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**VeNiss** - Venice's Nissology. Reframing the Lagoon City as an Archipelago: A Model for Spatial and Temporal Urban Analysis (16th-21st centuries)

In the historical tradition, Venice is a city without walls and gates, and hence lacking suburbs. VeNiss reverses this trope by examining the urban, political, and cultural patterns connecting the capital with the chain of over sixty islands forming its granular hinterland. From the 16th century, lagoon sites were systematically included in the network of capillary infrastructures for the city's supply, defence, healthcare, and civic rituals. Cultural entanglements sometimes bypassed the city, as novel lagoon artistic and architectural solutions permeated the Italian Peninsula through the agency of religious communities. Atlases and books of islands published on and in Venice helped consolidate the city's archipelagic thinking into a coherent framework. VeNiss sheds light on this physical and theoretical construct – abruptly interrupted by the fall of the Republic (1797) – through a holistic project which combines social history, architecture, art and literary studies with advanced digital technologies. Coupling close archival readings with modelling systems, it develops the first online geospatial and time-based infrastructure to reconstruct the islands' transformations alongside their entwined interactions. Reframing Venice within its archipelago, VeNiss explores the impact of urban edges on city planning, economic dependence, social responsiveness, and artistic production. It constitutes a crucial contribution to Venetian history while providing a powerful prototype for other urban studies to reset the hierarchical dichotomy of centre-periphery.

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