

City Networks in Europe and Beyond

Barcelona, September 2-5, 2026



Call for Papers

Session 1 - Main Session (2 time slots, 180 minutes)

The Cities that made the Empire: Connectivity and Urban Networks from Late Republican to Imperial Times

Organizers: Noelia Cases Mora (Universidad de Alicante), Borja Martín Chacón (Independent researcher), Sabine Panzram (Universität Hamburg)

Suggested topics:

- Roman colonization and hegemony
- Legal promotion and urban transformation
- Rome and provincial cities: bonds, collaboration and dominance
- Competition and inter-city cooperation
- Religious urban networks
- Economy and trade networks
- Cities, mobility and social promotion
- Land and maritime connectivity

Despite Rome's clear intent to individualize its relationships with cities under its sphere of influence to consolidate its authority, the process of constituting its empire was built upon an overlapping network of cities interconnected through political, legal, economic, social, and religious ties. This session explores the role that these urban networks played in the process of developing and consolidating Rome's dominance as the hegemonic power in the Mediterranean from the late Republic to the 2nd century AD. It assesses how Rome integrated, altered, or dismantled the various types of ties between city networks to strengthen control, highlighting the mechanisms that shaped urban connectivity within and beyond the Empire.

We would like to bring together an interdisciplinary collection of studies – based on literary sources, epigraphy, numismatics, archaeology – united by the multifaceted and temporally broad examination of the networks of cities that structured the Roman Empire. The panel seeks to establish a forum for exchange and discussion on the role that cities played in structuring and challenging Roman domination and to encourage comparisons between urban networks across different territories. We invite to contribute to broader reflections on the long-term impact of Roman urban connectivity on the spatial, political, and cultural configurations that have shaped Europe's historical trajectory toward modernity.

- Candidates to present a paper must send the abstract of their proposal (max. 450 words) and a short CV (max. 300 words) to noelia.cases@ua.es before October 22, 2025.

For more information, see: <https://www.eauhbarcelona2026.eu/call-for-papers/>