Doctorate in History, Territory and Cultural Heritage

Doctoral Conference

February 18-20, 2026

"Every society was born within a specific mode of production, and the peculiarities of this framework have shaped its particular space"
Henri Lefebvre, The Production of Space (1974)

Call for papers

Jean Baptiste Camille Corot,
***La Cervara, Campagna romana* (1830-1831 ca),**
Cleveland, The Cleveland Museum of Art

INSIDE AND OUTSIDE

INHABITING TERRITORY

from the Ancient to the Present World

The first international conference of the doctoral program in History, Territory, and Cultural Heritage at Roma Tre University aims to provide an opportunity for interdisciplinary dialogue among doctoral students and young scholars whose research focuses on territory and its relationship with society.

Deadline for papers submission

8 October 2025

Roma Tre

Info and submission:
storiaterritoriopatrimonioroma3@outlook.it

DIPARTIMENTO DI STUDI UMANISTICI

DIPARTIMENTO DI ECCELLENZA 2023-2027

Presentation

The study of territory and its relationship with the communities that inhabit it is undergoing a profound epistemological transformation, evolving toward a global approach. This investigation extends to the interpretation of stratified landscapes through multidisciplinary analysis, employing GIS technologies that enable the management and visualization of spatial data, facilitating the analysis of site distribution, landscape modeling, and the reconstruction of settlement networks.
All the forms of inhabiting reveal the success of different social classes at the expense of others' marginalization: the theme of the margin thus becomes explicit about those social groups and cultural phenomena that have developed in close connection to their context, outside recognized centers or even in opposition to the social models imposed by the centers themselves.

From reflection on territory as a space of convergence for social, cultural, and artistic phenomena throughout the centuries emerges the concept of inside and outside. This expression refers not only to the question of center and periphery, already the subject of studies and theories (Prebisch, Lefebvre, Castelnuovo, Ginzburg...), but also to the variety and polarity, more or less arbitrary, that from antiquity to the present has characterized the perception of different forms of inhabiting.
Inside and outside also indicates the processes of inclusion and exclusion that have affected various social and cultural groups in both urban and non-urban realities, and that have been the subject of representations, reconstructions, and narratives. Hence emerges the theme of inhabiting territory, understood as a starting point for highlighting the ways in which, throughout history, human presence has imagined, transformed, and acted in places. From the interaction of social groups to the transformation of urban contexts, from participatory art to mapping, and from geographical discoveries to the imposition of the capitalist model, the theme of inhabiting territory allows for the analysis of the most varied social, cultural, artistic, and settlement phenomena.

This evolution brings with it a new responsibility: to valorize the connection between society and territory, promoting the participation of local communities in the protection and enhancement of heritage. In this sense, scholars play an increasingly crucial role not only in reconstructing the history of the landscape through the material manifestations of its exploitation and organization, but also as an instrument for fostering social inclusion and strengthening communities' sense of belonging to their places.

In this context, we propose to explore the multiple dimensions of inhabiting territory, examining the techniques and modalities of settlement, the management of urban space, the places of inhabiting—both in their material dimension and in their symbolic and represented dimension—as well as their products.

To assess the impact of different models of interaction between society and the territory across the ages, it is important to highlight the synergies and critical issues of each. Every form of inhabitation has generated marginalization in terms of spatial organization, access to resources, social justice and civil rights.
The evolution of figurative taste and the spread of artistic movements unfold within a complex geographical and cultural space, giving rise—especially in peripheral contexts—to distinctive modes of assimilation, reinterpretation and, in some cases, resistance to the impulses emanating from the cultural centers. Scholars and artists of every era have long engaged with the theme of “inside and outside,” understood also as “inclusion–exclusion,” exploring the complexity of the territory in which these phenomena occur and revealing their cultural and social impact.

Developing along diverse disciplinary and epistemological axes, the complex relationship between territory and society calls for archaeological, historical-geographical and art-historical reflections.

Lines of research

Respecting the strongly interdisciplinary nature of the PhD program in History, Territory and Cultural Heritage, contributions will be considered in the following thematic areas, with possible research directions listed under each:

Archaeology

- Relations and interactions between city and periphery: residential neighborhoods, places of worship, public spaces, production facilities, burial areas (urban and extra-urban), infrastructures;
- Development and decline: diachronic transformation of the territory; phases of construction, abandonment and reuse of buildings;
- Material culture: procurement and storage sites; artefact production, trade and circulation;
- Reconstruction of ancient urban spaces from literary, iconographic and epigraphic sources, up to virtual 3D restitutions;
- Relationship between local communities and cultural heritage.

History and Geography

- Geographies and histories of power: social dynamics between center and periphery, control of urban space and confinement;
- Interactions between natural and anthropogenic factors in the development of sustainable strategies;
- Dynamics of gentrification and touristification in contemporary metropolises: urban conflicts, security, re-appropriation of spaces;
- “Inside and outside” conflicts: reorganization of society and urban space in wartime and post-war contexts;
- Borders and frontiers: migration and citizenship policies; colonialism and the expansionism of states and empires

Art history

- Urban iconographic representations: social stratification, ceremonies, leading figures, poverty and marginality in visual languages (painting, graphic arts, photography);
- Circulation of artists, artworks and models: stylistic and iconographic influences, evolution of figurative taste, relationship with patronage and different social strata;
- Minorities’ engagement with representations of their own space (feminist and decolonial practices);
- Development of contemporary artistic expressions in relation to urban and/or rural spaces and their social, cultural and artistic traditions: environmental art, participatory art, site-specific works.

Submission Guidelines

PhD students and PhD scholars who obtained their degree no more than three years ago are invited to submit a proposal for a **20 minute** presentation. Proposals—either in Italian or English—must be sent as a single **PDF** and include:

- **Institutional details of the candidate** (institutional e-mail address and university affiliation);
- Indication of the **curricular program** to which the proposal refers;
- **Title of the contribution**;
- **Abstract** (max. **1,500 characters**, spaces included; title excluded);
- Reference **bibliography** (up to five titles).

Conference language: Italian and English

Deadline for submissions:
8 October 2025

Notification of selection results by:
20 November 2025

Proceedings will be published after double blind peer review

For papers submission

storiaterritoriopatrimonioroma3@outlook.it

Please note that the organizers do NOT cover travel or accommodation expenses.

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