

IV GRADUATES' INTER-UNIVERSITY CONFERENCE

CALL FOR PAPERS

ABSTRACT DUE BY FEBRUARY 28th 2019

μέσαι δὲ νύκτες – «*It is midnight*»

Nights of love, war and madness from Homer to Medieval Literature

UNIVERSITY OF TURIN

MAY 23rd-24th 2019

PALAZZO DEL RETTORATO

The Odeon Project, a university cultural project for the study and divulgation of classical culture, is organising in May 2019 its fourth inter-university conference, dedicated to postgraduates (or, exceptionally, soon-to-be graduates) or PhDs in humanistic, historical, anthropological and philosophical studies.

In the depth of the night, far away in space and time, the same stars cradle from the sky two different figures. One is asleep – alone. The other is wide awake – but also alone. One is tormented by love that deceives her and flees, leaving her in agony. The other awaits the end of her suffering, the light from Troy breaking through the night with its flame and announcing the end of a war that will spare no more the winners than the losers.

Centuries later, the same stars greet the man who, devoted to the *carmen* of his *praeceptor amoris*, has the sole company of the night while he's lying in front of his beloved's closed door. In the meantime, not far from there, in the interrupted silence of the city that never sleeps, matrons and gladiators, freedmen and slaves dive into shameless festivities.

Many are the nights: one's personified, daughter of Chaos, primordial divinity; one's made longer by the gods, to delay the man's arm that seeks the sword; one's filled with women bold enough to disguise themselves as men and seize the power; one allows a god to lie with a mortal woman; another one is sudden and sent by the Christian God to veil the earth at his son's death.

Nights of wars and treacheries, of torment and madness, of deceits and regrets. Night that, in the end, means freedom and reveals herself as the stars appear.

Subjects of discussion

The conference's aim is to analyse all the literary, philological, anthropological, philosophical, historical, folkloric values and meaning that a broad theme such as that of the night can offer in Greek and Latin literary texts, either in prose or poetry, extant or fragmentary, handed down by papyrus or scrolls, epigraphs or other finds. The historical period taken into account is the one that goes from the first examples of epic poetry (the *Epic of Gilgamesh* in Middle East, the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* in Greece) to the Greek and Latin medieval literary production (the chronological limit is fixed on the birth of national languages, for Latin literature, and on the fall of Constantinople in 1453, for Greek and Byzantine literature), including Near-Eastern, Hebrew and ancient Christian literary productions.

As previously discussed, the conference is also open to proposals concerning fields that are not properly linked to literature, such as history, philosophy and anthropology, as long as they are pertinent to the theme and to the chronological context of the conference.

Participation procedures

The conference is open to all students from Italian or European Universities who are currently studying for a master's degree or a PhD (half of the candidates will be chosen between master students and half between PhD students, to maintain and preserve the young students' attendance and growth that has always been of crucial importance for this project from its very beginning, four years ago); **exceptionally and under the unquestionable judgement of the Scientific Committee, students who have not yet earned a bachelor's degree but who are committed to earning one before the end of 2019 may be accepted to the conference.**

In order to participate as speakers, it is necessary to send to progettoodeon@gmail.com an email containing:

- **an abstract** (around 300 words) of the speech which the author intends to present at the conference (together with the title);
- **a brief curriculum vitae et studiorum** presenting the candidate's qualifications and the university attended.

Each speech will last about 25-30 minutes and will be followed by a 10-minutes discussion; preferred languages of communication are Italian and English (French, Spanish and German candidacies will however be considered and valued).

The deadline to present candidacies is set for the **February 28th 2019**.

By March 2019 the Scientific Committee, composed of graduates from Odeon Project, will publish the list of the selected speakers.

Eventual refunds for speakers coming from foreign countries or from Regions different from Piedmont and Aosta Valley will eventually be determined.

By decision of the Scientific Committee a printed or digital copy of the conference proceedings may be published.

For any information concerning the Inter-university Conference, consult the website www.progettoodeon.wix.com/sito or send an email to progettoodeon@gmail.com.

Composition of the Scientific Committee

Dott. Luca Austa, PhD student in Anthropology of the Ancient World (University of Siena)

Dott.ssa Annalisa Barra, postgraduate in Latin Language and Literature

Dott. Alessandro Maria Cordella, professor of Maria Consolatrice Institute (Turin)

Dott.ssa Giulia Gerbi, PhD student in Antiquity Studies (Ca' Foscari University - Venice)

Dott. Luca Massarenti, professor of Sant'Anna Opera Barolo Institute (Moncalieri)

TURIN, 14/10/2018

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