

LOST CITIES IN A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Sources, Experience, Imagery
in Early Modern Period
(XV-XVIII century)

International Conference

organized by Giulia Ceriani Sebregondi,
Francesca Mattei, Danila Jacazzi

Scientific and organizational secretariat by
Giorgia Aureli and Giorgia Pietropaolo

Caserta, 16-17 October 2025

Rectorate Conference Hall

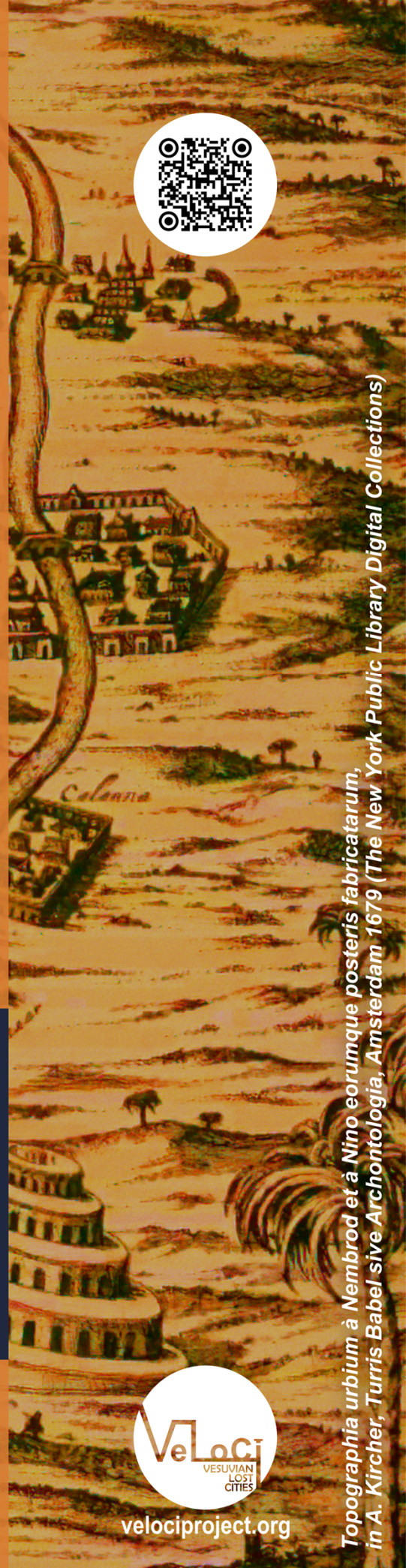
Università degli Studi della Campania "Luigi Vanvitelli"

Viale Ellittico, 31, 81100, Caserta, Italia

Participants: Adekunle Adeyemo, Gregorio Astengo,
Giorgia Aureli, Paolo Belardi, Josip Belamarić, Alessandro Brodini,
Arianna Campiani, Maria Carolina Campone, Stefania Castellana,
Federica Causarano, Giulia Ceriani Sebregondi, Delia Cosentino,
Francesca Funis, Lorenzo Gatta, Diletta Haberl, Danila Jacazzi,
Concetta Lenza, Daniel Fernando Macías Parra,
Juan Carlos Mantilla, Francesca Mattei, Alper Metin,
Giorgia Pietropaolo, Giuseppe Pignatelli Spinazzola,
Milena Viceconte, Lorenzo Vigotti

PRIN 2022 PROJECT

The Vesuvian Lost Cities before the "Discovery".
Source, Experience, Imagery in Early Modern Period



velociproject.org

Topographia urbium à Nembro et à Nino eorumque posteris fabricatarum,
in A. Kircher, Turris Babel sive Archontologia, Amsterdam 1679 (The New York Public Library Digital Collections)



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LOST CITIES IN A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

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Thursday, 16 October 2025

10:00 **Welcome Address and Institutional greetings**
Opening of the works

First session

**Textual Sources for
the Reconstruction of
Lost Cities**

Chair:
Giulia Ceriani Sebregondi
Università degli Studi della Campania "Luigi Vanvitelli"

10:30 **Il territorio di Pompei in età moderna**
Danila Jacazzi
Università degli Studi della Campania "Luigi Vanvitelli"

10:50 **In Search of the Lost Palace. The First Attempts at an Ideal
Reconstruction of Diocletian's Palace in Split**
Josip Belamarić
Institute of Art History in Split; Department of Art History, University of Split

11:10 **Pirro Ligorio e le città vesuviane**
Francesca Mattei
Università degli Studi Roma Tre

11:30 **Coffee Break**

12:00 **Views of Palmyra in the 17th and 18th centuries**
Gregorio Astengo
IE School of Architecture and Design, Madrid/ Segovia

12:20 **Il mito etrusco nelle narrazioni dell'origine delle città campane
scomparse**
Concetta Lenza
Università degli Studi della Campania "Luigi Vanvitelli"

12:40 **Panel Discussion**

13:10 **Light Lunch**

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Second Session

Lost Cities between Antiquarian Research and Material Exploration

Chair:

Francesca Mattei

Università degli Studi Roma Tre

- 14:10** **“Certi belli sassi et prede piccade antiquissime”: il Lapidarium quattrocentesco di Brescia**
Alessandro Brodini
Università degli Studi di Firenze
- 14:30** **When were the Vesuvian lost cities discovered? Traces and Evidence about Ancient Stabiae in the Early Modern Period**
Giulia Ceriani Sebregondi
Università degli Studi della Campania “Luigi Vanvitelli”
- 14:50** **La rocca Paolina di Perugia: una città sepolta che ha custodito la memoria della città medievale**
Paolo Belardi, Francesca Funis
Università degli Studi di Perugia
- 15:10** **Tea Break**
- 15:40** **Beneath Resina: Traces of Herculaneum before the excavations**
Giorgia Pietropaolo
Università degli Studi della Campania “Luigi Vanvitelli”
- 16:00** **Il luogo del convento francescano di San Gabriel a Cholula (Messico)**
Daniel Fernando Macías Parra
Università Iuav di Venezia
- 16:20** **Da Corpus Civitatis a casale collinare. Distruzioni e rifondazioni della Città Nova dell’Annunziata di Massa Lubrense**
Giuseppe Pignatelli Spinazzola
Università degli Studi della Campania “Luigi Vanvitelli”
- 16:40** **Panel Discussion**

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Friday, 17 October 2025

Third Session

Visual Culture and Cartography, Travel and Exploration Reports

Chair:

Alessandro Brodini

Università degli Studi di Firenze

9:30

The City of Soltaniyeh in northern Iran

Lorenzo Vigotti

Alma Mater Studiorum – Università di Bologna

9:50

**Percorrendo le città vesuviane di XV e XVI secolo tra
narrazione e osservazione dell'antico**

Giorgia Aureli

Università degli Studi Roma Tre

10:10

**Phantom Cities of the Living Library: The Early Modern
Imagining of Amazonian Urbanscapes**

Juan Carlos Mantilla

King's College London

10:30

Coffee Break

11:00

**La presenza delle città sepolte nella produzione vedutistica
cinque e seicentesca**

Milena Viceconte

Universitat de Lleida

11:20

**La morte o la sopravvivenza della città antica per eccellenza:
Atene osservata da Cornelio Magni (1674), viaggiatore
parmigiano nel mondo ottomano**

Alper Metin

I Tatti - The Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies

11:40

**La riscoperta delle città perdute in Abruzzo nel periodo del
Grand Tour**

Diletta Haberl

Università degli Studi dell'Aquila

12:00

**La “riscoperta” della città maya di Palenque: vedute e
interpretazioni tra il XVIII e XIX secolo**

Arianna Campiani

Sapienza Università di Roma

12:20

Panel Discussion

12:50

Light Lunch

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Friday, 17 October 2025

Fourth Session

Myth, Imaginary, and Cultural Memory

Chair:
Milena Viceconte
Universitat de Lleida

- 13:50** **Frammenti di Roma perduta: l'immagine della Domus Aurea nella prima età moderna**
Federica Causarano
Università degli Studi Roma Tre
- 14:10** **Hochelaga's Transatlantic Afterlife, 1535–1678 (Canada)**
Lorenzo Gatta
I Tatti - The Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies
- 14:30** **Gladiators in Altera Roma: Tenochtitlan in the European Imagination (Mexico)**
Delia Cosentino
DePaul University, Chicago
- 14:50** **Tea Break**
- 15:20** **L'oro, le conchiglie, l'assenza: identità e memoria della Taranto 'perduta' negli appunti di viaggiatori europei ed eruditi tra Settecento e Ottocento**
Stefania Castellana
Università del Salento
- 15:40** **Costantinopoli "seconda Pompei": il mito della città sepolta dai Patria Costantinopolitana alla letteratura odepórica di epoca moderna**
Maria Carolina Campone
Scuola Militare "Nunziatella" di Napoli
- 16:00** **The lost city of Oyo-Ile in Yoruba Cultural Memory and Identity**
Adekunle Adeyemo
Redeemer's University, Ede, Nigeria
- 16:20** **Panel Discussion**
- 16:50** **Closing Roundtable and Conclusions**
Giulia Ceriani Sebregondi, Francesca Mattei, Danila Jacazzi

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Practical Information

Accommodation

Speakers will be accommodated at **Hotel Europa Art Caserta**, Via Roma, 19 - 81100 Caserta (CE)

Sightseeing Suggestions

Please find below a selection of places of interest conveniently accessible from the conference venue and the hotel.

Reggia di Caserta (Royal Palace of Caserta)

 UNESCO Site (<https://reggiadicaserta.cultura.gov.it/en>)

 To visit the Royal Palace, the Royal Park, and the English Garden, the entrance is at *Piazza Carlo di Borbone, 81100 Caserta* (the square in front of Caserta train station)

To visit only the Royal Park and the English Garden, the entrance is at *Corso Pietro Giannone, 5, 81100 Caserta*

 The site can be reached **on foot**: - from **Caserta** railway station, about 8 minutes; - from the **hotel**, about 3 minutes; - from the **Rectorate**, about 10 minutes

 Opening hours Royal Palace: 08:30 - 18:15 (last entry: 18:10)

Opening hours Bosco Vecchio and Via d'Acqua: 08:30 - 17:30 (last entry: 16:30)

Opening hours English Garden: 08:30 - 17:00 (last entry: 16:00)

Closed on Tuesdays

 Students, PhD candidates, and faculty from European Union institutions are granted free admission upon presentation of a valid university ID card

Complesso monumentale del Real Belvedere di San Leucio (Belvedere di San Leucio monumental complex, 18th-century royal palace, silk factory, and workers village)

 UNESCO Site (<http://www.sanleucio.it/sanleucio>)

 Entrance at *Via del Setificio, 5, 81100, San Leucio di Caserta CE*

 The site can be reached **by bus**, from **Caserta** railway station: line 04-UC "Linea Seta", Stop: "S. Leucio, Piazza della Seta - Viale I Ottobre," travel time approx. 16 minutes

 Opening hours (guided visits): Morning 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM, Afternoon 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM
Closed on Wednesday afternoons

 Located within the complex is **Officina Vanvitelli**, a research and teaching facility of the Department of Architecture and Industrial Design (DADI) (<https://www.architettura.unicampania.it/dipartimento/strutture-del-dipartimento/officina-vanvitelli>)

 Students and faculty of state universities can access at a reduced rate upon presentation of a valid university ID card

Parco Archeologico di Ercolano (Archaeological Park of Herculaneum)

 UNESCO Site (<https://ercolano.cultura.gov.it/?lang=en>)

 Entrance at *Corso Resina, 187, 80056, Ercolano NA*

 The site can be reached **by train**, from **Naples**, Garibaldi station: Circumvesuviana (EAV) L4 line – Napoli-Torre Annunziata-Poggiomarino, Stop: "Ercolano Scavi," approx. 18 minutes travel time

 Opening hours: 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM (last entry 3:30 PM), Open daily

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Oplontis Excavations – Villa Poppea

 UNESCO Site (<https://pompeiiisites.org/en/oplontis/>)

 Entrance at *Via dei Sepolcri, 80058, Torre Annunziata NA*

 The site can be reached **by train** from **Naples**, Garibaldi station: Circumvesuviana (EAV) L1 line – Napoli-Sorrento, Stop: "Torre Annunziata - Oplonti," approx. 25 minutes travel time; Circumvesuviana (EAV) L4 line – Napoli-Torre Annunziata-Poggiomarino, Stop: "Torre Annunziata - Oplonti," approx. 36 minutes travel time

 Opening hours: 9:00 AM - 7:00 PM (last entry 6:00 PM), Closed on Tuesdays

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Practical Information

Villa Regina (Boscotrecase) – Antiquarium

 UNESCO Site (<https://pompeisites.org/en/boscotrecase/>)

 Entrance at *viale Villa Regina, 1, 80041, Boscotrecase NA*

 The site can be reached **by train** from **Naples**, Garibaldi station: Circumvesuviana (EAV) L1 line – Naples-Sorrento, Stop: “Villa Regina,” approx. 26 minutes travel time

 Opening hours: 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM (last entry 7:00 PM), Open daily

 Students, PhD candidates, and faculty from European Union institutions are granted free admission upon presentation of a valid university ID card

Parco Archeologico di Pompei (Archaeological Park of Pompeii)

 UNESCO Site (<https://pompeisites.org/en/>)

 The park entrances are located at: *via villa dei Misteri, 80045, Pompei NA* (Porta Marina); *piazza Porta Marina Inferiore, 80045, Pompei NA* (Piazza Esedra)

 The site can be reached **by train** from **Naples**, Garibaldi station: Circumvesuviana (EAV) L1 line – Naples-Sorrento, Stop: “Pompei Scavi Villa dei Misteri,” approx. 30 minutes travel time

 Opening hours: 9:00 AM - 7:00 PM (last entry 5:30 PM), Open daily

 Students, PhD candidates, and faculty from European Union institutions are granted free admission upon presentation of a valid university ID card

Stabiae Excavations – Villa Arianna, Villa San Marco

 UNESCO Site (<https://pompeisites.org/en/stabiae/>)

 Entrance to Villa Arianna: *Strada Varano, 1, 80053 Castellammare di Stabia NA*

Entrance to Villa San Marco: *via Passeggiata Archeologica, 80053, Castellammare di Stabia NA*

 The site can be reached **by train**, from **Naples**, Garibaldi station: Circumvesuviana (EAV) L1 line – Naples-Sorrento, Stop: “Castellammare di Stabia - Via Nocera,” approx. 45 minutes travel time

 Opening hours: 9:00 AM - 7:00 PM (last entry 6:00 PM)

Closed on Tuesdays

 Students, PhD candidates, and faculty from European Union institutions are granted free admission upon presentation of a valid university ID card

Reggia di Quisisana - Museo archeologico di Stabia ‘Libero D’Orsi’ (Royal Palace of Quisisana - Archaeological Museum of Stabia ‘Libero D’Orsi’)

 UNESCO Site (<https://pompeisites.org/en/reggia-quisisana/52208-2/>)

 The museum, housed in the Royal Palace of Quisisana, is located at *viale Ippocastani, 80053, Castellammare di Stabia NA*

 The site can be reached **by train** from **Naples**, Garibaldi station: Circumvesuviana (EAV) L1 line – Naples-Sorrento, Stop: “Castellammare di Stabia,” approx. 50 minutes travel time; then head to Piazza Giovanni XXIII and take EAV bus line 305 or 307, get off at the stop “Via Panoramica, df Quisisana”

 Opening hours: 9:00 AM - 7:00 PM (last entry 6:00 PM)

Closed on Tuesdays

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Excursion to Mount Vesuvius (Gran Cono)

 (<httphttps://www.parconazionalevesuvio.it/en/visit-the-park/the-paths/the-great-cono-2-2/>)

 Access hours to the crater: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

 Tickets must be purchased exclusively online

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Many cities, all over the world, have disappeared over the centuries, abandoned – but perhaps never forgotten – destroyed by natural disasters or buried under new urban layers, re-emerging for different reasons. Fascinating historians, explorers, archaeologists, architects, and artists, the ‘lost cities’ - both literally and metaphorically - have continued to exist in literary sources, descriptions, chronicles, and sometimes in iconographic representations.

Starting from the case study of the Vesuvian cities, the international conference *Lost Cities in a Global Perspective: Sources, Experience, Imagery in Early Modern Period (XV-XVIII century)* is aimed to investigate in an interdisciplinary and comparative way the material and imaginary dimensions assumed by the lost cities in a global perspective, before the birth of archaeology as a science in the 18th-19th century.

Contacts

Giorgia Aureli
Giorgia Pietropaolo

giorgia.aureli@uniroma3.it
giorgia.pietropaolo@unicampania.it

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