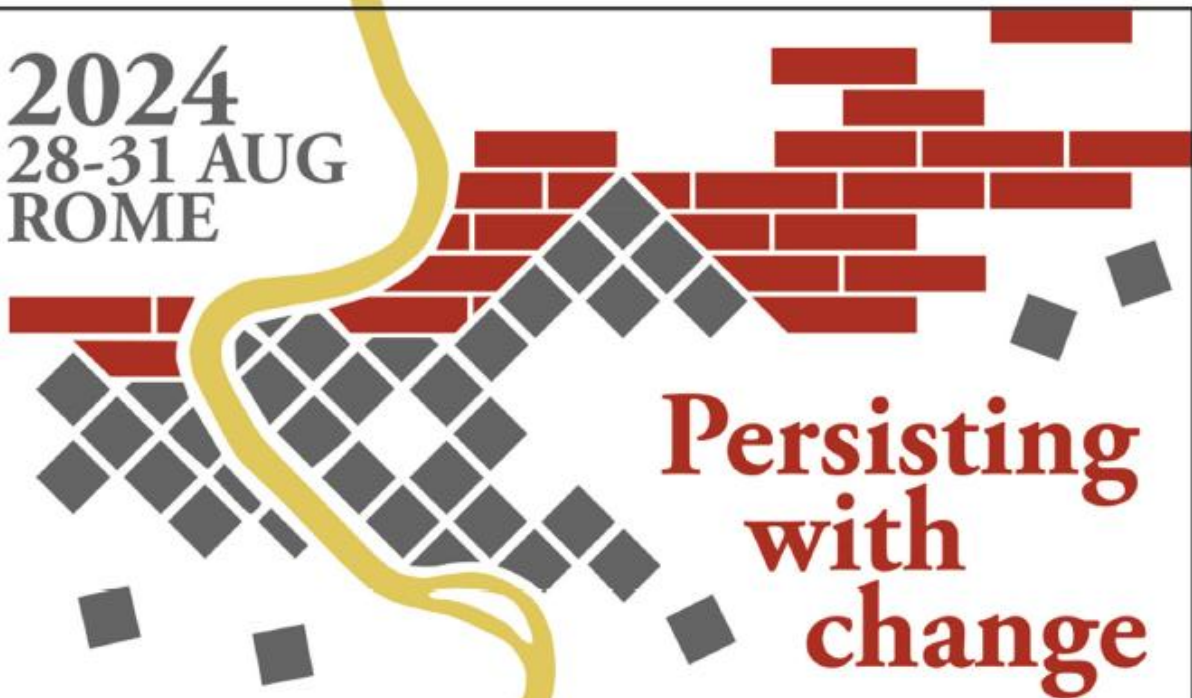


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August 28<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>  
Rome - Italy



## 510 ROME'S PLACE IN AN EPONYMOUS EMPIRE

**Session theme:** 5. All Roads Lead to Rome: Multiscalar Interactions

**Session organisers:** Hanson, John (University of Oxford) - Ortman, Scott (University of Colorado) - Bellviure Perez, Joel (University of Oxford) - Dominici, Corso (University of Oxford)

**Session format:** Regular session

Over the last few decades, there has been significant debate about the place of Rome within the Roman Empire, with scholars suggesting, adopting, critiquing, and rejecting various models of imperialism, colonization, acculturation, resistance, and hybridization, often in response to contemporary social and economic events. At the same time, the combination of recent and on-going excavations and multiple revolutions in archaeological theory and practice, the storage, manipulation, and dissemination of information, and the digital and computational interpretation of ancient remains means that we have never been better informed about the material life of the capital and its relationship to the provinces. The aim of this session is therefore to take the opportunity to reflect on the place of Rome in the empire that bears its name, and its role within the imperial system. In particular, it will consider, first, the extent to which recent discoveries allow us to reassess the demography, topography, and socio-economic conditions of the capital, and, secondly, what newer theoretical models, more powerful computational approaches, and more thoughtful modes of synthesis reveal about the relationship between the capital and other communities. We would therefore welcome contributions that either allow us to reassess the relationship between Rome and the wider empire using new theoretical, computational, syncretical approaches, or that allow us to trace the interactions between them through the lens of social and cultural transmission or the exchange of material remains. Contributions to the session may therefore come in a variety of forms, from direct reports from fieldwork projects to the results of longer-term research initiatives, and could cover a range of types of evidence, from art and architecture to epigraphy, numismatics, ceramics, and bioarchaeological and archaeobotanical evidence.

### ABSTRACTS

#### UNDERSTANDING ROME BEYOND THE BOUNDARIES OF ITS EMPIRE ROME IN THE CONTEXT OF THE GLOBALIZING WORLD OF ANCIENT AFRO-EURASIA

Tevdovski, Ljuben (Institute of History and Archaeology, Goce Delcev University)

The application of the theory of globalization to the ancient world created dramatic changes in our approach to the research of cultures, nations, cities, and empires of Ancient Afro-Eurasia and beyond. Its contributions in archaeological theory promote strongly the ideas of constant interaction and interconnectedness, and multidirectional flow of ideas and materials throughout wider areas of the ancient world. Rejecting the traditional and pervasive concept of “cultural containers”, this emerging methodological model provides unique critique and promising alternatives to various previously proposed or dominant models of approach, such as: imperialism, colonization, acculturation, resistance, or hybridization.

This contribution utilizes the globalization theory and recent advances in archaeological theory and practice that reveal the multidirectional wide-scale flow of materials, ideas, knowledge, and technological know-how in the last millennia BC. It also reconstructs an ancient oikumene of interconnectedness that extended through and related communities, urban centers, and wider areas from the Indian to the Atlantic Ocean.

In such context, I suggest a new understanding of the urban growth and living and the cultural, demographic, and social transformations of the city of Rome through a wider comparative matrix of the urban developments of the globalizing world of Ancient Afro-Eurasia. I hypothesize three phases of the development and transformation of the city of Rome during the Roman imperial times. The first phase of the development of the city from the reign of Augustus to the reign of the Flavians is analyzed through the lenses of “building of a new post-Hellenistic dynastic center”. The analyses of the second phase, track the process of “becoming critical center of the post-Hellenistic globalizing world”, and extend throughout the second century AD. Finally, the third phase of the hypotheses, exposes a marginalized urban core on the fringes of the globalized post-Hellenistic world as early as the third century AD.