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| **Candidate** | **Project** |
| **Wed January 13** |  |
| **Alessandro Magnani**  **MA**  **PhD project** | **The Western influences on Kushan Empire kingship** The Kushan empire was founded in the middle of the Silk Road during the first century AD. Located between nowadays India and Pakistan, it came in contact with different coeval cultures through markets and international relations, leaving traces of different influences, in particular in the royal ideology. The project aims to identify the western features adopted in the Kushan ideology of Kingship, since modern treatises sporadically touch on the argument of kingship, but never in its entirety. In order to do so, coins and inscriptions will be adopted as main sources. Modern literature, coin catalogues and epigraphic records will be consulted for the research, in order to identify iconography and royal titles chosen by Kushan rulers. These elements, in fact, can help us analyze the language adopted towards the citizens and, also, understand the role of ancient markets in the transmission of ideas. Therefore, recognizing the choices adopted by Kushan rulers, in particular concerning Greece and Rome, can offer a picture of an ancient culture made up with elements from East and West, connecting the Eurasian chessboard. |
| **Commentator 1**  **(iunior)** | **Carlo Emilio Biuzzi** |
| **Commentator 2 (senior)** | **Carlos Noreña** |
| **Federica Calabrese**  **Post-doc;**  **Post doc Project** | **Recreating divinity: performing magic beyond borders of Christianity** The objective of the project lies in the analysis of the encounter between the indigenous religion present in Britain and the arrival of the Christian word: what were the limits that were established between the two forms of spirituality? And which points of conjunction persisted in the aspect performative, devotional of the new religion? The focus will mainly be on that magical, mystical aspect characteristic of the Celtic religion, but even before the primitive practices of the Iron Age. The presence of a "mystical Christianity" in Britain has never ceased: the innovative part of the project will lie in the analysis of the practices still preserved today, belonging to this very ancient legacy. The anthropological element will therefore be a key point of the study, already oriented in itself from an interdisciplinary perspective. Preliminary practices have been identified that are affected by a very ancient tradition and are still practiced today, especially in some small towns in the south of England. Practices that are performed daily, but not completely understood as a mixture of elements of different origins. It will be the main objective to explain, through literary and material examples such as the "limits" and cultural, social, and obviously religious differences, although they were initially perceived as such, they were absorbed by the new system that had advocated them as extraneous and integrated into their daily practice. Constituting no longer an insurmountable limit, but a threshold of access to a new spirituality. |
| **Commentator 1**  **(iunior)** | **Gaetano Spampinato** |
| **Commentator 2 (senior)** | **Giuseppina Viscardi** |
| **Silvia Geraci**  **Ma student**  **MA project** | **Connectivity: Rome and Greece between the 2nd century BC and the first half of the 1st century BC.** This project aims to investigate the relationships between Rome, in particular the Italian area, and Greece, including the mainland and the islands, under the connectivity point of view. The period chosen, beginning from the 2nd century BC (with some due recalls to the previous decades) and arriving to the first half of the 1st century BC, is a peculiar period in which this phenomenon can be well analysed, because it comprises the very first contacts between these two areas] and, at the same time, during these centuries we can appreciate the evolution of the connection. The study will focus on three main topics, each of which represents a fundamental element of the connectivity concept, useful to understand the most important features and the ways in which the two geographical realities interface with each other. These themes are: communications and mobility, economic relationships, cultural reflections on society. |
| **Commentator 1**  **(iunior)** | **Emiliano Antonio Panciera** |
| **Commentator 2 (senior)** | **Gliulio Leghissa e Sandra Gambetti (da confermare)** |
| **Tue January 14th** |  |
| **Fernanda Maffei**  **PhD;**  **Post doc project** | **Cicerone al confine: studi sulla diffusione delle orazioni ciceroniane nell’Impero tra antichità e tarda antichità** In my project I would like to scrutinize the ancient material related to Cicero's speeches, from the whole Roman Empire (papyri, graffiti, palimpsests, quotations), in order to reconstruct the protohistory of these texts and the form in which they circulated until the VI century. |
| **Commentator 1**  **(iunior)** | **Fabrizio Lusani** |
| **Commentator 2 (senior)** | **Christian Raschle e Fabian Reiter** |
| **Fabrizio Lusani**  **MA**  **PhD project** | **OSTRAKA FROM MAXIMIANON: writing in a Roman fort of Eastern Egyptian desert in II century A.D.** The aim of this project is to study social, cultural, linguistic, and administrative dynamics inside Maximianon fort (modern al-Zarqa), one of the Roman praesidia guarding the routes of the Eastern Egyptian desert. The core of this research will be the edition and commentary of 180 documents selected between the huge mole of ostraka (1549) found in the dump discovered outside the fort. In particular, I want to study three epistolary dossiers: “Chaireas” one (63 o.), “Kastresios” one (82 o.) and “Domitius Nemonianus” one (7 o.). Reading these documents will be useful to deepen everyday life inside the fort (economical activities, social networks, alimentation, etc.). “Domitius Nemonianus” dossier contains some of the rare letters in Latin found in the Eastern Egyptian desert – where Greek was the most common written language – that will provide interesting data about linguistic uses of this community. I also intend to analyze three daily cards and the only mail journal found in Maximianon, in order to enrich our knowledge about mail transport in this region, an official document in Latin and three ostraka related with astrology (maybe horoscopes). Then, I plan to study Sosianus’ dossier (21 o.), mainly composed by literary documents, and O.Max. inv. 148, a Greek literary document in Latin script. This project can rely on the co-supervision offered by Helene Cuvigny, who is the leading authority about ostraka from the Eastern Egyptian desert. |
| **Commentator 1**  **(iunior)** | **Antonio Stornaiuolo e Giulio Iovine** |
| **Commentator 2 (senior)** | **Fabian Reiter e Christian Raschle** |
| **Fri January 15** |  |
| **Carlo Emilio Biuzzi**  **MA student**  **PhD project** | **La frontiera porosa di Šāpur II, studio comparato di centri urbani sul limes orientale (Edessa, Nisibi, Dura-Europos, Martyropolis)** This doctoral project aims to investigate different city centers - Edessa, Nisibi, Dura-Europos and Martyropolis - located in the area adjacent to the eastern limes of the Roman Empire with the aim of identifying common elements and delimiting an environment socio-administrative, economic and cultural of the region, using not only historiographical or similar sources, but also material, epigraphic and papyrological sources. |
| **Commentator 1**  **(iunior)** | **Alessandro Magnani e Giulio Leghissa** |
| **Commentator 2 (senior)** | **Tommaso Gnoli** |
| **Emiliano Antonio**  **Panciera**  **Ma student**  **PhD project** | **Permeable Élite: Research on the networks of connections between Roman gentes and foreign élites in the Italy of the 4th and 3rd centuries BC**.The purpose of this project is to study a period of Roman history, the one between the fourth and the third century, which is characterized by a massive expansion of the territory subject to the Roman imperium with a consequent increase of the influence of the Roman senatorial families within the Mediterranean basin. I’m going to study those centuries, commonly considered the centuries of the first Roman imperialism, using as main source of research the study not only of the individuals Roman gentes and the existence of inter-family ties between these families and the foreign noble élites which came into contact with Rome, but also how these ties influenced the political choices of the foreign policy of the city and the institution of the civitas sine suffragio, in particular referring to two emblematic cases: the city of Caere and the city of Capua. These two macro-arguments would be, for this project, the two guidelines to analyse these centuries of deep changes not only for the Capitoline city but for the entire Mediterranean itself. |
| **Commentator 1**  **(iunior)** | **Silvia Geraci** |
| **Commentator 2 (senior)** | **Simone Ciambelli e Alessandro Cristofori** |