluate the clarity and utility of proposed standards.

The hands-on session will be structured in two parts. The first will introduce the MetrICa and MAPPOLA projects and their respective tools, PATRIMONIVM and EDEp. In the second practical part, the participants will test the functionalities of the databases, learning how to encode inscriptions of their choice. Feedback collected during the session will be useful for the further development of the tools and the release of new encoding standards, ensuring they meet the community's and users' needs.

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### 3. Petra Hermankova, Tom Brughmans (Aarhus University) *Reconstructing Past Social Networks from Inscriptions: Practical Hands-on Session* [petra.hermankova@cas.au.dk](mailto:petra.hermankova@cas.au.dk)

This three-hour workshop introduces the fundamentals of network science and its role in reconstructing and interpreting ancient social structures and interpersonal relationships. In a 30-minute introductory session, participants will learn how network science contributes to archaeology and epigraphy, including essential concepts, key resources, and software for network representation.

The first practical exercise focuses on converting the text of an inscription into network data formats, using a hands-on example where participants identify relationships within an inscription and map them into a network. This exercise aims to familiarise participants with transforming raw historical data into structured formats suited for analysis.

After a brief break, participants will build on this skill by mapping five more inscriptions, creating a more complex visualisation that reveals larger social connections. Following this, a discussion will explore network components—nodes and edges—and their varied interpretive possibilities. Participants will explore how networks extend beyond simple interpersonal relationships, covering diverse applications such as genealogical, political, economic, occupational, and co-occurrence networks.

In the final exercise, participants will have the opportunity to apply these skills independently by converting their inscriptions into networks, reinforcing their learning through practice. This time allows for individual guidance on transforming inscriptions into networks, ensuring participants leave with both a solid conceptual understanding and practical experience in reconstructing ancient social networks.



## ROUND-TABLE

**Marietta Horster, Jonathan Prag, Silvia Orlandi, Rebecca Benefiel, Petra Hermankova, Imran Asif (Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz, University of Oxford, Sapienza University of Roma, Washington and Lee University)**

***From EAGLE to LOD: Examining FAIR and Sustainable Practices in Digital Epigraphy***  
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The round table addresses the implementation of FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) principles in epigraphy, tracing developments from the foundational EAGLE project (<https://www.eagle-network.eu/>) to the current work of the FAIR Epigraphy project (<https://inscripciones.org/>). EAGLE established critical standards for accessibility and interoperability, laying the groundwork for subsequent projects, which now aim to align epigraphy with the broader ancient linked open data (LOD) environment. However, true data integration remains more of an ambition than a reality, and ensuring the long-term usability and accessibility of these resources remains a very real challenge.

Does this extensive collaborative effort make sense? Quite apart from the serious questions regarding the viability of such work, either technically or culturally, what is the pay-off? How does (or will) increased data accessibility and interoperability support the research and teaching that we do, or might do in the future? Does it enable new research, or simply place existing research on a new (and better?) foundation? In response to an initial survey of current projects, the FAIR Epigraphy project has developed a number of tools, such as standardised bibliographical references, ontologies, and vocabularies: do such tools and standards, including the implementation of Open Science practices and emerging applications of AI technologies, foster epigraphic research? Participants will discuss best practices, including standardisation efforts, and offer critical perspectives on such tools and examples of research that they have enabled. By engaging practitioners and experts, we aim to explore whether the FAIR framework is genuinely the best path forward.

## POSTERS

**Antiopi Argyriou-Casmeridis (CHS Harvard University, Washington DC Summer Fellow 2024-2025; Postdoctoral Researcher National & Kapodistrian University of Athens)**

***'A topography of aretē: Mapping out the geographical and chronological spread of the concept of aretē (= virtue) in Greek inscriptions'***

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*Aretē* is a core concept of the Greek *paideia* with a tenacity in literature and epigraphy throughout the ancient times. The inscription of *aretē* in such different contexts, as in funerary inscriptions, dedications, and honorific decrees, shows its manifold connotations of virtue, excellence, and other constituent aspects of virtues. Moreover, the geographical and chronological spread of inscribed *aretē* conveys the acknowledgement and dissemination of a *koine* of shared civic values and of a common shared language of virtue that were employed by various Greek *poleis*. In this respect, the epigraphical attestations of *aretē* reveal also the social, religious, professional, diplomatic and other exchanges and networks between Greek *poleis* in the Hellenistic and Imperial periods.

This poster is a presentation of an ongoing research project on the topography of *aretē*. It aims to explore the epigraphical attestations of *aretē* in Greek inscriptions dating from the Classical to the Roman Imperial periods (5th c. BC to 3rd c. AD). The primary goal of this project is to create a new digital open access searchable database of inscribed *aretē*. This project adopts an interdisciplinary method engaging epigraphy, ancient history, literature, linguistics, and digital Classics. It explores the manifold attestations of inscribed *aretē* in different types of inscriptions through the exploitation of already known digital tools and databases, with a view to providing metadata for the epigraphical data and contextualization of the epigraphic material.

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**David Bartus, (ELTE Eötvös Loránd University)**

***Digital methods for inscriptions on bronze: a case study on 3D modelling and stereomicroscopy***

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Brigetio is one of the most important Roman settlements in Pannonia. Several hundreds of high-quality bronze objects came from here, which make Brigetio the most important site for figural bronzes in Pannonia. However, the most important „world-famous” bronze object from Brigetio is not a figural one, but a bronze tablet found in 1930 containing the law of Constantine the Great and Licinius. The genre of the inscription – *exemplum sacrarum litterarum* – is exceptionally rare and only a few similar tablets are known from the Roman Empire, so it was quite striking when four fragments of a bronze tablet was found in 2014,

just some meters away from the findspot of the first inscription. The fragments containing a previously unknown law issued by Philippus Arabs.

Different techniques were used during the analysis of the tablet. We used a Breuckmann 3D industrial white light scanner for creating 3D models of the bronze fragments, applying various textures on them to make the inscription easily readable. Changes of the lighting in the software also produced good results during the paleographical research. Stereomicroscopical images made by a Zeiss Discovery V8 helped us reconstructing the process of planning and engraving the text into the bronze material, and the shape of the tools used by the worker.

These digital techniques revealed the „biography” of the object: the name of Philippus Arabs was chiseled out from the tablet during its use, and traces of hammer strikes indicate that the four surviving fragments just avoided the recycling as scrap metal.

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**Alice Cicarelli (Independent researcher, digital poster)**

***From Manuscript to Digital: Digitization Strategies for the Marcanova Codex (Cod. Lat. 992)***

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At the core of my project lies a strong interest in a Digital Humanities service offered by the Estense Library in Modena. The institution aims to enhance the value of its extensive collection using a new digital technology called IIIF, which enables high-resolution image viewing, searching, annotation, sharing, and manipulation. Another key feature is the “stories” tool: a digital storytelling feature that allows users to create narrative pathways with the available digital resources. This last feature proved particularly useful for the work I intended to carry out, which involved analyzing the transcribed inscriptions in the urban section of the manuscript Lat. 992 = α.L.05.15, known as the Marcanova codex, containing the second edition of *Collectio Antiquitatum*, an epigraphic anthology by Giovanni Marcanova. First, it was essential to identify the 377 inscriptions in this section, a task that presented challenges due to the frequent inaccuracy of the transcriptions and occasional “patchworks” of multiple inscriptions. Moreover, not all inscriptions were present in the online databases used for cross-referencing: for 46 of them, I personally handled the cataloging and entry into the EDR archive. Once the data was collected, it became necessary to consider the selection of information to include in the Estense Digital Library and the methods of doing so to achieve a level of accessibility for a broader audience, not exclusively specialists. The service is designed for scholars, enthusiasts, and educators, allowing these tools to be used in educational contexts as well.

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**Elena Duce-Pastor (Autonoma University of Madrid), Cristina de la Escosura-Balbás (University of Alcalá)**

***We need a Digital Epigraphy manual. Reflections on teaching Digital Epigraphy to History students (who did not know about Epigraphy or Ancient Languages before).***

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Ancient History students in Spain use Digital Epigraphy databases when working on their final thesis. However, they have little to no training in Epigraphy or its resources. The implementation of the Bologna Process removed Epigraphy from History degrees at Spanish universities. Therefore, History (BA) and Ancient History (MA) students are unable to reference, consult, and work properly with inscriptions and online databases. In this poster, we aim to present the seminars we designed and conducted to mitigate the problem at the bachelor's degree in History at U. of Alcalá, the master's degree in History and Ancient Sciences at the Autonomous U. of Madrid, and the master's degree in Teacher Training (History and Geography) at U. of Alcalá. Our findings show the necessity of a Digital Epigraphy manual (online, free, collaborative, updated, "DOIDed"); the value of teaching Epigraphy through Digital Epigraphy (especially for Archaeology and History students who rarely know Greek and Latin); and our DBs as instruments to connect with Heritage by people.

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**Jordan Iliev (National Centre for Information and Documentation, Sofia, digital poster)**  
***The epigram of Ariston from Mesambria Pontica (IGBulg., I2: 344) and its historical significance***

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This proposed paper focuses on the historical interpretation of an epigraphic document from Mesambria Pontica (IGBulg., I2: 344): a funerary epigram that has rarely been subjected to in-depth analysis. A more precise dating is achieved using digital epigraphy tools that leverage artificial intelligence. The content and the shape of the letters, when compared with other inscriptions from Mesambria, suggest a date in the first half of the first century BC, most likely around 71 BC. The epigram of Ariston reveals that Mesambria had engaged in conflicts with the Bessi during the period surrounding M. Terentius Varro Lucullus's campaign in Thrace. This campaign is referenced in ancient literature, which reports the Roman general's military operations against the Bessi and the Western Pontic cities, stretching in the area from Cabyle in the south to the Danube in the north. The mention of the Bessi as adversaries of Mesambria in the inscription raises questions about the extent of their territories in the first century BC, as there is no indication that these conflicts occurred far from the city itself. It is excluded that Bessi in this case implies all Thracians. Therefore, this appears to be the earliest epigraphic evidence of a population identified as the Bessi near Pontos Euxeinos. This may corroborate some fragmentary evidence of Bessian presence in the region, which has often been dismissed by modern scholars.

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**Christoph Klose (Berlin Coin Collection (Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz) / NFDI4Objects)**  
***Title TBA***

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The Community Cluster Objects as Information Carriers of the National Research Data Infrastructure for Objects (NFDI4Objects) aims to provide an open platform for exchange for all those who conduct research in the field of epigraphy and pursue a material-oriented approach. The central focus of the cluster is the formulation of community-driven recommendations on how to digitally capture objects and inscriptions in a way that best serves the concerns of material-oriented research, adhering to the principles of FAIR and LOD as essential elements for the semantic web. A number of key aspects have already been identified at the regular meetings and workshops organised by the cluster. These include the precise recording of the positioning of the inscription(s) on the object, the relationships of the textual information to the object, to its immediate spatial context (and corresponding objects), to people and places. Other important criteria concern the temporal dimension and sequence of the inscription, as well as its relationship to the object design and decoration. The use of appropriately structured thesauri and vocabularies is essential for this. In a working group of the cluster, digital tools and services from various disciplines are being collected and compared using a checklist to map these criteria. The aim is also to identify ways in which existing resources can be utilised as sustainably as possible, for example through links in the sense of LOD. On the other hand, the results from ongoing projects based on graph-based data modelling can show future-oriented possibilities of how the different media information can be related multimodally for research analyses.

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**Anamarija Kurilić (University of Zadar, digital poster)**

**STTL Project**

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STTL is a well-known acronym standing for SIT TIBI TERRA LEVIS, and, quite expectedly, it was chosen as the acronym of the research project titled “Sit Tibi Terra Levis: Formulae and Phrases from Funerary Monuments of Ancient Liburnia and Iapodia”. The Project is funded by the Croatian Science Foundation (HRZZ) and shall last for four years (2023–2027). This contribution shall present the project itself, its aims and goals, as well as the results achieved during its first year. The project team will analyse funerary monuments and sites from two northwestern regions of Roman Dalmatia. The main focus will be on epigraphic phrases and formulas, but the research will also focus on content analysis and correlation with other relevant sources (archaeological, linguistic, historical and other), archaeological and spatial analyses, and similar. To achieve that, various methods will be applied using an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approach, so, in addition to classical historical and epigraphical methods, methods of digital humanities in general and digital epigraphy in a narrower sense, as well as methods of spatial analysis characteristic of geographical and cartographic research, will also be used. The expected results are multiple, starting with the creation of a thoroughly researched epigraphic corpus and its open access publication. We expect to achieve a better understanding of funeral rituals and the relationship between the living and the dead in the Roman world; also, we expect to detect certain differences

between better and stronger Romanized zones (such as Liburnia) and less Romanized ones (such as Iapodia). Hopefully, the achieved results will be a reference for other Roman provincial areas.

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**Anna Clara Maniero Azzolini (Independent researcher)**

***Altinum, a Wikidata project for Latin epigraphy and prosopography***

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Altinum is the first Latin epigraphy project to be hosted on Wikidata, the collaborative database supported by the Wikimedia Foundation. Launched in 2024, the project involves importing information about epigraphic artefacts from the Roman period originating in Altinum, a municipality in eastern Veneto. The data has been sourced from EDR, EDCS, analogue catalogues, and unpublished theses. In addition to epigraphic data, Altinum also catalogues personal names recorded in Altinum inscriptions, establishing itself as a crucial tool for advanced prosopographical studies of the municipality. Once the data is integrated into the database, users can formulate queries through the Wikidata Query Service (WDQS) to generate graphs and tables, obtain statistics, and reconstruct family trees. In order to talk to the machine and get answered, a good knowledge on SPARQL language is preferably required, but otherwise it would still be possible to manage the query with the aid of the Wikidata Query Builder. To date, the primary field in which the database has been applied is female social network analysis (SNA), starting with an onomastic and prosopographical survey of the female component in Altinum, providing fresh insights. Wikidata offers users a high degree of accessibility to this data, and as Altinum demonstrates, this scientific approach not only expands the epigraphic corpus but also makes it increasingly accessible. All data are accessible under the CC-0 licence and available for consultation on the Zenodo platform.

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**Pietro Ortimini (University of Pisa)**

***The Wikibase instance 'Greek Metrical Inscriptions'***

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A rich production of epigraphic poetry written in Greek flourished in the territories of the Graeco-Roman world during the Imperial age (late 1st century BC - early 4th century AD). There is currently no repository that allows for easy collection of data on the inscriptions, which are scattered across various editions. The aim of the Wikibase instance is to gather the Greek metrical inscriptions from the Imperial age into a single collection, providing the following data: edition(s), image(s), geographic provenance, dating, type of inscription, meter, length of the text, objects, layout, clients and recipients, author, external resources (e.g., Trismegistos ID, Wikidata item, Pleiades ID). This data, collected as part of my PhD thesis, is available under the CC BY-SA 4.0 DEED. The data is structured as outlined in the data model and can be queried through SPARQL queries. The data is entered in CSV format



through QuickStatements and can be exported in different formats (JSON, TSV, CSV). The Wikibase instance is still a work in progress. The data model is almost complete, queries are being created, and inscriptions are being added (80 inscriptions have been entered so far). As a future perspective, it would be desirable to include the Greek metrical inscriptions from the Archaic, Classical, Hellenistic periods, and Late Antiquity. The aim of this presentation is also to reflect on the use of Wikibase (and Wikidata) for the study of epigraphy.

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**Matteo Pola (University of Zadar)**

***Epigraphy in situ in Ancient Liburnia and Iapodia: Contextualizing Epigraphic Formulae in the Northwestern Territories of Roman Dalmatia***

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As part of the STTL project (Sit Tibi Terra Levis: Formulae and Phrases from the Funerary Monuments of Ancient Liburnia and Iapodia), which examines recurring formulae in Roman funerary epigraphy from the territories of ancient Liburnia and Iapodia in the northwestern regions of the Roman province of Dalmatia, this study—funded by the Croatian Science Foundation (Hrvatska zaklada za znanost)—aims to emphasize the importance of reviewing the contextual data of inscriptions as a key approach to epigraphic material. Reassessing the find contexts of inscriptions and linking them with updated data from recent archaeological investigations often allows us to reconnect museum-held epigraphic artifacts with their original settings, offering crucial historical insights. In addition to providing a framework for the material analysis of inscriptions, this process can reveal whether certain formulae are linked to specific contexts, geographic micro-regions, types of monuments, burial sites, or temporal markers. Such an approach facilitates new groupings of inscriptions and fosters fresh historical interpretations within their original landscapes. By placing epigraphic material within its authentic environmental context and considering the various topographical distributions of certain epigraphic formulae, this research sheds light on the social, cultural, and ritual practices tied to these sites, helping to clarify how epigraphic traditions varied across different regions and periods. Ultimately, the findings will contribute to a comprehensive reconstruction of the epigraphic practices of ancient Liburnia and Iapodia, offering new perspectives on the epigraphic landscape and its significance within the broader historical and cultural framework of Roman Dalmatia.

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**Tatiana Tommasi, Lorenzo Calvelli (University of Udine, Ca' Foscari University of Venice)**

***La Lettera e il Leone: An Epigraphic Database of Venetian Renaissance Inscriptions from Cyprus***

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Our poster aims to present the overall contents and structural features of the new online digital resource Venetian Inscriptions in Cyprus. This is the principal output of the research



project La Lettera e il Leone, jointly developed by the Ca' Foscari University of Venice and the Cyprus Institute and mainly devoted to the study and digitisation of epigraphic monuments produced during the Venetian rule of Cyprus (1474-1571). These inscriptions, written in Latin using the Humanistic capital script, were strategically located to showcase Venice's power and control over the island, as well as to emphasise its political identity. To do so, specific attention has been dedicated to the design of a database with three main features: an important visual apparatus (3D), an interactive map for displaying georeferenced data and a structure compliant with the international standards for encoding epigraphic evidence, especially the EpiDoc guidelines and the FAIR principles. The poster is structured in two parts: firstly, it will show how the database has been created from a theoretical point of view; secondly, it will focus on the contents visible online and on how this resource can contribute to the analysis and dissemination of the epigraphic monuments of Venetian Cyprus. Particular attention will be dedicated to the possibilities of further development of our digital resources and of their interoperability with other online projects.

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**Antonello Vilella (G. d'Annunzio" University of Chieti-Pescara, digital poster)**

***Graff-IT Digital Archive: The First Database on Medieval and Early***

***Modern Graffiti in Italy***

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In 2022 the ERC Advanced Grant project Graff-IT "Writing on the Margins. Graffiti in Italy (7th – 16th centuries)" began. In its five years of activity, it aims to develop a new interdisciplinary approach to the study of Medieval and early Modern graffiti in Italy, where thousands of monuments and natural caves preserve graffiti, most of which are still undeciphered and/or have only been cursorily studied up until now. By considering together and for the first time the many aspects of this peculiar textual evidence—writing, image, language, and materiality—Graff-IT wishes to become a pioneering experience in the survey and investigation of this vast body of evidence. Its aim is to prove the full dignity of graffiti as written sources and integrate them into the realm of historiographical studies. Achieving these purposes necessarily demands the creation of an online database, which strives to become a point-of-reference for all scholars interested in Medieval and early modern graffiti. The database is currently under development by Net7, an Italian IT company, in strict collaboration with the Graff-IT scientific team. This digital archive is expected to store about 4000 graffiti. Each record will encompass all material, textual, and bibliographical aspects of potential interest to the users, who will also find a rich array of indexes: lemmas, prosopography, places, and lay and religious institutions, to name a few. Lastly, implementations to the database by scholars from outside Graff-IT will be warmly welcomed, as it aims to be an open and constantly evolving digital resource.