



Artwork by Lucamaleonte

Transcultural Encounters in the 'Long' Late Antiquity

**The 13th IEMA Visiting Scholar Conference
April 4-5, 2020**

Greiner Hall, Ground Level
North Campus, University at Buffalo
Buffalo, NY 14261

iema.buffalo.edu/conference

Conference Organizer: Dr. Giulia Vollono
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The end of antiquity is a flow of continuous, transcultural encounters. Whether they have led to catastrophe or to interconnected, resilient changes has been a constant focus of the historical debates. Under this lens, the period between the 3rd and the 8th century CE appears as both a controversial and pivotal phase for Europe and the Mediterranean.

Until a few decades ago, the fall of the Western Roman Empire at the end of the 5th century CE was seen as a substantial break in European history. Causes were sought mainly in the so-called barbarian invasions and the subsequent reorganization of the territories under different political administrations and social values. However, as the debate and research proceeded, it appeared clear that contacts and moments of

change have occurred also earlier, at least from the 3rd century CE, leading to the concept of a 'long' Late Antiquity. Changes in social identities, migrations, juxtapositions, and combinations of different cultures started much earlier than previously thought; they were not the final causes but intermediate elements of a much more complex history.

The 13th IEMA Visiting Scholar Conference will have its main focus on this period: the 'long' Late Antiquity represents the perfect place and time to discuss transcultural processes, social mediations, and political and ethnical varieties. Examples of encounters between cultures in some European territories and the Mediterranean will be presented; scholars will reflect on the meaning of the term 'cultures', and to what extent these can be traced through

the different sources. The role of the study of historical transcultural encounters in our contemporary society will also be discussed.

The conference will provide an opportunity to reconsider and reinvigorate the debate on central themes, such as the end of the Roman Empire, the processes of ethnogenesis, the construction and negotiation of identities, and the contacts between the communities that populated Europe and the Mediterranean. Moreover, it will offer a multidisciplinary and comparative perspective, crossing chronological and geographical boundaries between specialisms, with the ultimate aim of deepening our understanding of the complexity of transcultural encounters in the 'long' Late Antiquity.

13th Institute for European and Mediterranean Archaeology International Conference

Organizer

Giulia Vollono 2019-2020 IEMA Postdoctoral Scholar

Speakers

Alexandra Chavarria Arnau (Università degli Studi di Padova - Dipartimento dei Beni Culturali) "Negotiating Identities in 6th Century Spain Among Local Communities, Eastern Romans and Visigoths"

Rob Collins (Newcastle University - School of History, Classics, and Archaeology) "Soldiers on the Edge: Changing Military Identities in Northern Britannia, 250-450 CE"

Stephen A. Collins-Elliott (University of Tennessee, Knoxville - Department of Classics) "Transitional Political Identities in Late Antique and Early Medieval Mauretania Tingitana"

K. Patrick Fazioli (Mercy College - Department of Humanities) "Archaeology as ANTi-History: Time, Identity, and the Appropriation of the Late Antique Past"

Todd Fenton and Alexis Goots (Michigan State University - Department of Anthropology) "The Biology of Ethnicity: Assessing the Potentials of Biological Anthropology Through a Case Study from Roselle (Tuscany, Italy)"

Andrew Gardner (University College London, Institute of Archaeology) "Frontier Encounters and the Transformation of Empire: from Late Roman Britain to Brexit"

James M. Harland (Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen - Fachbereich Geschichtswissenschaft) "Can We Infer Ethnic Identity from Material Culture? A Comparative Look at the Late Antique West"

Toby Martin (University of Oxford - Department for Continuing Education) "Small Things with Big Ideas: Using Artefacts to Rethink European Transcultural Dynamics in the 5th and 6th Centuries CE"

Karim Mata (University of Virginia - Department of Anthropology) "Approaching Cultural Complexity: Parsing Perspectives and Mixing Methods"

Annamaria Pazienza (Università Ca' Foscari Venezia - Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici) "The Lombards Before and After the Conquest of Italy: Overview and Open Questions Between History and Archaeology"

Alessandro Sebastiani (University at Buffalo, SUNY - Department of Classics) "From Regionalism to Nationalism. Manipulating History to Forge Contemporary Identities"

Bailey K. Young (Eastern Illinois University - History Department) "Glittering Garnets from the East: 21st Century Science Sheds New Light on the First Merovingian Age"

The conference is generously co-sponsored by UB's Department of History.

To attend the conference please register through iema.buffalo.edu/conference/registration

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