



THIRD GRADUATES' INTER-UNIVERSITY CONFERENCE
CALL FOR PAPERS

ABSTRACTS DUE ON: 28TH FEBRUARY 2018

“HOMO LOQUENS”
VALUES AND MEANS OF WORDS IN THE ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL WORLD

UNIVERSITY OF TURIN
2ND-3RD MAY 2018 - PALAZZO DEL RETTORATO

The Odeon Project, a university cultural project for the study and divulgation of classical culture, is organising in May 2018 its third inter-university conference dedicated to graduates (or, exceptionally, soon-to-be graduates) in humanistic, historical, anthropological and philosophical studies.

The theme of the conference is the complex system of values which - in the ancient world - characterised “words”; conceived as the origin of Abrahamic religions and as means of persuasion and political emancipation in Mediterranean civilisations, words soon became so characterising that - in the same way as mankind itself - they assumed the role of “measure of everything”. A new type of human being therefore develops, the homo loquens who precisely owes his membership to the species to his ability of generating and understanding words. Cicero, in his *De Oratore*, highlighted words' role, underlining their presence in *omni libero populo* and stating that the only characteristic which distinguishes us *maxime feris* is exactly *quod conloquimur inter nos et quod exprimere dicendo sense possumus* (I, 30-31). The same importance should be granted to the means of words, that is writing and orality: our reflection therefore also opens up to the field of anthropology and to the history of human expression. Finally, in the contemporary age, the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis has re-evoked in the field of linguistics what philosophy had already theorised: the role of words as the true origin of the world surrounding us, as an instrument which - in its genetic force - is capable of defining it in all its forms.

Subjects of the discussion

The conference's aim is to analyse the values, means and meanings connected to words in the ancient occidental world. The historical period which is taken into account is the one comprised between the first examples of epic poetry (the Epic of Gilgamesh in Middle East, the Iliad and the Odyssey in Greece) and the Greek and Latin medieval literary production (the chronological limit is fixed on the birth of national languages, for Latin literature, and on the fall of Constantinople in 1453, for Greek and Byzantine literature), including Near-Eastern, Hebrew and ancient Christian literary productions.

The conference is also open to speech proposals concerning fields which are not properly linked to literature, such as history, philosophy and anthropology, as long as they are pertinent to the theme and to the chronological context of the conference.

Participation procedures

The conference is open to all students from Italian or European University who have earned a bachelor's or master's degree (the latter having been earned not from longer than one year, given the fact that the conference should mainly be held by students); **exceptionally and under the unquestionable judgement of the Scientific Committee, students who have not yet earned a bachelor's degree but who are committed to earning one before the end of 2018 may be accepted to the conference.**

In order to participate as speakers, it is necessary to send to the Odeon Project's email address progettoodeon@gmail.com an email containing:



- **an abstract** (around 300 words) of the speech which is intended to be presented at the conference (together with the title);
- **a brief curriculum vitae et studiorum** presenting the candidate's qualifications and the university the candidate belongs to.

Each speech will last about 25-30 minutes and will be followed by a 10-minutes discussion; allowed languages are Italian and English (Italian will be preferred).

The deadline for presenting candidacies is fixed on the 28th February 2018. Within March 2018 the Scientific Committee, composed of graduates from the Odeon Project, will publish the list of the selected speakers.

Eventual refunds for speakers coming from foreign countries or from Regions different from Piedmont and Aosta Valley will eventually be determined.

By decision of the Scientific Committee a printed or digital copy of the conference proceedings may be published.

For any information concerning the inter-university conference, consult the website www.progettoodeon.wix.com/sito or send an email to progettoodeon@gmail.com.

Composition of the Scientific Committee

Dott. Luca Austa, PhD student in Anthropology of the Ancient World (University of Siena)

Dott. Alessandro Maria Cordella, postgraduate in Latin Language and Literature

Dott.ssa Giulia Gerbi, PhD student in Antiquity Studies (Ca' Foscari University - Venice)

Dott. Luca Massarenti, postgraduate in Greek Language and Literature

TORINO, 25/11/2017

IL PROGETTO ODEON