

**Ways of Integration in the Roman Mediterranean:  
Informal Ways of Inclusion of Diversity in Politics, Religion and Culture**

**International Seminar of Young Researchers**

**Call for participants**

From early stages of its expansion, Rome had to face the troublesome issue of the integration of diverse communities. Along the process, the City tested several ways of integration, from its development over the Italic Peninsula until its geographic expansion peak (117 CE) culminating with the concession of Roman citizenship to all the inhabitants (*Constitutio Antoniniana*) in 212 CE. These and many other circumstances make of Rome an exceptional case for the study of integration of communities.

Traditionally, studies have focused on formal ways of integration (mainly institutional and legal ones) established by the Roman government. However, over the last decades studies in Social Sciences have generated an important debate around assumed and naturalized concepts such as 'integration', 'assimilation', 'acculturation' or 'homogenization'. Thus, new perspectives are introduced into the old debate of 'romanization', questioning Roman 'imperialism', the character of its domination, especially its effect on dominated peoples, and also the impact of Roman 'imposition' and even its proper existence. To confront it, it becomes necessary to know the answer of these integrated communities, the immigrant's input: recognizing them as active subjects and their contrary experiences, towards the emulation of Roman culture as much as towards their resilience to change, also taking into account the possibility of a multidirectional interchange.

This proposal aims to gather and share in a common forum works from different specialties and disciplines exploring a new approach, the study of the integration through informal ways in politics, religion and culture; that is, those not directly promoted by the Roman central, provincial, or local governments nor by the elites. The objective is the presentation of these cases, the study of their working mechanisms, the challenges faced and their outcomes. Among the different topics for the Seminar we suggest:

- Integration and informal political practices
- Political and social integration through religious practices
- Cultural diversity and integration in literature

We welcome other proposal on this topic apart from these main ones.

The International Seminar of Young Researchers is aimed at PhD candidates in Classical Studies and recent PhD (viva after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018). The meeting is to take place on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at Pablo de Olavide University (Seville, Spain), followed by a trip to the Roman city of Italica on 20<sup>th</sup> March. Proposals both in Spanish and English are accepted. Interested candidates must send separately to [magonmuo@upo.es](mailto:magonmuo@upo.es), under the topic **CfP: Seminario Vías Informales**, by 30<sup>th</sup> October 2020:

- An abstract of their proposal (300 words maximum), including title and key words, and
- A brief CV (300 words maximum), indicating home institution, topic and summary of their thesis along with any other relevant information.

This International Seminar of Young Researchers is part of the Research, Development and Innovation Project 'Formas de integración en el Mediterráneo romano: Vías informales de inclusión de la diversidad en el ámbito político, religioso y cultural', within the frame of Andalusia 2014-2020 ERDF Operative Programme.