

Call for Papers

CLASSICS IN HAGIOGRAPHY

ORGANISERS: CARLOTA MIRANDA URBANO (UC) AND FILIPPO FORLANI (PUSC)

Born to celebrate the first heroes of Christianity, Christian hagiography was at its origins the place of meetings and mismatches, of continuity and rupture between the 'type' of hero that classical antiquity offered to public veneration (the warrior, the philosopher, the sage) and the new hero of Christianity, originally the martyr, then, in a broader concept, the saint. The confrontation between the two modes of heroism, pagan/classical and Christian, radically different but so similar in appearance, was crucial in the construction of the first profile of holiness, and even of Christian identity. Thus, whatever the perspective of study of Hagiography (philological, historical, sociological, political, theological, iconographic) will always benefit from consideration of its relationship with the classical matrix.

By its very nature, hagiography presents itself as a field especially suited to the education of the virtues and to the apologetics of Christianity, since its heroes, presenting *virtus* in action, always constitute models, *exempla ad imitandum*, and living arguments. *Longum est iter per praecepta, breve et efficax per exempla*, states Seneca in one of his letters to Lucillo (Epistle, n. 6.5), showing what value the ancients attributed to the 'good examples' to follow and how much their role was appreciated in the educational process. The Christians of the first centuries, educated at the school of the classics, assimilated this vast literary production, taking up in Christian literature the ancient canons and both rhetorical and literary devices.

This panel 'Classics in Hagiography' intends to be a space for the presentation of research results completed or in progress in the field of hagiography, in different historical periods and from different study perspectives: philological-literary, historical, political, sociological, theological, artistic, especially taking into account that classical matrix of which hagiography is also an heir.

Interested scholars are invited to submit abstracts of maximum 500 words with a short curriculum by 20th February 2023 (please send to both organisers camirurb@fl.uc.pt ; f.forlani@pusc.it)

- . Panel organisers will consider submissions in English, French and Portuguese.
- . There can be two types of paper, **40 min** or **20 min**. Please tell organisers which length you prefer for your presentation.
- . on-line presentations will be allowed, but it is mandatory at least 2/3 of the panel to be in-person. Please indicate whether you intend to participate in person or online when submitting your abstract.
- . Authors will be notified of the acceptance/rejection of the abstract submitted by March 1.

