

NEW METROPOLITAN PERSPECTIVES 2022

FOCUS SESSIONS - FS

FS-IC10

THE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE OF THE BYZANTINE MEDITERRANEAN: BETWEEN MONASTERIES, SETTLEMENT SYSTEMS AND INTANGIBLE HERITAGE

Keywords: Byzantium; Italo-Greek Monasticism; Mediterranean Networks; Byzantine City; Byzantine Archaeology.

Among all the regions and provinces belonging to the Byzantine world, Southern Italy certainly cannot be considered a merely liminal periphery of the Eastern Roman Empire: it was certainly influenced but also able to foster an autonomous “language”. This can be documented in the different territories or areas overlooking the Mediterranean Sea that were influenced by Constantinople. Their investigation and mapping is still a complex task or, so to speak, a running bet. The aims of this research section is to launch a fresh inquiry, trying to provide a new “cartography”, draw a new map of the Byzantine Mediterranean - keeping in mind all its previous identities and variables (on the political, social, human, cultural, religious and architectural ground) – as a valuable and usable instrument toward the cultural heritage and the local entities. The analysis of archaeological, artistic, historical, philological and literary data related to urban areas, settlement systems and rural areas – with all the potential datasets – will help us, in one hand, to understand the natural and the anthropic landscape of the long-term Byzantine Mediterranean; on the other, to open new interpretative perspectives providing keys for the revaluation of the landscape itself and its cultural heritage with an eye to cultural, economic and social revival. Specifically, the contribution on THE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE OF THE BYZANTINE MEDITERRANEAN will investigate theoretical or methodological issues or specific case studies, with a special attention to:

- The tangible heritage: *settlement systems as a defense of the territory; historical road networks; religious architecture*
- Knowledge and conservation: *IT System, database, GIS; Survey and Digital Modelling; Construction Materials and Techniques; Archaeology of Architecture; Archaeological Topography; Architectural Preservation Projects*
- Communities: social dynamics and forms of power, land and resources management
- The intangible heritage: *Archives and Texts. Religions and Rites. Food and Society. Arts and Crafts*
- The territory and its resources: hydrogeological structure and natural assets
- Recovery and enhancement: the territory and its cultural heritage and natural assets, models of touristic management and organizations
- Rethinking the Byzantine Mediterranean Today: the European Landscape Convention and the Cultural landscape of Byzantine Calabria.

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