

NECROPOLIS VIA OSTIENSE, ROME (ITALY)
ROMAN FUNERARY ARCHAEOLOGY RESEARCH PROJECT
PRACTICAL TRAINING PROGRAM IN BIOARCHAEOLOGY
5th SEASON
August 15th to 31st 2021



The Sovrintendenza Capitolina ai Beni Culturali of Rome and de Universidad Europea de Valencia are undertaking the fourth season of the bioarcheological research project at the Via Ostiense Necropolis in Rome. The field school offers a practical training program in funerary archaeology, physical anthropology, and the study of Roman cremations.

The research project is directed by Dr. Marina Marcelli (Sovrintendenza Capitolina of Rome, manager of archaeological area Sepolcreto della via Ostiense) and Prof. Llorenç Alapont Martín (UEV, UV).



The 2021 season seeks to excavate and study new burial areas and to analyze undisturbed cremations. A thorough and exhaustive micro-excavation of the remains deposited inside the urns will be carried out *in situ*. The goals of the project are twofold: the first aims to identify the physical characteristics of the cremated individuals, which allows us to develop a more complete biological profile and make interpretations regarding the conditions of Roman life and death. It also permits us to make interpretations about Roman funerary rituals. In addition, the project creates an opportunity for students and professionals to be trained in the anthropological study of Roman-era cremations, which is, indeed, an uncommon experience that translates well for those with a particular interest in bioarchaeology, bioanthropology, and forensic science.

At its core, this is a multi-and-inter-disciplinary project aimed at analyzing each and every bit of material deposited in the cremation vessels, which include human remains, animal and plant remains from the funerary banquet, ointment pots, coins, pieces of funerary bed. By studying all of the materials deposited, we are better equipped to reconstruct the behaviors, rites, and rituals surrounding death in this ancient Roman community.

The project largely consists of the *in situ* excavation of the cremations and the study and analysis of the remains they contain. With a perhaps unmatched number of undisturbed and intact urns on site, the Via Ostiense Necropolis is a privileged place for the study of the funerary rites and the interpretation of the gestures and customs of the Roman civilization. This site, thus, provides an extraordinary opportunity for the bioanthropological and bioarchaeological study of the ancient Roman population.

The goals of our research will be based on the knowledge and interpretation of:

1. The human skeletal remains and the treatment of the corpse.
2. Typology, location, and architecture of the funerary spaces.
3. The offerings, the symbolic objects, and the funerary rites and rituals.
4. The memory of the deceased, epigraphy, painting, sculpture, and the exterior appearance of the tomb.
5. Symbolism, religion, superstition and rituals.
6. The reconstruction of what really happened after the death of the deceased until the moment they were deposited in their grave and how they lived and died.

Our program presents an exceptional opportunity to learn how properly excavate and document cremated burials from an archaeological site and how reconstruct biological profiles from fragmented and distorted bones. Participants will learn about the rituals and processes involved with cremating a human body, as well as the excavation methods, documentation and analysis of the findings. The program offers, in addition to practical field and lab work, lectures that outline the theoretical and methodological bases we follow.

The program is supervised by an interdisciplinary group of skilled researchers with extensive experience in archaeology of death and burial and analyzing cremated remains.

Project Themes:

1. Field Anthropology: documentation of materials on site
2. Documentation of various funerary contexts: the individual graves, additions, alterations, secondary graves, and the graves of children.
3. The Biological Context: identification of the human skeleton, recognition of individual bones and teeth, characteristics, size and shape of human bone components. Estimation of age, sex, height, cause of death, pathologies, etc.
4. Archaeology of death and burial
5. Introduction to Cremation: the process, the results, etc.
6. Roman funerary archaeology
7. Osteological analysis and documentation of remains
 - Identification of human bone fragments
 - Identification non-human bones
 - Establishing MNI
 - Describing biological profile



Participants will be provided with a complete dossier with information about methodologies, practical approaches, theory for the archaeology of death, physical anthropology, and funerary archaeology. Throughout the season, staff members will provide lectures and seminars that focus on more specific aspects of working in archaeology, such as ceramic analysis, restoration and conservation, Roman religion, and illustrating on an archaeological site.

English, Spanish, and Italian are the official languages of the program.

For more information about the project visit our web site:

<https://romenecropolis.wordpress.com>

Follow us:

Facebook: @RomaBioarchaeology

Instagram: romebioarchaeology

See us and our site in the news:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LK_gfXR5luQ&feature=youtu.be

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BZfZ8HIDY5o>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xe7QItNjYJI>

THE DETAILS

1. WHERE

The Via Ostiense Necropolis is also known as the Necropolis of Saint Paul because the relics of Saint Paul were supposedly found here during the first and only other excavations on this site just over 100 years ago. The necropolis is located 100 meters from the Cathedral of Saint Paul on the Wall, which is considered the second most important cathedral in Rome after Saint Peter's Basilica in the Vatican.



2. DATES.

The program runs from August 15th to 31st, 2021.

3. CERTIFICATES

- At the end of the program, participants will receive an official certificate of participation stating the hours and activities of the course.
- Participants may receive a letter of recommendation from our institutions upon request. Please note, however, that the directors reserve the right to deny such a request.
- If you wish to receive academic credits from your school, you must contact your academic advisor at your school to confirm this possibility and begin the process. Each school has different rule regarding credits, so you should have your advisor contact us.

4. PROGRAM FEES

- 1,200 EURO or 1,350 USD for the whole program (bank fees are paid by the participants)
- The fees will be payable via bank transfer. The bank information will be sent to all participants at a later date after acceptance.

Fees Include:

- ✓ Full Board for the duration of the program (all meals are included excluding the lunch and dinner of excursion and free days)
- ✓ Accommodation in the residence with free wifi
- ✓ Medical and accident insurance
- ✓ Daily transportation to/from the archaeological site
- ✓ Excursions to the, Vatican Necropolis, Necropolis Ostia Antica, Lavinium Museum
- ✓ Field and lab materials
- ✓ Teaching and supervision
- ✓ Certificate of participation
- ✓ Dossier
- ✓ Administrative costs

Fees **DO NOT** include airfare and transportation to Rome from the airport



5. HOW TO GET A SPACE ON OUR PROGRAM

To request a space, please send an e-mail to loamar@alumni.uv.es together with your complete application form (at the end of this document) and your Curriculum Vitae.

Within five (5) days, we will respond to your e-mail confirming if you have been accepted to the program. You will then be asked to provide a deposit of 400 EURO/500 US DOLLARS to reserve your place. This deposit reserves your place in the program and begins to cover various administrative expenses. Please do not forget to send an email to loamar@alumni.uv.es that includes the receipt of this transfer. Reservations are only effective once payment of the registration fee is received. We accept reservations until all spaces are filled.

Tuition will be due by **July 1st**. 2021

Cancellation and Refund Policy:

- Before June 1st: All payments are refundable.
- Between June 1st – July 1st: Reservation transfer is not refundable.
- After July 1st: All payments are non-refundable.

6. OTHER

- After we receive your reservation fee, we will send you an official acceptance letter and more specific information about the program.
 - With your program information, we will send you an address for the meeting point. If you can't get to the meeting location on time, we will give you directions on how to reach the excavation and accommodation by yourself.
 - With your program information, we will send you a list of suggested items and clothing that will be useful for your program. You don't need bring any specific tools. All archaeological tools and equipment will be provided on site.



Universidad
Europea Valencia
LAUREATE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITIES

NECROPOLIS VIA OSTIENSE, ROME
ROMAN FUNERARY ARCHAEOLOGY RESEARCH PROJECT
PRACTICAL TRAINING PROGRAM IN BIOARCHAEOLOGY
5th SEASON
August 15th to 31st, 2021

1. Name:
2. Country and address of residence:
3. Education and experience working with archaeological materials, human remains, or excavating (if you have any):
4. Statement of Interest (max. 250 words):

Email to loamar@alumni.uv.es, and Prof. Llorenç Alapont: llor.alapont@gmail.com