



Dissemination:

23-26 June 2023

Krešimir Vuković

“Animal Origins of the Peoples of Italy: Migrants, Wolves, and Birds”

at *Symposium Peregrinum*, Soriano nel Cimino, Italy

Abstract:

By the time our best sources on Roman religion appear, Rome was a sedentary society. However, Roman religion and mythology contained many earlier traditions that reflected the mobility and migrations of peoples on the Apennine peninsula. The rituals of the Lupercalia commemorated the adolescence of Romulus and Remus and can be traced to mobile groups of men that emulated wolves in pursuit of plunder and glory. Similar ritual forms existed in many other Indo-European traditions from India to Italy. Many Italic peoples were called after Mars or his animal, the wolf (Mamertini, Lucani, Hirpini), and traced their origin to the ritual of *ver sacrum*, which involved sending young men into new territories. Wolves played a role in the mobility of these groups because young men identified with wolves in rites of passage based on the fact that wolves are aggressive animals that roam over a large territory. Anthropology offers comparative evidence for this type of mobility: the seminomadic native peoples of Asia and America have revered wolves for their prowess, group collaboration, and mobility and followed the animal on their migrations.

5-7th July 2023

Krešimir Vuković

“The Living Streams: Rivers as more-than-Human Entities in the Ancient World”

at the workshop *Crosscurrents: Historical Waterscapes in Crosscultural Perspective*, Max Planck Institute for Geoanthropology, Jena, Germany

Abstract:

Rivers have played a crucial role in the rise and development of human societies since time immemorial. Current ecological crises call for a serious reconsideration of our relationship to rivers. Ancient ecological traditions regard rivers as divinities and non-human beings. While many have written about economic, geological, hydrological and other aspects of ancient rivers, the conception of rivers as non-human and more-than-human agents remains relatively unexplored. This paper reconsiders the agency of non-human elements in history by showcasing the variety of ancient conceptions of rivers as more-than-human agents that have actively shaped the world. Analyzing the religious and mythological aspects of river deities in their ancient contexts reveals a plurality of non-human conceptions of rivers, from Egypt and Mesopotamia to Greece and Italy.



15th September 2023, Krešimir Vuković

“Floods of the Tiber in Ancient Rome: Resilience, Deforestation, Interpretations”

at the workshop *Trees and the Anthropocene in Greek and Roman Antiquity*, University of St Andrews, UK

Abstract:

The river Tiber has influenced the shape and development of the city of Rome from its inception. The foundation of the city on defensible hills next to a shallow river ford provided easy access to this vital artery of communication in Latium. Recently, new archaeological research has shown that the valley between the Palatine and Capitoline hills was especially prone to seasonal flooding and that flooding levels considerably increased from the sixth century BC onwards. The problem of annual inundation was so severe that it prevented construction of permanent habitation and development on all the low-lying areas of the city, contributing to the preference for settlements on defensible hill in the early period. Flooding continued to cause significant problems throughout the ancient period and produced challenges for the inevitable growth of the capital that rose exponentially alongside the expansion of the Roman state.

22nd, 23th, 24th September 2023, Pietro Consolandi

Conference: Confluence of European Water Bodies

an initiative that aims to build a strong network of associations and groups in Europe able to push for the implementation of Rights of Nature on a continental level, shores of the Mar Menor, Murcia, Spain

Abstract:

During the conference, water bodies from all over Europe will meet for an intercultural exchange on the representation of water in Europe's cultural, political and legal realm. Today's most pressing ecological and technological issues transcend borders and species, but we still approach them from a narrow, nation-state perspective. The largest mass extinction has been going on since 65 million years, but which country, politician or company feels responsible? Countries are only accountable to one another, politicians only to their electors, and captains of industry only to their shareholders. One of the reasons for the lack of accountability is that non human lives are insufficiently and ineffectively represented in politics, which jeopardises the lives of future humans and nonhumans alike.

To put the representation crisis in our democracy on the agenda in Europe, we are organizing the Conference of European Water Bodies. Water Bodies from all over Europe will gather to take crucial steps towards water emancipation. The conference will take place at the Spanish lagoon the Mar Menor, the first European ecosystem that was granted legal personality in September 2022.



4th October 2023

Heiner Krellig

Lecture "Tintoretto nella Laguna di Venezia"

at the **International Conference "Tintoretto e il Paesaggio. Temi e Contesti"**, Venezia,
Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti and Scuola Grande di San Rocco

Abstract:

The Venetian Institute of Sciences, Letters, and Arts, together with the Scuola Grande di San Rocco, is promoting an interdisciplinary conference dedicated to Jacopo Tintoretto and the theme of landscape. The project, situated at the end of a season rich in reflections on the painter, starts from the observation that investigations into the role of landscape in Tintoretto's painting, as well as its reception, have not received adequate attention thus far. In fact, while architectural scenes have been repeatedly examined, there are currently no recent specific studies on landscapes, and Tintoretto has been almost entirely excluded from the numerous reflections on the painted environment that have accumulated in recent years. In literature, however, there is no lack of precise points for reflection, but they appear decontextualized and almost always have not prompted critical analysis and discussions.

31st October 2023

Francesco Luzzini

Workshop: MEI Day for the Future: Manufacturing, Education, Innovation

Roundtable: INNOVATION - *Le transizioni del futuro: migrazioni, intelligenza artificiale, sostenibilità, energia*

Presentation: *The UNESCO Chair on Water, Heritage, and Sustainable Development*
Rome, Confindustria headquarters

Abstract:

On the 10th anniversary of the foundation of the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities, a celebratory workshop on longlife learning, education and innovation took place at the headquarters of Confindustria (Rome, EUR).

A thematic roundtable focusing on "Innovation" (*Le transizioni del futuro: migrazioni, intelligenza artificiale, sostenibilità, energia*) offered the opportunity to disseminate the themes and activities of the research group of the UNESCO Chair on Water, Heritage, and Sustainable Development.



4th November 2023

Corinna Guerra, Plenary session at

[Mirabilia 2023: Futuro sostenibile: esperienze globali, azioni locali](#)

Padua, Padova Congress

Abstract: **Mirabilia** network puts together all the Italian Chambers of Commerce in towns with UNESCO sites. The edition **2023**, focused on sustainable tourism, I mean a sustainable future, starting from places. I gave a talk intitled "L'acqua e le acque fra storia e epistemologia" for the plenary session, where also we had talks about European Commission policies about sustainable tourism. I illustrated the topics of the UNESCO Chair in Ca' Foscari, how history of science could help in a better knowledge of thermal tourism and then I attended three working tables were open to the public:

- Tourism and sustainable destination marketing
- Urban policy and regeneration of places as a tool for economic and social development
- Sustainability, a growth driver for agri-food companies

At the close of the proceedings, the signing of the "**Carta di Padova** | Sustainable future: a vision for the growth of territories" by the Vice President of the Chamber of Commerce of Padua Patrizio Bertin and the President of Venicepromex - Agency for Internationalisation Scarl Mario Pozza.

8th-9th November 2023

Corinna Guerra and Giulia Gandolfi

[Meeting ReCUI of the UNESCO Chairs of Sapienza & 1st Conference of the UNESCO Chair on Urban Health, Rome, University La Sapienza of Rome](#)

Abstract:

Representatives from the Chair of Water, Heritage, and Sustainable Development (Corinna Guerra and Giulia Gandolfi) participated in the UNESCO Chairs' General Conference in Rome in the morning of November 8th-9th, 2023. This conference centered on 'Conflicts: Implications for Populations, Territories, and Cultural Heritage' and 'Cities Changing the World: Taking Care of Spaces and People'. We attended the 1st Conference of the UNESCO Chair on Urban Health "Education and Research for Improved Health and Wellbeing in the Cities". The conference's goal was to delineate key aspects for designing a model dedicated to preserving both tangible and intangible cultural heritage, a longstanding objective of UNESCO. In the 21st century, cities, exemplifying a blend of tangible and intangible elements, are undergoing profound transformations. The conference shed light on the dual nature of cities as arenas of social, generational, and territorial conflicts, as well as crucibles for



developing novel approaches to intergenerational living and integration within urban spaces. Just as cities symbolized European urbanization from the 19th to the 20th century, they now epitomize the heart of economic and demographic growth in regions like Africa. A recurring theme was the need, recognized by all UNESCO Chairs, to explore innovative educational paradigms for urban living. These include education in mobility, network access, and territorial awareness, all falling under the umbrella of education in appreciating the diverse, both tangible and intangible, cultural, political, historical, and moral facets that constitute urban life. The conference issued a challenge to the UNESCO Chairs, urging them to prioritize devising practical and actionable strategies for these newly emphasized educational models in upcoming meetings. The Chair of Water, Heritage, and Sustainable Development played an active role in the proceedings, highlighting the profound impact of new urbanization processes on the socio-ecological imbalances currently affecting urban water systems. This chair is deeply committed to forward-looking planning, with a specific focus on the role of land and water resource distribution. Recognizing the necessity for innovative educational approaches regarding territorial management, the Chair aims to pioneer novel methods for imparting knowledge on urban living and sustainability.

11th November 2023

Heiner Krellig

The Lagoon of Venice and the traditional knowledge of the fisherman in the history of its "conservation" during the

International Meeting Waterscapes: Bridging the Past and the Future, Santo Estevo de Ribas de Sil (Ribeira Sacra)

Abstract:

The conference addresses different goals:

1. address the challenges related to the preservation, use and management of waterscapes and associated water heritage, also considering the numerous beneficial services provided by river landscapes, including crops, hydropower, transport, tourism, or wildlife habitats.
2. identify initiatives related to the research, protection and promotion of water-related cultural heritage and its tangible and intangible dimensions and examine the relevance of traditional governance systems to ensure sustainable water management for the future.
3. promote new avenues of dialogue between water, culture, environment and heritage experts, particularly through the development of new integrated perspectives on water and living heritage for the future.
4. identify case studies and good management practices, including for safeguarding intangible water-related heritage.
5. strengthen the role of UNESCO sites and other international and European programmes in the preservation of cultural water landscapes and water heritage.



6. support the launch of the “Water and Heritage: Connecting Past, Present and Future” Initiative.

13th November 2023, Pietro Daniel Omodeo, Giovanni Fava

Workshop titled 'Historical Waterscapes in Cosmographical Perspective, Department of History of Science at Tsinghua University in Beijing

Abstract:

The workshop titled 'Historical Waterscapes in Cosmographical Perspective,' hosted by the Department of History of Science at Tsinghua University in Beijing on November 13, 2023, offered a significant platform to elucidate key facets of the Venetian project centered around the cosmology of water. The sessions, prefaced by an introduction from Alberto Bardi, revolved around three thematic axes: a philosophical exploration by Giovanni Fava, a historical-epistemological inquiry led by Pietro Daniel Omodeo, and a legal perspective presented by Xenia Chiaramonte. Each segment illuminated a distinct facet of water's cosmographic significance. The philosophical discourse underscored how discussions about the Anthropocene often perceive the water cycle as an autonomous entity, divorced from human influence. It emphasized the imperative of linking the water cycle with human transformative activities. Shifting to a historical perspective, the second session delved into Venice as a specific case study, illustrating the profound historical awareness of the intricate relationship between the lagoon's natural environment and human intervention. The legal segment of the workshop delved into the discourse spanning the 19th and 20th centuries, which grapples with the delineation between public and private goods. It intricately examined the essence of 'public use' within this context, contributing to a broader discourse that extends to contemporary planetary commons, notably encompassing water.

13th-14th November 2023, Corinna Guerra

National Forum of Intangible Heritage and delegate at the international conference “Living Heritage, Civil Society and Sustainable Development”, Rome, Italian Chamber of Deputies and Senate of the Italian Republic

Abstract:

In the morning of November 13th we had the National Forum of Intangible Heritage, in which 28 delegates of different institutions (public and private) working on intangible cultural heritage presented their viewpoints, their best practices and issues encountered in the field. Among them I participated as a member of the UNESCO Chair “Water, heritage and sustainable development” I explained to the audience how water could be an essential material heritage and at the same time an intangible one, thinking at our water habits, as well as our scientific knowledge on water. The director of the Istituto centrale per il patrimonio culturale immateriale of the Ministero della Cultura and the President of the



Commissione Cultura of the Camera dei Deputati attended the Forum and as a result the Commission decided to present to the Parliament a draft law to regulate intangible heritage also in Italy.

In the afternoon and on the 14th I attended the International Conference celebrating 20th anniversary ICH UNESCO Convention, where the speakers illustrated the different facets of the intangible heritage in the last 20 years, taking into account in this framework also the sustainable development.

22nd November 2023, Amalia Rossi

Cattedra Unesco alla Round Table titled" University and its futures"

Congress "University and its futures", University of Ljubljana and Slovenian National Commission for UNESCO.

Abstract:

The meeting represented a follow-up of Barcelona UNESCO Meeting (UNESCO World Higher Education Conference 2022) and it strictly referred to the Report titled: **"Reimagining our futures together. A new social contract for education"** published in 2021 which is the "result of the collective work of the International Commission of the Futures of Education established in 2019". The report explores new ways of thinking educational ecosystems -as the older ones are supposed not to be fit anymore - in the face of current global crisis

(Please, see the report at the following webpage: <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000379381>).

NICHE and Unesco Chair on Water, Heritage and Sustainable Development participated to the Round Table " University and its futures" together with prominent University rectors of North Balcan Universities.

List of the main topics addressed during the congress

1. Proposal for a new social contract for education;
2. Internationalisation- key role of chairs on water in the effort of reforming higher education for green transitions at a global level;
3. Subsidiarity and high education systems: challenge, the risk of cooptation from private sector;
4. Participation and promotion of new forms of teaching and learning (please, see the following list of sub-topics addressed):
 - Changing environment – impact on professions – educational professions (necessity to train the trainers on digital tools for education and on environmental/climate change issues)
 - Full empowerment of teachers- modernization of educational programs
 - Digital competences and sustainable environment
 - Inclusion of difference
 - The role of internet : help the youth to detect good, clear, true information
 - Migrations and climate change



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Ca' Bottacin - Dorsoduro 3911, 30123 Venezia

www.unive.it/niche

[UNESCO Chair website](http://www.unive.it/niche)

6th Dicembre 2023

Pietro Consolandi e Silvia Francescon

"Diritti della Natura: superare l'antropocentrismo nel diritto"

with Silvia Bagni, Ca' Bottacin, Dorsoduro 391, 30123 Venice, Italy

Abstract:

The movement for the rights of nature is one of the rapidly growing emerging currents in the kaleidoscope of global ecological movements. Several states have already chosen to grant nature legal personality in various forms. The idea of viewing nature, ecosystems, and the planet as living and personified beings is certainly not new, from the ancient cultures of Oceania and South America to the Greco-Roman tradition. So, what does it mean to translate these ancient understandings into jurisprudence, making nature no longer an object to be regulated but a subject endowed with its own legal personality, with equal dignity to that of humans? Why is it still challenging to conceive of an ecosystem as a living entity with its own capacity to act? Overcoming the anthropocentric perspective on which the law is based can be one of the great revolutions of our time.

22nd March 2024

Pietro Daniel Omodeo

World Water Day, L'acqua a Venezia come eredità culturale: la Cattedra UNESCO di Ca' Foscari si presenta.

The I.C. "Mario Bosco" of Lanciano and the "Monticelli d'Ongina" Institute (PC) have signed a Network Agreement called "From the Po to the Adriatic". Two territorial realities that are geographically distinct but find in water an element of connection, which takes the form of various types of exchanges and activities. Among them is the mobility in Venice between teachers and pupils of the partner institutions on the occasion of World Water Day on 22 March 2024. There will be a guided tour that will culminate at the UNESCO Regional Office, where the schoolchildren will also meet the UNESCO Chair "Water, Heritage and Sustainable Development", directed by prof. Omodeo, who will give a talk entitled: *L'acqua a Venezia come eredità culturale: la Cattedra UNESCO di Ca' Foscari si presenta*. There will be around 140 pupils (between 10 and 14 years old) and 10 teachers from two different Italian regions.