



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA
DIPARTIMENTO DI STORIA CULTURE CIVILTÀ

UNIBO GRADUATE CAREER WORKSHOP – CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The borders *within*, the borders *without*

Frontiers in the Ancient and Medieval Mediterranean: Permeabilities and Connectivities



In a nutshell. For those who are willing to undertake an academic career, applying for job positions through research projects becomes soon a routine. We believe that research projects may be improved effectively when they are discussed within a collectivity of senior and younger scholars from a variety of academic backgrounds. This workshop aims at selecting a number of research proposals and have them peer-reviewed among participants and evaluated by an international team of senior scholars, in order to assess their strengths, their weaknesses and their potential.

1. The context

The Workshop is organized within the project *Career Development Workshops for History Graduates*, with the participation of the Department of History and Cultures – University of Bologna, the Department of History – University of California Berkeley, the Department of History – College of Staten Island, City University of New York and the Centre d'études classiques / Département d'histoire – Université de Montréal.

2. What is it about?

Within the above mentioned project the Department of History and Cultures of the University of Bologna is organizing a **graduate career workshop** which will take place on **January 13th to 15th 2021** on the topic: *The borders within, the borders without. Frontiers in the ancient and medieval Mediterranean. Permeabilities and connectivities.*

The project aims to facilitate access to an international career and mobility of graduates and young researchers willing to take advantage of the existing professional networks within the areas of Ancient, Medieval, and Modern History. The workshop is designed particularly for prospective and postgraduate MA and PhD students. with the scope to help them **structure successful PhD and post-doc international research applications**. Special attention will be paid to the stimulation of originality, intercultural and language competences, critical thinking, management of applications and gender issues in the career development.

3. Topic of the workshop

The ancient Mediterranean is a fragmented system characterized by a high degree of connectivity. The formation, consolidation, decline and disruption of communications among regions, microecologies, individuals, peoples and polities is a *longue durée* phenomenon; against this background borders of cultural, political, social or economic nature come into being. The peculiar, dichotomic nature of the Mediterranean lies in the co-existence of networks and barriers. There are borders and frontiers *within* the Mediterranean and *without* the Mediterranean. The boundaries thus marked, however, do not hinder movements and connections: they influence communication and its historical manifestations by imposing specific 'rules of the game'.

We are interested in discussing PhD and Post-Doc projects of students eager to investigate intercultural exchanges (connection, hybridization, conflict) within the Mediterranean and between the Mediterranean and other geographic macro-areas in Asia, Africa and Europe, including processes of construction and consolidation of collective identities as well as borders of cultural, linguistic, geographical or other nature. At the same time we welcome projects about the formation and transformation of spaces of interconnection and environmental frontiers commercial networks, interaction of ecological and economic systems.

Study proposals may also address intersection of identities, alterities and differences within the social structures, and the study of socio-economic and power inequalities.

The period discussed is ca. 800 BCE – 800 CE, but draft projects could also deal with other historical periods and settings, which relate to the ancient world through reception/heritage/contrast of models or other kind of connection. A significant comparative approach between different historical contexts of the ancient world and critical periodization is potentially relevant as well.

4. Whom does it concern?

Both **MA students** and **PhD candidates** are welcome to apply, at any stage of their career. If willing to pursue an academic career in an international environment and at the same time to network with a variety of professionals and academic institutions which may help them grow on a

professional level and develop their ideas and projects on a long-term perspective. Interested MA students are invited to submit a draft proposal for a PhD research project.

Interested PhD candidates, on the other hand, are invited to submit post-doctoral research projects with special reference to a potential development for funding within the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (Individual Fellowships) or with special reference to a potential development for funding within the SSHRC Doctoral or Postdoctoral Fellowships.

5. Dates and Deadlines

It will take place on **January 13-15th 2021** 5-7 PM CET

Deadline for Receipt of Projects: 3 Jan 2021

Notification of Acceptance: 9 Jan 2021

Online Workshop: 13th-15th Jan 2021

All those who are interested in participating in the workshop should send their projects, together with their affiliation and email. Please send it **by January 3rd 2021** to the following web registration form: <https://site.unibo.it/history-graduates/en/agenda/january/registration>

Participation to the workshop is cost-free and a certificate of participation will be released at the end of the event.

6. Logistics and organizational issues

The initiative will be held online; the address for the virtual access will be given in due course to all of those who applied for the workshop.

The workshop will be organized in two hours sessions taking place 5-7 PM on January 13th, 14th and 15th. On each of the three days, an introductory lecture focusing on specific topics related to the theme of the workshop (ca. 40 minutes each) will be delivered by a senior scholar, followed by discussions involving all the participants (ca. 15 minutes).

The second part of the workshop will be entirely devoted to the discussion of the PhD and Post-Doc projects, which will be peer-reviewed by the participants themselves and by senior scholars.

The solidity of the projects will be peer-reviewed and discussed on the basis of: internal coherence, relevance of the topic in the ongoing debate, awareness of scholarship related to the topic, perspectives for future developments, opening up to a new international and interdisciplinary audience.

Participants will be invited to cross review each other projects on the basis of a specific evaluation form with criteria for discussion.

Language of the Workshop: English

Accepted language for projects' outline: English, Italian, French, Spanish

7. Contacts

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This workshop has been conceived as a means of support for those young students willing to pursue a career in the academe, whose work has been impacted by CoViD-19 throughout these months. With this initiative, we intend to show our sympathy for them and to familiarize them with the highly competitive application process for PhD and Post-Doc positions in Classics and Ancient History across the globe.