

Costituzione del Centre for Advanced Studies in Mobility and the Humanities (MOHU)

The Department of Historical and Geographic Sciences and the Ancient World (DiSSGeA) has been selected by ANVUR, the Italian National Agency for the Evaluation of the University and Research Systems, as Department of Excellence for the period 2018-2022. Combining mobility studies and research in the humanities, as early suggested by Merriman and Pearce (2017), the project will boost the Department's activities in the coming years. DiSSGeA aims to become a research hub for the humanistic study of mobility, meaning the movement of people, objects, ideas and texts in space and time. Starting from a collaborative stance, the newly established Centre for Advanced Studies in Mobility and the Humanities, hosted at DiSSGeA, is committed to running the Mobility and the Humanities Seminar Series. Key speakers in the field are regularly invited to further elaborate on, and advance, their research activities. This way, the Centre configures itself as an international research hub for the humanistic study of mobility, a place where intellectual exchange and hospitality take a crucial part in the development of brand-new research directions. The Centre aims at stimulating collaboration around new basic and interdisciplinary research, consolidating the international standing of DiSSGeA and making it more attractive for young researchers, while clearly identifying its scientific mission as a Department of Excellence.

RESEARCH AIMS

The scientific objective of the Center is to significantly advance the study of mobility, understood as the movement of people, objects, ideas and texts in past and present societies as well as in different geographical contexts. Taking advantage of a rich and unique mix of disciplines, with a distinctive reference to the connections between past and present times (from antiquity to contemporaneity), the Centre for Advanced Studies in Mobility and the Humanities aims to contribute to the emerging area of mobility study through the humanities, which is increasingly pursued by other research hubs worldwide.

Technological and societal advancement have moved toward an increased interest in mobilities and their complexity. While this has been the object of a major involvement by the hard and social sciences, the humanities can play an equally important role in understanding mobility in a diachronic and spatial perspective. Thanks to a multifaceted conceptualisation of mobility, the availability of an ever-increasing amount of data, an expanding methodological creativity involving a variety of sources, and the convergence of social and humanities research, mobility studies today can bring together a multiplicity of movement-related phenomena in a single study program. Indeed, the study of movement-related processes is central to a diverse range of research topics and disciplinary domains at DiSSGeA.

This inclusive and plural approach will help in overcoming the traditional paradigm that reads past and present as static entities developing independently one from the other. The combination of historiographical, philological, geographical and anthropological methods, with a reference also to economic and legal aspects, allows better understanding of the dynamism of human societies and nonhuman entities, and to reconstruct in critical ways the related contexts, practices and experiences at different scales.

The Center runs five thematic nodes (ideas, people, object, texts, theories and methods) and takes into consideration three areas of interest:

Mobility study methodologies.

DiSSGeA aspires to develop new methodologies to become a landmark in the scientific landscape of humanistic mobility studies. The approach is both quantitative (such as data mining and big-data analysis, historical geographical information systems and geovisualisation of mobility issues) and qualitative (such as comparative textual analysis, thematic reconstruction of networks, mobile ethnography, creative methods, phenomenological reading of mobile experiences and their representations). The newly elaborated methodologies will also be able to contribute to other fields of mobility studies in the future.

Mobility phenomena.

DiSSGeA intends to contribute to the rethinking of mobility phenomena from a humanistic perspective. Mobilities are not limited to transport or current migratory challenges, but include a variety of subjects, as for example: movements of knowledge and political cultures; movements and translation of books and textual tradition; landscape mobility practices; the narration and representation of movement; movements of scientific collections; the reimagination of the mobility-immobility nexus.

Mobility impact on the social sphere.

This area aims at understanding and interpreting the social, cultural, political and economic changes triggered by mobility phenomena. In such a framework, the synergy between the different disciplines within DiSSGeA allows, on one hand, to contextualise the impact of mobility phenomena in the contemporary world and, on the other, to study the profound dynamism of societies in all historical epochs. Historicising mobilities, thus, is also seen as an opportunity to critically rethink present and future mobilities.

Principal Investigator, Prof. Andrea Caracausi

MEMBERS (DiSSGeA Department STAFF)

A

GIULIA ALBANESE

Ideas Node (Convenor)

Fascism and political violence; fascist mobilities; citizenship

B

GIANLUIGI BALDO

Texts Node

Mobility and classical reception; the reception of Horace as a case-study of mobility of texts and ideas; medical texts: mobility of texts, languages, knowledge

FRANCO BENUCCI

People Node

Medieval epigraphy; Padua; movement of art objects (de Mabilia donation)

VITTORIO BERTI

Texts Node

Greek into Syriac and Syriac into Arabic; Syriac Theology and Medicine; Spread of Eastern Christian Asceticism and Mystics; Heresiology and circulation of religious ideas; Monotheisms on the Silk roads

MARCO BERTILORENZI

People Node (Convenor)

Multinationals; commodity chains; foreign direct investments; technology transfert

MARINA BERTONCIN

Theories and Methods Node

Spaces, distances and proximities; African mobilities

ALDINO BONDESAN

People Node

Logistics and maneuver warfare; trafficability maps; tourisms and the military

LUCIANO BOSSINA

Texts Node

Hebrew into Greek; Greek into Latin; Translation Studies; Mobility of Manuscripts

ELENA CANADELLI

Theories and Methods Node (Convenor), Objects Node

Mobilities and history of science; mobile objects in natural history; museums and history of material culture

GUIDO CANDIANI

Objects Node (Convenor)

Naval history; maritime history; military history

DARIO CANZIAN

Ideas Node

Society and institutions in XIIIth and XIVth c.: circulation of cultural and political patterns; urban elites in the XIVth c; environmental History in the Middle Ages

ANDREA CARACAUSI

Theories and Methods Node, People Node

Micro-history; quantitative history; social network analysis; labour migration; individual life-cycles

BENEDETTA CASTIGLIONI

People Node

Landscape studies; mobilities of/in landscapes; tourism mobilities

FRANCESCA CAVAGGIONI

Ideas Node

Ancient Roman Republic; Roman historiography, Livian studies; Ancient political institutions

ISABELLE CHABOT

Objects Node (Convenor)

Women, gender and the family (Italy, 13th-15th c.); marriage rituals and circulation of objects; engendering objects

CHIARA CREMONESI

Texts Node

Mobility of concepts; ascetic practices in transition: bodies and texts

D

GIANMARCO DE ANGELIS

Texts Node (Convenor)

Mobility of juridical texts and legal formularies in Early and High Middle Ages; geographical mobility of medieval judges and notaries; tradition of royal and imperial diplomas in Early and High Middle Ages; written word and forms of liturgical sharing in the Vallumbrosan order

ANTONELLA DUSO

Texts Node

Intertextuality in Augustan poetry; literary representations of space; mobility of grammatical theories between Greek and Latin

E

MARTINA ELICE

Texts Node

Mobility of manuscripts; Greek into Latin; mobility of grammatical, rhetorical texts and learning materials; mobility of medical texts and knowledge

F

FERDINANDO FAVA

Ideas Node (Convenor), Theories and Methods Node

Epistemology and mobilities; ethnography and mobilities

FABRIZIO FERRARI

Texts Node

History of Indian medicine; circulation of medical knowledge; *materia medica* across cultures; mobility of medical myths

LUCA FEZZI

Ideas Node

Ancient Roman Republic; political violence and dictatorship; mobility of political ideas

GIOVANNI FOCARDI

Theories and Methods Node, People Node

History and mobilities; borders and mobilities; university knowledge and mobilities

G

DONATO GALLO

Texts Node

Academic mobility in Late Medieval Italy (teachers and students); religious orders and mobility in Late Medieval Europe; mobility of philosophical, theological and juridical texts

SALVATORE GASPA

Ideas Node

Assyrian royal ideology: continuity, change and legacy; forms of political communication in first-millennium BC Assyria; inventing tradition: forms and practices in Assyria

MICOLETTA GIOVÈ

Texts Node

Mobility of the book between Late Antiquity, Early, High and Late Middle Ages; students on the move from Europe to Italy; literacy, book production and book circulation in the Franciscan order

L

CRISTINA LA ROCCA

People Node

Gender and mobility in Late Antiquity and Early Middle Ages; migrations and Barbarians; forced migrations, hostages and exiles

MARGHERITA LOSACCO

Texts Node (Convenor)

Mobility of Greek and Latin texts and traditions (authors' variants, moving archetypes); mobility of Greek manuscripts; Greek manuscripts and European modern libraries

FRANCESCO LUBIAN

Texts Node

Intermediality; Greek into Latin in Late Antiquity; endolinguistic translation; the mobility of gaze in literary ekphrasis

M

CECILIA MARTINI

Texts Node

Greek into Arabic; Arabic into Latin; mobility of philosophical text; Mediterranean circulation of philosophical knowledge

FEDERICO MAZZINI

Theories and Methods Node

Digital history and history of the digital; digital tools for mobility research; cultural history of technology

MARIA TERESA MILICIA

Theories and Methods Node; Objects Node

Uneven mobilities; human remains; colonial collections and postcolonial repatriation

PAOLA MOLINO

Texts Node, Theories and Methods Node

History of books; connected histories; mobility and knowledge; libraries and knowledge organization; pre-modern media and mobility of the news

N

MATTEO MILLAN

Ideas Node

Fascism; political violence; armed associationism

P

ANDREA PASE

Theories and Methods Node

Spaces, distances and proximities; African mobilities

SILVIA ELENA PIOVAN

People Node

Historical GIS; geomorphological dynamics of wet environments; mobilities of armies in the U.S. Civil War

R

CHIARA RABBIOSI

People Node, Theories and Methods Node

Embodied performances; space, place and mobilities in tourism; tourism as analytic tool for the SSHs; frictions and frictional geography; mobile methods and digital ethnography

FLAVIO RAVIOLA

Ideas Node

Greek historiography; Athenian democracy; archaic Greek society

TANIA ROSSETTO

Theories and Methods Node (Convenor)

Map mobilities; theories of mobility; repeat imagery as time-space movement

S

CARLOTTA SORBA

Theories and Methods Node, Objects Node

Cultural mobilities; theatre, music and mobility; political objects in motion

MAURO VAROTTO

Objects Node

Public geography and open science; mountain mobility; museum mobile heritage

MARIA VERONESE

Texts Node

Mobility of the Bible and Christian texts; translation studies; Greek into Latin; Latin into Greek

FRANCESCO VIANELLO

People Node

Merchants; artisans; families

ALFREDO VIGGIANO

Ideas Node

Early Modern Venetian Republic; political communication; myth and antimyth; languages of violence

MICHELA ZAGO

Texts Node

Ancient libraries; mythical and ritual use of substances; religious and philosophical systems of Late Antiquity; Greek into Coptic

MOHU CENTRE HONORARY MEMBERS

Peter Adey, Professor of Human Geography, Royal Holloway University of London

David Bissell, Associate Professor, Director of Research Capability, Melbourne Centre for Cities, School of Geography, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, Faculty of Science, The University of Melbourne

Tim Cresswell, Ogilvie Professor of Geography, University of Edinburgh

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Rosa Salzberg, Associate Professor of Early Modern History, Department of Sociology and Social Research, University of Trento

Mimi Sheller, Dean of The Global School, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

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Thomas J.J. Wallnig, Privatdoz., Institut für Geschichte - Archiv, Wien University.

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Raphaela Mouren, University of London and Warburg Institute