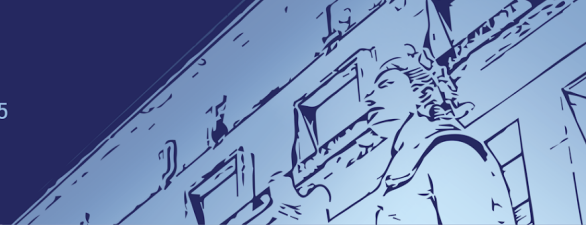


CALL FOR PAPERS

Mobility and Ecology in Graeco-Roman Literature and Arts



PANEL ORGANIZATION:

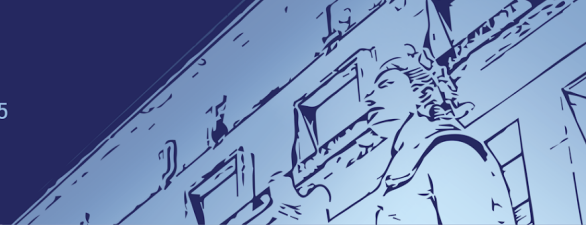


ORGANIZER 1:

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biography	- Christopher Schliephake is Assistant Professor of Ancient History at Augsburg University, Germany. He is author of <i>The Environmental Humanities and the Ancient World</i> (2020) and editor of <i>Ecocriticism, Ecology and Cultures in Antiquity</i> (2017).

ORGANIZER 2:

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biography	- Martinho Soares is Assistant Researcher and Professor of Classical Studies and Hermeneutic Philosophy at the University of Coimbra. His research activity is situated in the broad field of Environmental Humanities.



PANEL SYNOPSIS:

From the very beginning, Greek and Roman literature and art have provided us with significant testimonies of the interaction between the cultural world and the natural world, with human beings being the artisans of this connection and, at the same time, the active and passive subjects of both realities. Recent studies in the fields of ecocriticism, environmental history, anthropology, and the environmental humanities as a whole have explored and highlighted these semantic intersections in their multiple expressions, interpreting ancient human meaning making systems in the light of new hermeneutic coordinates emanating from ecological and environmental concerns.

Starting from this vast field, our thematic panel aims to delimit and deepen a specific dimension of this intersection between ancient culture and the natural world, namely the link between mobility and ecology. As Fernand Braudel rightly emphasised, since ancient times the Mediterranean Sea has been a privileged and intricate space for human and other-than-human journeys, movements, and interactions. Historians, poets, travellers, artists, but also monuments and material artefacts, as well as animals and plants, valuably bear witness to this. It is therefore important to understand and demonstrate ways of connecting and relating geographical travel and biodiversity.

How did journeys (be they commercial, colonising, conquering, or visiting) interfere with the natural world and, turning the subject inside out, how did the natural world affect journeys? What attention did travellers pay to the environment and landscape? Did mobility create distinct modes of ‘environmental awareness’? How did mobility contribute to the spread or endangerment of animal, plant, and mineral species? What knowledge about the natural, plant and mineral world did travelling provide? Which land and sea routes were extolled for their natural beauty?

We welcome proposals aimed at understanding the phenomenon of mobility in the ancient Greek and Roman world in close connection with issues that we today classify as ecological or environmental. Papers may cover thematic areas such as:

- Road ecology or literature on roads
- Literary and artistic exploration of the mobility of humans, plants, animals, and other more-than-humans
- Blue ecologies of mobility (sea travel, ships, and materials like timber)
- Mobile environmental knowledge connected to travel and intersections with power dynamics, the process of colonisation, and the choice of settlements
- The experience of mobility and modes of relating to the environment as reflected in ancient texts, particularly in terms of an engagement with and exposure to the elements
- The ‘mobility’ and the introduction of exotic species in the Hellenistic and Roman worlds
- Mobility and the aesthetic experience of landscape, including sensual perceptions, strategies of representation, and formations of environmental knowledge.

Observations:

16th Celtic Conference in Classics

Coimbra 2025

July 15-18 Faculty of Arts and Humanities · University of Coimbra

