



**INTERNATIONAL  
CONFERENCE OF THE  
ENSTARH**

**ND**



**26–28  
March  
2026**

**Ludovika  
University  
of Public  
Service**

# 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference of the ENSTARH

European Network for the Study and Teaching  
of Ancient Roman History

Ludovika University of Public Service (Budapest, Hungary)  
István Nemeskürty Faculty of Teacher Training  
Department of History and Social Studies  
Centre for the Study of Roman State and Provincial Administration

date: 26–28 March 2026

Venue: **Ludovika University of Public Service**  
Ludovika Main Building, Saint Ladislaus Chapel,  
(2 Ludovika square, Budapest, 1083)



# CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

## Day 1 (26 March)

- 9:30–10:15 **Registration**  
10:30–10:40 Opening address: Gábor István Kovács (Vice Dean, Faculty of Teacher Training, Ludovika Univ.)  
10:40–10:50 Opening address: Gabriele La Posta (Istituto Italiano di Budapest): **Roma oltre Roma**  
10:50–11:30 Keynote: Livio Zerbini (Univ. of Ferrara): **Why is Rome important today?**  
11:30–12:10 Keynote: Gergely Deli (Rector, Ludovika Univ.): **Did It Come In Handy? Factors Helping the Spread of Christianity in the Roman Empire**  
12:10–14:00 *Lunch break*

## Session I – Roman Law

- 14:00–14:40 Chair: Gergely Deli  
14:00–14:20 Gábor Hamza: **Marcus Tullius Cicero's Concept on the Roman State (res publica)**  
14:20–14:40 Attila Pókecz Kovács: **Le rôle et le statut de l'enseignement du droit public romain en Hongrie au XXI<sup>e</sup> siècle**  
14:40–14:50 Discussion  
14:50–15:50 Chair: Attila Pókecz Kovács  
14:50–15:10 Imre Áron Illés: **Financial Regulations in Roman Municipal Charters**  
15:10–15:30 Miklós Kelemen: **Beiträge zum Begriff des spätrömischen öffentlichen Dienstes, der militia**  
15:30–15:50 Discussion  
15:50–16:20 *Coffee break*

## Session 2 – Roman History

- 16:20–17:40 Chair: Ádám Nagyernyei Szabó  
16:20–16:40 Dániel Bajnok: **From Myth to Province: The Evolution of the Concept of Europe in Greek and Roman Antiquity**  
16:40–17:00 Orsolya Tóth: **Efforts to Halt the Decline of Learning in Late Imperial Rome: Modern Lessons from an Ancient Example**  
17:00–17:20 Marek Babic: **Podcasting as a New Modality for the Study and Dissemination of Roman History**  
17:20–17:40 Discussion  
17:40–17:50 Closing remarks: Gábor Hamza  
17:50–21:00 **Dinner**

## Day 2 (27 March)

### Session 2 – Roman History (continued)

- 9:00–10:20 Chair: Péter Forisek  
9:00–9:20 Simona Regep – Nicolae Hurduzeu: **Echoes of the Roman Urban Model in the Development of Modern Cities in the Province of Dacia**  
9:20–9:40 Radu Ardevan: **The Roman past today: what do we disseminate?**  
9:40–10:00 Csaba Szabó: **Roman religion in the Digital Age: trends and perspectives of online dissemination**  
10:00–10:20 Discussion  
10:20–10:40 Coffee break  
10:40–12:00 Chair: Radu Ardevan  
10:40–11:00 Ádám Nagyernyei Szabó: **A special altar with several stories**  
11:00–11:20 Dávid Petruț: **Ancient Roman lamps as sources for identity and human mobility. Two case studies from Dacia**  
11:20–11:40 Péter Forisek: **The strategy and constructions of the Roman army in Cappadocia during the first two centuries of the Principate**  
11:40–12:00 Discussion  
12:00–14:00 **Lunch break**

### Session 3 – Linguistics

- 14:00–15:40 Chair: Andrea Barta  
14:00–14:20 Attila Ferenczi: **Teaching Latin in Hungary: Past and Future**  
14:20–14:40 László Jankovics: **The canon in Latin instruction: barrier or gateway?**

- 14:40–15:00 Annamária Adamčíková: **The Battle for Latin in Secondary Schools during the First Czechoslovak Republic**  
15:00–15:20 Dániel Seres: **Language awareness in Rome – Grammarians vs the man on the street**  
15:20–15:40 Discussion  
15:40–16:10 Coffee break  
16:10–17:30 Chair: Dániel Seres  
16:10–16:30 Eugenia Beu-Dachin: **The Power of Museums: Transferring Cultural Knowledge from Ancient Sources to Contemporary Society**  
16:30–16:50 Andrea Barta – Katalin Fogarasi – Katalin Varga: **Not a Dead Language: Classical Latin in Modern Hungarian Medical Practice and Education**  
16:50–17:10 Dóra Bohacsek: **Classical Roots, Digital Branches: Latin Botanical Knowledge from Antiquity to Instagram**  
17:10–17:30 Discussion  
17:30–17:40 Closing remarks: Radu Ardevan  
17:40–21:00 **Dinner**

## Day 3 (28 March)

### Session 4 – Archaeology

- 9:00–10:20 Chair: Dávid Bartus  
9:00–9:20 Szilamér Péter Pánczél – Orsolya Szilágyi: **Snapshots from the Life of an Archaeological Park: A Decade of Community Engagement at the Călugăreni/Mikháza Archaeological Park**  
9:20–9:40 Orsolya Láng: **“How to care for your Roman remains”... or best practices in preserving Budapest’s Roman heritage**  
9:40–10:00 Péter Kovács: **Another rain miracle under Emperor Probus**  
10:00–10:20 Discussion  
10:20–10:50 Coffee break  
10:50–12:10 Chair: Péter Kovács  
10:50–11:10 Dániel Szabó: **Caesar in Gaul**  
11:10–11:30 Felix Marcu: **Battlescapes of Early Dacia: Reconstructing Roman–Dacian Conflict Landscapes through Interdisciplinary Archaeology**  
11:30–11:50 Dávid Bartus: **Artificial Intelligence: Applications and Implications for Archaeology**  
11:50–12:10 Discussion  
12:10–12:20 Closing remarks: Felix Marcu  
12:20–14:00 **Lunch break**  
after 14:00 **Optional programme – Hungarian National Museum**

# ABSTRACTS

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

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### **Did It Come In Handy? Factors Helping the Spread of Christianity in the Roman Empire**

**Gergely Deli**

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*Ludovika University of Public Service (Budapest)*

The main argument of my lecture is that at the turn of the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD, three important changes took place in Roman society which pointed in new directions that were congruent with some of the characteristics of Christianity. On the one hand, a new need for a universal system of social norms emerged in the imperial administration. On the other hand, traditional and retrospective Roman morality was being replaced by a more future-oriented moral narrative. The third major change was the emergence of a profane, political version of messianic expectations. This triple need for a universal moral order, faith in the future, and a messianic attitude embodied by the emperor, was so strong that it made reform attempts inevitable in the legislation and organisation of the state. It is worth reflecting on these factors, as they bring to light new considerations that have received less attention until now, but nonetheless facilitated the general acceptance of Christianity.

## SESSION 1 – ROMAN LAW

### Why is Rome important today?

#### Livio Zerbini

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Università degli Studi di Ferrara

Ancient Rome is not the past, but it is the invisible structure of our present. Valuing and promoting the study of Roman Civilization means going to the roots of our European identity and where we are going as a global society. Among Rome's main legacies are the concept of open citizenship, technological innovation, the ability to manage complexity, and the capacity for resilience. Rome left us not only marble ruins, but a prototype of a global civilization that was able to respond to the challenges of complexity through pragmatism, integration, and infrastructural innovation.

### Marcus Tullius Cicero's Concept on the Roman State (res publica)

#### Gábor Hamza

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Marcus Tullius Cicero wrote his most voluminous work, the fictive dialogue *De re publica* between 54 and 51 B.C., commemorating the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of Rome (Urbs). Cicero describes in this work the characteristic features of the *optimus status civitatis* or *libera respublica* i.e. the ideal form of the Roman State. The author of the dialogue is dealing also with the most important social and political questions i. e. problems of his own age availing himself of his own lengthy political career (quaestor in 76 B.C., aedilis curulis in 69 B.C., praetor in 66 B.C. and consul in 63 B.C.). He tries to identify the „ideal State” with the *res publica Romana* of his own age. Cicero does not mention i.e. enumerate the theoretical sources (*fontes*) of his work. According to Marcus Tullius Cicero the most fundamental basis of the Roman State is the *concordia omnium* i.e. the *consensus omnium bonorum*. The *consensus* requires the *consensus* of *omnes ordines*, including *homines tenues* or *tenuiores* and *plebs* i.e. of the entire *populus Romanus*. The *civilis prudentia* has the task to foresee the future. Cicero emphasizes the autochthonous development of the Roman State. The *utilitas communis* and the *bonum commune* are the pillars i.e. fundamentals of the *optimus status civitatis*. The author of the study points out that Marcus Tullius Cicero does not mention the political and philosophical sources of the *De re publica*. Mentioning deserves that according to Wilhelm Dilthey Cicero's *De re publica* is „one of the most beautiful works of the world prose”.

*Keywords: bonum commune, concordia omnium, consensus omnium bonorum, libera res publica, optimus status civitatis, utilitas communis*

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## Le rôle et le statut de l'enseignement du droit public romain en Hongrie au XXI<sup>e</sup> siècle

**Attila Pókecz Kovács**

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En Hongrie, depuis les débuts de l'enseignement universitaire (depuis 1667) jusqu'à nos jours, l'enseignement du droit romain est une matière obligatoire dans la formation des juristes. Dans le cadre de l'enseignement du droit romain, les étudiants se familiarisent principalement avec les sources du droit et les institutions du droit privé, ainsi les thèmes du droit public n'étant présentés que de manière brève et schématique. Cela est d'autant plus regrettable que les plus éminents juristes du droit privé romain, Papinianus, Ulpianus et Paulus, étaient également de hauts fonctionnaires, ce qui leur a permis d'accomplir un travail de haut niveau dans le cadre de l'État romain, tout en développant le droit public romain. Outre le développement du droit public romain, celui-ci peut également intéresser les étudiants en droit, car l'Empire romain a été l'un des États les plus anciens de l'histoire mondiale et nombre de ses solutions en matière de droit public ont servi de modèle à la science politique des époques suivantes.

L'enseignement du droit public romain fait partie du programme scolaire de plusieurs pays européens, notamment en Italie et en France, où il connaît un grand succès. Malheureusement, en Hongrie, les étudiants en droit ne peuvent acquérir des connaissances dans ce domaine que dans le cadre de cours optionnels. Depuis le début du XX<sup>e</sup> siècle, de nombreuses propositions ont été faites en vue d'introduire l'enseignement obligatoire de cette matière, mais ce n'est qu'à partir des années 1990 que des progrès ont été réalisés. János Zlinszky (1928–2015), doyen fondateur de la faculté de droit de l'Université Catholique de Budapest a joué un rôle prépondérant dans ce domaine.

La conférence examine tout d'abord l'influence du droit public romain sur les connaissances des juristes d'aujourd'hui et sur les institutions du droit public moderne. Dans ce contexte, je présente quelques juristes (Montesquieu, Mommsen) dont les travaux ont

jeté les bases de l'enseignement et de la recherche modernes. Je mentionne également certaines institutions du droit public romain (senatus, tribunus plebis, princeps senatus, etc.) qui ont servi de modèle aux institutions modernes du droit public, dont elles étaient en quelque sorte les précurseurs. Dans la deuxième partie de la présentation, je m'efforcerai de présenter l'état actuel de la discipline à travers des exemples d'enseignement du droit public romain dans les universités hongroises depuis les années 2000.

*Keywords: droit public romain, enseignement du droit romain, institution romaine du droit public, Mommsen*

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## Financial Regulations in Roman Municipal Charters

**Imre Áron Illés**

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This paper examines the financial regulatory framework preserved in the Roman municipal charters (lex Irnitana, lex Ursonensis, tabula Heracleensis). These legal texts provide unusually detailed insight into how local communities organized fiscal administration under the late Republic and the early Empire. By analysing provisions on taxation, public revenues, municipal expenditures, and the responsibilities of magistrates, the study reconstructs the normative expectations that shaped economic governance at the local level. Examining complementary evidence from the Digesta, inscriptions, and papyrological material allows a broader contextualization of municipal financial practice. Special attention is given to the mechanisms of accountability, including rules on auditing, penalties for mismanagement, and procedures for handling public funds. The paper places particular emphasis on examining the balance between the autonomy of local communities and the claims and pressures of imperial administration.

*Keywords: administration, finance, Roman municipal charters*

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## Beiträge zum Begriff des spätrömischen öffentlichen Dienstes, der militia

### Miklós Kelemen

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Das Römische Kaiserreich verfügte – im Vergleich zur Größe und Bedeutung des Reichs – über einen niedrigen Personalstand. In diesem „unterorganisierten“ System in dieser „Regierung ohne Beamtenapparat“ (Government without Bureaucracy) wurden die Verwaltungsaufgaben größtenteils mit Hilfe von Privatpersonen: von Personen die mit den hohen Beamten persönlich verbunden waren, sowie von zu Verwaltungsaufgaben verpflichteten hohen Beamten in den Städten, (sogenannte: die curiales) gelöst.

Erst in der späten Kaiserzeit bestand ein organisierter „öffentlicher Dienst“ aus Berufsbeamten, dessen Name immer noch an das Militär erinnerte, die militia officialis.

Unser kurzes Referat liefert einige Beiträge zum Begriff der spätrömischen militia (officialis), danach wird – am Beispiel der Provinzregierungen – untersucht, inwiefern der Römische Beamtenapparat mit niedrigem Personalstand im Stande war, die Aufgaben der „Verwaltung“ im heutigen Sinne des Wortes zu bewältigen.

*Keywords: militia, Römischer Staatsdienst, Römische Regierungsgeschichte*

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## SESSION 2 – ROMAN HISTORY

### From Myth to Province: The Evolution of the Concept of Europe in Greek and Roman Antiquity

### Dániel Bajnok

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The concept of Europe is often regarded as a fundamental element of modern cultural and political identity, yet its origins lie in the traditions of Greco-Roman antiquity. This paper examines the evolution of the concept of Europa from its earliest mythological associations to its institutionalization as an administrative unit in the later Roman Empire, highlighting its enduring relevance as part of the Roman heritage that continues to shape Europe today. In literature, Europa first appears as a mythological figure, but already in Herodotus the term emerges as one of the principal divisions of the inhabited world. Later authors, influenced by the emergence of the Roman empire (including Polybius, Strabo, and Pliny the Elder), adopt and systematize this geographical framework, integrating Europe into a broader imperial world-view centred on political organization, territorial knowledge, and cultural cohesion. At the same time, epigraphic evidence reveals a striking contrast: while Europa appears frequently as a personal name (especially among enslaved and freed women) it rarely serves as a marker of collective identity in everyday social practice. The final stage of this development in antiquity is represented by the creation of the province of Europa in the administrative reforms of Diocletian, where the term acquired specific territorial and institutional meaning within the Roman imperial system. By combining literary and epigraphic evidence, this paper argues that antiquity provided the conceptual and administrative foundations for Europe as a defined space, demonstrating how the Roman articulation of geography, governance, and territorial identity remains an essential component of Europe's cultural and historical heritage.

*Keywords: Europa; Greek and Roman geography; epigraphy; provincial administration*

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## Efforts to Halt the Decline of Learning in Late Imperial Rome: Modern Lessons from an Ancient Example

**Orsolya Tóth**

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Authors of the late imperial period frequently lament in their works that their contemporaries are unfamiliar with the literature of earlier eras; even when they do read older authors, these tend mostly to belong to the realm of entertaining literature. As a result, they are unaware of the origin and true meaning of many ancient words and therefore use them incorrectly. Educated members of the elite often also express dissatisfaction with the shortage of teachers of grammar (grammatici), whose task would be to transmit general cultural literacy, and complain that even those who do teach frequently lack adequate professional expertise. In this situation, some aristocrats came to believe that they themselves had to remedy these problems. In my paper, through the example of Macrobius, a learned author of the late imperial period, I demonstrate how members of the intellectual elite sought, using their own means, to prevent cultural decline and to preserve the heritage of classical antiquity for posterity.

*Keywords: Late Imperial Rome, cultural decline, literary knowledge, preservation of classical heritage, transmission of cultural knowledge*

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## Podcasting as a New Modality for the Study and Dissemination of Roman History

**Marek Babic**

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This paper presents a case study of a podcast series on Late Antiquity (<https://neskoraantika.ku.sk/podcast/>), arguing that this medium offers more than public outreach; it represents a new modality

for historical scholarship and pedagogy. Drawing on theoretical frameworks from Digital Public History, this paper analyzes how the unique affordances of audio—its narrative intimacy, affective resonance, and capacity for sonic immersion—can be leveraged to make complex historical scholarship accessible and engaging. The podcast format allows for a more transparent historiography, foregrounding the process of research and interpretation, thereby building public trust in historical expertise. By moving beyond the model of the disembodied narrator, the podcast enacts a form of “shared authority,” inviting the listener into a guided, critical dialogue with the past. This project serves as a practical model for how academic historians can bridge the gap between the academy and a public eager for historical knowledge. It demonstrates a sustainable and impactful method for fulfilling ENSTARH’s core mission: to safeguard and promote the study of Roman history for contemporary and future generations.

*Keywords: Public History, Digital Humanities, Podcasting, Late Antiquity, Historical Communication*

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## Echoes of the Roman Urban Model in the Development of Modern Cities in the Province of Dacia

**Simona Regep – Nicolae Hurduzeu**

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The process of Romanisation represented one of the most extensive phenomena of cultural transformation in Antiquity. Following territorial occupation, it led to the linguistic, cultural, and urban integration of vast regions of Europe and beyond. Among the defining elements of Roman civilisation, one of the most representative was the Roman urban model, centered on the development of the city around the forum and supported by public infrastructures such as baths, road networks, water supply, and sewer systems. These elements later shaped both the organisation of medieval and modern urban spaces and the forms of civic identity within the former Roman Empire.

This article addresses the formal and functional continuities between Roman urban planning and modern cities, analysing the concept of infrastructure as a vehicle of Roman urban identity heritage in the territory of the former Roman province of Dacia. The persistence of urban continuity in Dacia demonstrates that Romanisation was not an isolated historical episode, but rather a durable foundation of a European urban identity extending from Antiquity to the present.

*Keywords: Romanisation, urbanisation, continuity, province of Dacia*

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## The Roman past today: what do we disseminate?

**Radu Ardevan**

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The dissemination of knowledge about Roman civilization to a wide audience is an ongoing process in contemporary culture, with remarkable successes. The means used are diversifying and improving, more recently assisted by digital technology as well. And the effect of these efforts is increasingly visible in mass culture and even in the "hospitality industry" (i. e. tourism).

However, we believe that the process also carries a latent danger, aggravated by the restriction of reading and of the role of the school, in favor of the media. Namely, increased attention is paid to technical details, reconstructions and reenactments, but the values cultivated through such cultural actions are often lost sight of. It can even lead to distorted value messages, contrary to history. And these are taken up uncritically, replacing objective knowledge.

The author points out several major problems of this modern cultural dimension. It calls for respecting the axiological message of Roman Antiquity, which ultimately lays the foundations of today's European world. Knowledge of ancient Roman civilization must underpin the current European identity, with its humanistic values.

*Keywords: Roman civilization, dissemination, media, values, European identity*

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## Roman religion in the Digital Age: trends and perspectives of online dissemination

**Csaba Szabó**

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Among the surviving remains of the Roman Empire, the spaces associated with Roman religion (temples, sanctuaries) and the materiality of religion (altars, statues, reliefs, small finds)—are among the most striking and frequently visited sources of the Roman past. At the same time, there is a notable scarcity of reliable popularizing materials on Roman religion that preserve scholarly rigor and professionalism while also adhering to the principles of public outreach, even on English-language websites that dominate the global market. This paper seeks to analyze the macro-statistics, thematic focuses, and dissemination strategies of two online platforms: a Facebook page entitled Roman Religion—edited by the author for the past twelve years—and the ten most popular YouTube videos devoted to Roman religion. In doing so, it will also address current trends and perspectives in public archaeology, the use of AI, and scientific outreach, all of which play an increasingly significant role in the dissemination of Roman religion. The presentation concludes with a brief reflection on the challenges and prospects of popularizing Roman religion in Hungarian.

*Keywords: Roman religion, online dissemination, AI, digital age, public archaeology*

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## A special altar with several stories

**Ádám Nagyernyei Szabó**

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The crystalline limestone altar is carefully carved on all four sides and on the upper part. From around 170 AD, it served as an independent place of cult somewhere in the urban area of Sopianae, today Pécs, Hungary. The altar is significant not only because of its inscription and

reliefs, but also because of its relevance to administrative, religious, art, social, legal, and cultural history. It was dedicated to Virtus and Honos by the governor of Pannonia Inferior, Lucius Ulpianus Marcellus, who is mentioned in several fragments of the Digesta, in his own response and by other jurists such as Iulianus and Tribonianus. The Digesta contains 156 fragments written by him, while the Pandects preserve two fragments. It also contains references to him and notes originating from him. In 1490, the altar stood next to the entrance of the cathedral in Pécs, and with its round depression (foculus) on top it probably served as a holy water font. This is indicated by the fact that there is a water stain inside the foculus instead of burn marks. It was probably placed there by the humanist poet Ianus Pannonius, Bishop of Pécs. It was lost during the Turkish occupation, but was rediscovered during reconstruction works in the 19th century. In the 19th century the bishop of Pécs donated it to the Hungarian National Museum where it is exhibited as one of the highlights of the Roman stone collection in the Lapidarium.

*Keywords: epigraphy, jurist, governor, Pannonia*

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## **Ancient Roman lamps as sources for identity and human mobility. Two case studies from Dacia**

### **Dávid Petruț**

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Lighting devices, especially oil lamps, occupy a special place in the material culture of the Roman empire during the Principate (1st century BC–3rd century AD). The relatively large number of surviving artifacts are an important archaeological source for ancient production, trade, religious practices and everyday life. Moreover, due to their specific characteristics of manufacture, distribution, and use, the analysis of lamps can contribute to mapping trends of human mobility both at an individual as well as group level. Two fundamental assumptions underline this premise: 1) lighting equipment was both practical and necessary on the road during

travel, furthermore the small size and low weight of pottery lamps made them suitable 'travel companions.' 2) In addition to the practicalities of these objects, they may have also served as mementos or souvenirs from home, thus reinforcing the cultural and ethnic identity of their owners.

The presentation is based on two case studies from the northern part of Roman Dacia: the urban settlement of Napoca (Cluj-Napoca/Kolozsvár) and the all-important military centre of Porolissum (Moigrad) on the limes. In both cases the archaeological record has pointed out the presence of lighting equipment that does not fit the general pattern of lamp supply for Roman Dacia. The analysis will be determined by the question of 'commerce vs mobility/migration.'

*Keywords: Roman material culture, Roman Dacia, ancient lighting, human mobility, group identities*

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## **The strategy and constructions of the Roman army in Cappadocia during the first two centuries of the Principate**

### **Péter Forisek**

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*University of Debrecen*

Cappadocia became a province of the Roman Empire from the time of Emperor Tiberius. Until the Flavian period, it was not militarily significant, only auxiliary troops were stationed in its territory. The province reached significant value from the Parthian campaigns of Domitian, and then under the Flavians it became the northern bastion of the eastern "limes". Two legions and several auxiliary troops arrived in the province, which were connected with the construction of fortresses on the eastern border of the province, as well as the construction and continuous maintenance of the road network. In my presentation, I present the main stages of this process based on inscriptions and archaeological remains.

*Keywords: Cappadocia, Roman army, limes*

## SESSION 3 – LINGUISTICS

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### Teaching Latin in Hungary: Past and Future

#### Attila Ferenczi

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Following a brief historical overview, the presentation offers a comprehensive account of the current status of Latin within the public education system. Alongside statistical data, it examines the prevailing curriculum and the textbooks most commonly employed in contemporary teaching practice. The presentation concludes by outlining the potential directions of subject reform, with particular attention to its content-related and infrastructural requirements.

*Keywords: Public education system, Curriculum development, Textbooks and teaching materials, Subject reform*

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### The canon in Latin instruction: barrier or gateway?

#### László Jankovics

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*Eötvös Loránd University (Budapest)*

In the history of Latin instruction in Hungary, the canonical approach has remained a defining feature to this day. This does not refer solely to the canon of texts and authors included in the curriculum, but also manifests itself strongly in the selection of grammatical content and elements of cultural and historical knowledge to be taught. In this presentation, drawing on examples from these three areas, we aim to demonstrate both the advantages and the disadvantages inherent in a canon-based approach, which have fundamentally shaped

contemporary secondary-level Latin instruction in Hungary and, as a consequence, exert a considerable influence on the understanding of ancient Roman culture of approximately 2,500 Hungarian students who currently study Latin at secondary school.

*Keywords: Latin instruction, secondary school, canon*

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### The Battle for Latin in Secondary Schools during the First Czechoslovak Republic

#### Annamária Adamčíková

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Similarly to other European countries, in the First Czechoslovak Republic (1918–1938) there was a struggle over Latin in secondary education, which took place against the background of secondary school reform. The main target of the criticism was the gymnasium, which was too one-sidedly (humanistically) oriented. In addition, teaching placed great emphasis on knowledge and memorization; according to critics, pupils were overburdened and passive during lessons. Critical voices were also directed at the content of education, in which the significance of the curriculum for everyday life was absent. Reform efforts therefore drew attention to this situation and aimed to create more space for the so-called real subjects and modern languages, which also had practical applicability visible in everyday life. At the center of this criticism stood Latin above all. With its allotted number of teaching hours, it determined the overall humanistic character of the gymnasium, while its curriculum lacked relevance for practical life. Likewise, the results of students did not correspond to the effort expended. Apologists of classical languages were thus forced in the debate to justify the importance of Latin and its place in secondary education, while facing opponents demanding the elimination or reduction of Latin. The discussion that arose took place not only in pedagogical journals of the period, but also extended into the sphere of public debate. Supporters of classical languages

therefore attempted to argue that Latin was the most suitable means of formal education and likewise pointed to its irreplaceable cultural-educational significance. The study therefore attempts to present what this conflict over the Latin language looked like and which arguments were presented by the respective sides. This discussion in the First Czechoslovak Republic essentially represented a struggle over the proportion between humanistic and practical education and may contribute to reflection on this issue even today. The study is based on discourse analysis, which is the result of research into period sources and pedagogical journals of the time.

*Keywords: Latin Languages, Classical Languages, School Reform, Grammar Schools, Czechoslovakia*

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## Language awareness in Rome – Grammarians vs the man on the street

### Dániel Seres

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By the 1st century BC, Greek influence had created a demand for correct, precise and accurate use of language, which led to the establishment of systematic education in grammar and rhetoric in Rome. Cornificius was the first to define exactly what is meant by the correct use of language, i.e. what Latinitas consists of. Terentius Varro has nuanced and expanded Cornificius' definition. His major innovation was that he considered Roman usage to be the correct example to follow. Later authors – Cicero and Quintilian – followed the same line of thought. In my paper, I explore the extent to which this abstract ideal is realized based on data from two online epigraphic databases: LLDB and EDCS. Since grammarians agreed on Rome's distinguished role in language use, it seems logical to compare the theory with the reality of Roman inscriptional corpus. To measure and track this phenomenon, the spelling of the letters h and the Greek

ϕ seems adequate. Since the /h/ phoneme disappeared from the Latin language system by the end of the Republican era, but its use in spelling remained, and thus became a prime indicator of literacy or illiteracy. The transcription of Greek ϕ is also a good indicator, as Roman grammarians agreed that the /f/ sound should be written in two ways: in words of Latin origin, it should be written with an f, while in words of Greek origin, it should be transcribed with ph. In my presentation, I will also briefly reflect on how the databases used can be brought into university teaching, and how the inscriptions can even be incorporated into the secondary school curriculum.

*Keywords: Latin linguistics, linguistic awareness, Roman epigraphy, digitalization*

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## The Power of Museums: Transferring Cultural Knowledge from Ancient Sources to Contemporary Society

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This paper analyzes the evolving role of museums as educational and social mediators in an era of digitalization and information overload. Focusing on the National Museum of Transylvanian History as a case study, it examines how Roman collections and newly redesigned exhibitions support experiential, multi-sensory, and emotion-based learning. In the context of the decline of classical studies, museums are presented as alternative spaces for engaging with Latin and ancient history. The paper also explores the expanding social mission of museums through initiatives such as cultural prescription for health and well-being, which integrate cultural participation into public health strategies. The study argues that contemporary museums function as key institutions for education, social cohesion, and community well-being.

*Keywords: Museum, Roman history, Roman Dacia, Latin, education*

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## Not a Dead Language: Classical Latin in Modern Hungarian Medical Practice and Education

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Medical language in Hungary remains strongly based on Latin and Greek: diagnoses are still commonly formulated in accordance with the rules of classical Latin, making the teaching of Latin-based medical terminology an integral part of medical and healthcare education. While university courses in medical Latin have long been oriented toward medical vocabulary, traditionally grammar served as the primary organizing principle. In response to changing student needs, our institute has shifted the focus of medical terminology teaching toward communicative goals for more than a decade, treating grammar not as an end in itself but as a communication tool. Our teaching materials were developed in close cooperation with instructors of courses that make extensive use of Latin terminology, including anatomy and various clinical specialties, ensuring alignment with curricular needs and authentic professional usage. Their overall structure follows a functional approach rather than the traditional organization based on declensions and is grounded in carefully selected authentic sources drawn directly from medical practice, ranging from Latin-nomenclature anatomical terminology to original clinical medical documents. Only those grammatical elements are introduced that are necessary for understanding and using specific linguistic structures. Both grammatical content and exercises are designed to support the acquisition of the three main domains of Latin medical terminology: multi-word anatomical terms, clinical diagnoses, and medical prescriptions, developing competence in forming accurate Latin medical expressions. Special emphasis is placed on register awareness and the ability to switch between professional Latin terminology and patient-oriented communication. Student feedback suggests that this model successfully bridges classical terminology and the communicative needs of modern clinical practice.

*Keywords: Latin, medical education, medical terminology, functional approach*

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## Classical Roots, Digital Branches: Latin Botanical Knowledge from Antiquity to Instagram

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Latin functioned as a shared scholarly language in early modern Europe, especially in the fields of medicine and botany. The botanical books and herbals of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries represent a living continuation of ancient Roman and Greek botanical and medical traditions, transmitted, transformed, and expanded through Latin texts and images. Despite their importance for the history of science and classical reception, these works remain largely inaccessible to non-specialists.

This paper explores the possibilities and limits of presenting Latin-language botanical books and herbarium traditions on contemporary social media platforms, with a particular focus on Instagram. It examines whether there is genuine public interest in Latin texts and early modern botanical knowledge, and if so, how such content can be communicated in an engaging yet academically responsible way. The contribution addresses key questions: Can Latin function as a meaningful medium of communication today outside strictly academic contexts? Do popular formats and visual storytelling undermine scholarly credibility, or can they coexist with scientific rigor? What forms of mediation—short translations, visual annotations, narrative framing, or thematic series—prove most effective in reaching broader audiences?

By combining classical heritage, early modern scientific culture, and digital communication, the paper argues that social media can serve as a productive space for the dissemination of Roman and post-Roman intellectual heritage. It also reflects on the contemporary relevance of learning and teaching Latin, highlighting its practical value for understanding historical knowledge systems and for fostering interdisciplinary dialogue between classical studies, history of medicine, and digital humanities.

*Keywords: Roman botanical tradition, Early modern botany, Latin language, Herbal literature, Social media*

## SESSION 4– ARCHAEOLOGY

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### Snapshots from the Life of an Archaeological Park: A Decade of Community Engagement at the Călugăreni/Mikháza Archaeological Park

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The Roman military camp and settlement at Călugăreni/Mikháza formed part of the Dacian limes, which protected the eastern border of the former province. An archaeological park was established here a decade ago, and the site has recently been inscribed on the World Heritage List as part of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire. The park aims not only to research and present Roman heritage, but also to integrate it into the local cultural landscape, in which the 17th-century Franciscan monastery and surviving examples of vernacular architecture play an integral role. The newly awarded World Heritage status brings both new opportunities and new challenges for the future. The upcoming exhibition spaces and visitor centre will further expand what the archaeological park is able to offer. How can Roman heritage be made relevant today? To what extent can long-term support from the local community be secured? And to what extent can modern museological expectations be fulfilled in Romania?

*Keywords: Roman limes, archaeological park, heritage interpretation, museum education*

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### “How to care for your Roman remains”... or best practices in preserving Budapest’s Roman heritage

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The discovery of (Roman-period) archaeological remains in Budapest—especially built structures such as stone and/or brick walls and floors—has long provoked a mixture of alarm and irritation among developers who purchase plots with the intention of building on them. In the field of archaeological excavations, which had previously been linked exclusively to state-funded projects, a major change occurred after the political transition: private investors and developers entered the scene. After roughly a decade of “searching for the right approach,” a heritage protection law was enacted in 2001—amended several times since—providing legal protection for built archaeological heritage.

In practice, the authority may permit removal only if the uncovered archaeological remains are in poor condition, if they cannot be interpreted in context and/or if they are not of outstanding scholarly significance, then—and only then—the heritage protection authority in force at the time may decide that, instead of preservation (which most often means reburial), the remains may be dismantled after excavation and full documentation.

Fortunately, however, an increasing number of developers now believe that archaeological remains found on their property are not necessarily merely a “problem” to be solved during construction, but an asset that adds to the history of the site and makes it unique. As a result, a growing number of good examples can now be found in the capital—especially in Óbuda—of Roman-period remains being preserved and presented in the context of private developments. Over recent decades these projects have been realized as close collaborations with the BHM Aquincum Museum, which carried out the excavations, with all relevant legal requirements duly observed. In what follows, we present a selection of these “best practices,” not least because these small display sites and on-site exhibitions that

also strengthen place-branding – beyond setting positive examples and show how Roman heritage can be integrated into modern urban development – are also open to the general public.

*Keywords: Roman, excavation, heritage, preservation, developer*

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## Another rain miracle under Emperor Probus

### **Péter Kovács**

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In his paper the author deals with a less-known event of Emperor Probus' campaigns against the Germans in 277–278 A. D. According to Zosimus' and Zonaras' account that was followed by the later Byzantine historiography, during Probus' campaign there was a great famine among his troop, but there was a heavy cloud-burst which poured down corn with the rain and piled up heaps of grain and grain served as food for his soldiers. The author studies the event and its possible sources. There is a direct connection to Emperor Marcus Aurelius' rain miracle too as the emperor's full name was Marcus Aurelius Probus and he also fought the Germans as Marcus Aurelius did.

*Keywords: History of the Roman Imperial Period, Historiography, Roman religion*

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## Caesar in Gaul

### **Dániel Szabó**

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The lecture explores the material evidence of Gaius Julius Caesar's Gallic campaigns and their immediate aftermath in light of the most recent research. It seeks to determine the historical reality behind the figure of Vercingetorix, how the major military events of 52 BCE can be reconstructed on the basis of archaeological evidence, and

what role the oppidum of Bibracte could have played in the process of political and social transformation after the war.

*Keywords: Caesar, Gallia, Bibracte*

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## Battlescapes of Early Dacia: Reconstructing Roman–Dacian Conflict Landscapes through Interdisciplinary Archaeology

### **Felix Marcu**

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The Roman–Dacian wars (AD 85–106) represent one of the most consequential military confrontations on the eastern frontier of the Roman Empire. Despite their significance for European history, the spatial realities of this conflict remain insufficiently explored, with research traditionally dominated by literary sources and monumental architecture. I will propose the necessity of a fully integrated investigation of these conflicts by reconstructing warfare as extended operational landscapes, encompassing battlefields, siege systems, temporary camps, movement corridors, and post-conquest consolidation zones across south-western Transylvania.

The presentation focuses on four flagship case studies: the Tapae–Bucova corridor (Iron Gates of Transylvania), the Cioclovina Cave Sanctuary, the Roman siege camps at Costești and Muncel near Sarmizegetusa Regia, and a newly identified Roman temporary camp at Ulpia Sarmizegetusa. A central innovation is the systematic integration of unpublished excavation journals—particularly the field records of Ion Glodariu—alongside a revised interpretation of the litterae aureae and their original placement within the Tapae corridor. Methodologically, the future project combines LiDAR-based landscape analysis, GIS modelling, non-invasive geophysical survey (magnetometry and GPR), paleoenvironmental reconstruction, bioarchaeological analysis, and multi-archive historical cartography research spanning Habsburg military surveys through WWI–WWII

operational maps. All datasets will be integrated within a shared GIS environment, enabling campaign-scale interpretation and cross-comparison between case studies.

The presentation thus argues for the need to move beyond site-based approaches and to treat the Roman–Dacian wars as an interconnected operational system. By showcasing the existing dataset and proposing an integrated research framework, it aims to demonstrate the scientific and heritage value of a fully-funded future project for this underexplored frontier region of the Roman Empire.

*Keywords: Roman–Dacian wars, conflict landscape archaeology, LiDAR, battlescape, Tapae*

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## Artificial Intelligence: Applications and Implications for Archaeology

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As in most fields of science, the use of artificial intelligence in archaeology is becoming increasingly popular. As these applications are often related to a specific project or research, the scientific community does not always receive this information at the same pace as in other disciplines. Nevertheless, there are a number of possibilities for archaeologists provided by artificial intelligence that greatly facilitate both general everyday scientific research and specific archaeological tasks. One of the aims of this presentation is to briefly summarise the AI application possibilities that are freely available to everyone and can be very useful in archaeological work. On the other hand, it will present new archaeological projects that have achieved important results using AI in recent years, especially in the fields of transliteration and translation of ancient texts, site detection and predictive modelling, and object recognition.

*Keywords: AI, archaeology, digital humanities*





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