



Regione Toscana

CLASSICAMENTE

Dialoghi senesi sul mondo antico

(8th series)

INTRODUCTION

The PhD *alumni* and the PhD students of the *Anthropology of the Ancient World* curriculum of the University of Pisa PhD course in *Classics and Archaeology* and of the University of Siena PhD course in *Philology and Criticism of Ancient and Modern Literatures* (DFCLAM Department) would like to promote the eighth cycle of seminars of the series *Classicamente. Dialoghi senesi sul mondo antico*. Following the positive outcome of the sixth series, the sessions which will take place in the 2025/2026 academic year shall continue focusing on the different methodologies and research perspectives which have shaped anthropology of the ancient world as a field of study ever since its first development. Space will also be given to those innovative approaches that constantly contribute to the hermeneutical expansion of this particular field of study. This year's series of seminars wishes to create a meeting point for scholarship on antiquity and contemporary debate on its reception in modern societies, underlining the cultural, social and ideological aspects which spark from the interaction between present and past.

WHERE AND WHEN

The eighth series will be hosted in person by the DFCLAM Department (*Filologia e Critica delle Letterature Antiche e Moderne*) at the University of Siena. The possibility to participate as speakers via remote online access **will not** be available.

Usually, each session takes place across one or two days. After each presentation, ample time is given for questions from the audience and discussion.

SUBMISSION NORMS

This Call for Papers is for young scholars belonging to the following categories: MA graduates, PhD students and *alumni*, post-doc researchers, Early Career researchers, independent researchers who, in all cases, **have obtained their PhD no earlier than 5 years prior to the submission deadline**. Those interested are invited to present an **abstract (500 words max.)**, followed by a selected bibliography, which should be sent as a **.pdf file** by **30/06/2025, 24:00**.

To guarantee anonymity in the selection of abstracts, the .pdf file **must not contain any sort of personal information or means of recognition**.

In a separate file (in .pdf), those submitting should include their name and surname, title of the submitted paper, academic affiliation and a brief academic CV stating qualifications, formative experiences and any relevant publication.

Abstracts may be submitted in the following languages: Italian, English, French. If submitting a paper in a language other than Italian, a written text of the presentation will be requested to facilitate the participation of the audience.

MA graduates wishing to submit their abstract must also include in their submission a reference letter from a university lecturer. We welcome the submission of **panels with two or more presentations**, preferably representing different research perspectives on a coherent topic so as to enhance the dialogic aspect of our sessions. If submitting a panel, a brief presentation (200/250 words max.) highlighting the reasons behind the panel must be included. Those wishing to submit a panel with two or more presentations are invited to send their abstracts, CVs and the panel presentation to the email address dialoghisenesi@gmail.com with the following subject: *Proposta di panel Dialoghi Senesi VI edizione*. In the body of the mail, the names, surnames and academic affiliation of each member of the panel should be clearly stated, alongside the title of the single papers and of the panel itself.

Selected speakers will be contacted **by 31/07/2025**, so as to allow sufficient time for the organisation and distribution of the seminars throughout the academic year.

The cycle will be structured in sessions regarding the following topics:

Weapons of the weak - Forms of resistance and participation from below (20th-21st November 2025)

In recent decades, new lines of research have sought to recover the historical experiences of groups and individuals excluded from institutionalised forms of power. In an attempt to move beyond a generic 'history of exploitation' characterised by significant yet sporadic instances of resistance, these studies have reevaluated seemingly ordinary or marginal experiences, acknowledging their historical significance. Specifically, unusual forms of dissent or ones which diverge from the violent uprisings generally recorded by historiographical accounts have been given new value. It has consequently been highlighted the persistence and diversity of the types of negotiation of power relations enacted by the enslaved, the indigents, the foreigners, and those otherwise excluded from political participation — such as women. At the same time, it has become possible to overcome some ancient historiographical paradigms that have long viewed military conquest exclusively from the perspective of the conquering powers. Besides highlighting the critical aspects of this phenomenon, this research has increased our knowledge of the subject cultures and peoples, as well as the processes of political, economic, and cultural interaction with the ruling power. The aim of this panel is to promote discussion on the complex methodological, theoretical and practical issues raised by this line of research, such as the definition of subalternity and its degrees, the differences in the relationship between rulers and ruled in different historical contexts, and the need for a multidisciplinary approach that can

make full use of non-narrative sources. To encourage dialogue on these topics, we welcome contributions concerning forms of political, economic, or cultural dissent, whether collective and organised or carried out by individuals. We will consider both theoretical contributions relating to power relations in the ancient world (also connected to studies on decolonisation and critical race theory) and case studies of literary, epigraphic or archaeological sources on the following themes (the following list is not to be considered exhaustive): 1) forms of dissent or sabotage against authority; 2) creation of alternative communities or spaces aimed at claiming a separate identity; 3) introduction of irregular forms of participation in economic, political and cultural activities.

Culture Sits in Place. Modes of Construction and Perception of Space in the Ancient World (11th-12th December 2025)

Among the developments that have marked the human and social sciences in recent decades, one of the most significant is the renewed interest in the cultural construction of “place” and the processes of conceptualizing physical space, as well as in the intricate relationship between landscape and perception. In this context, scholars have increasingly referred to a genuine “spatial turn”, which has had profound repercussions also on the study of the Greco-Roman world and antiquity more broadly. The potential applications of such an approach are manifold: from the history of sacred sites and public spaces to that of individual settlements or entire regions; from the history of religion, literature, and technology to that of politics and economics. In order to foster dialogue on these issues, the panel welcomes contributions that, through a variety of methodologies and interdisciplinary perspectives (including anthropological, literary-linguistic, historical-philosophical, artistic, and others), explore the following lines of inquiry: 1) lived spaces, that is, specifically located sites (such as streets, temples, monuments, tombs, houses, harbours, etc.) examined with particular attention to the shifting relationship between the natural environment and socio-cultural phenomena (e.g., rituals, commercial exchanges, public gatherings, artistic performances); 2) the “space of emotion”, namely, the close interdependence between interiority and landscape, framed through an “inner–outer” dynamic (e.g., emotional responses elicited by the observation of natural phenomena; individual and collective affective reactions within a given environment; the projection of interior states onto the surrounding landscape, with the potential creation of a fictitious, distorted, or altered space); 3) spatial representations, whether iconographic (e.g., landscape paintings, architectural backdrops, *trompe-l’œil*) or discursive (e.g., literary motifs, ekphrastic conventions, philosophical discussions, or ideological uses of geography).

Media and cultural mediators in the communication construction in ancient world (19th-20st February 2026)

In the last decades, the methodological reflection founded by McLuhan and systematised by Régis Debray has highlighted the centrality of the medium as a cultural tool within the communication act. From this perspective, the medium is considered as important as the message itself, since it constitutes an extension of the verbal and communicative network. Within ancient and medieval research, both media and anthropological studies have shown how papyri, wax tables, ostraka, inscriptions, manuscripts, and also public and ritual performance have shaped models of communication, authority, memory, and identity. Starting from research

on material culture, the reflection on media is enriched by further approaches. They include the category of agency of objects and the sociographic perspective, by considering not only the characteristics of the material media, but also the social actors involved in the act of communication (scribes, copyists, audience of listeners and readers...) These premises lead to a diachronic, synchronic, and comparative study of the media systems. The focus is given to the relationship between the contemporary medium theory and the following factors: materiality of supports; characteristics of layout; organisation of writing space (considering the main text, para-texts, diacritical and graphic signs); use and distribution practices. As a consequence, the medium could become an instrument to analyse the dynamics of power, the technological transformations, and the spread of culture within the ancient and medieval Greek and Roman world. In order to foster dialogue on these issues, the panel welcomes contributions that explore the following lines of inquiry (to be not considered exhaustive): 1) materiality of supports and writing techniques (also considering socioeconomic implications); 2) characteristics of layout and possible cognitive effects relating to the reading practices (relationship between *scriptio continua* and diacritical and interpunction signs; collocation of text and marginal notes; materialisation strategies of connection between text and scholia); 3) performance practices (theatre plays, public lectures and speeches, religious ceremonies) as tools for building identity and transmitting and shaping consensus; 4) medium archaeology and diachronic comparison; 5) circulation networks of material and symbolic culture.

Gender studies and the ancient world: theories and interpretative models (March 19th-20th 2026)

Contributions in Classics regarding the cultural concept of gender began to flourish in the '90s, thanks to Judith Butler's philosophical reflection. From the beginning, they have focused on different modalities of gender expression and on the body as cultural construction. This field of study has addressed methodologies and specific issues as the following: authorship, female language's features, the intersection between feminism and ageing, female subjectivity in religion, family and social relationships. After thirty years of development of this field, it is important to foster further debate on gender construction. In this perspective, the panel is open to contributions about the following topics, which will not be considered exclusive: 1) anthropological, historical, literary and philosophical analysis of texts and materials of different origins (literature, epigraphy, iconography, artefacts in general); 2) methodological papers concerning the application of gender studies to the research on ancient sources and its heuristic potential; this perspective can be also applied to the archaeological data 3) cultural construction of the concepts of "femininity" and "masculinity"; 4) issues concerning the corporeality and the sexual sphere and behaviour; 5) authorship and specific features of female writing; 6) interaction between citizenship and gender.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Le proposte saranno valutate da un comitato scientifico composto da Anna ANGELINI (Siena), Alessandro BARCHIESI (NYU), Marco BETTALLI (Siena), Maurizio BETTINI (Siena), Simone BETA (Siena), Luca BOMBARDIERI (Siena), Daniela BONANNO (Palermo), Corinne BONNET (SNS Pisa), Tommaso BRACCINI (Siena), Alberto CAFARO (Siena), Gianluca DE SANCTIS (Tuscia), Stefano FERRUCCI (Siena), Alessandro FO (Siena),

Cristiana FRANCO (Siena-Unistrasi), Filomena GIANNOTTI (Siena), Manuela GIORDANO (Siena), Mario LENTANO (Siena), Pietro LI CAUSI (Siena), Sonia MACRÌ (Enna), Enrico MEDDA (Pisa), Eleonora PISCHEDDA (Siena), Francesca PRESCENDI (Paris), Silvia ROMANI (Milano), Andrea TADDEI (Pisa), Cristiano VIGLIETTI (Siena).

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Prof.ssa Manuela GIORDANO (scientific coordinator), Sofia AGNELLO, Ginevra BENEDETTI, Alessandro CARLI, Alessio CIARINI, Giuseppe FERRARA, Alice MONTALTO, Eugenia OPORTI, Pietro TAETTI, Roberta VIGILANTE.

FURTHER DETAILS

Each speaker will be invited to submit a written version of their paper to the scientific journal *I Quaderni del Ramo d'Oro* for publication: the paper will thence undergo selection through a double-blind peer review process.

For any further enquiries, please contact us at dialoghisenesi@gmail.com.