



Doctoral Program in Classical and Modern Literatures and Cultures

DOCTORAL CONFERENCE

Genoa, Aula Magna, Via Balbi 2

October 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026

**RARITIES, EXCEPTIONS AND ANOMALIES:**

**the Extraordinary from Antiquity to the Modern Era**

### **Call for Papers**

The PhD candidates of the **Doctoral Program in Classical and Modern Literatures and Cultures** at the University of Genoa are pleased to announce the invitation to participate in the 3rd edition of the **doctoral conference**, organized by the Department of Italian Studies, Romance Studies, Ancient Studies, Arts, and Performance. This call is open to PhD students, young researchers, and graduates in the fields of **Ancient Studies, Archaeology, Italian Studies, and Modern and Contemporary Literatures**.

Rarity, exception, and anomaly constitute, within the humanities, privileged lenses through which both the past and the present can be observed and interrogated. That which appears as unique or deviant from the norm (an isolated manuscript, an unexpected linguistic form, an archaeological find without direct parallels) acquires particular interpretative value, as it challenges established models and opens new research perspectives.

In both ancient and modern literature, exception may manifest itself in “non-canonical” voices, in narrative figures that break genre conventions, or in the conscious pursuit of the “rare” and the marvelous, thereby revealing cultural tensions and historical transformations that often remain invisible within dominant models. In philology and linguistics, anomalies (scribal errors, *hapax legomena*, irregular grammatical structures, or lexical innovations) become valuable clues for reconstructing the history of texts and languages, shedding light on processes of transmission, adaptation, and change that cut across different traditions, from



antiquity to the present. Similarly, in archaeology, rare objects or atypical contexts may signal cultural contacts, unusual ritual practices, or moments of discontinuity within social and symbolic systems. In this sense, rarity is not merely a statistical exception, but rather a privileged vantage point—a sign that invites us to question the norm itself and to recognize historical and cultural dynamics that might otherwise remain difficult to detect.

Based on these considerations, the following, non-exhaustive suggestions are provided for various fields, specifying that both theoretical and experimental contributions will be welcomed, with particular attention to the value of a comparative and interdisciplinary approach.

## **ARCHEOLOGY**

- **Methodologies of Archaeological Research.** Reflections on the management and interpretation of atypical excavation contexts that are poorly known or lack parallels in the scholarly literature; excavation and documentation methodologies applied to archaeological contexts and the archaeological record; the use of archaeometric and biomolecular analyses to decipher and understand less visible or previously unrecognized archaeological evidence.
- **Archaeology of Death.** Excavation and documentation of funerary contexts presenting peculiarities or elements of rarity in relation to known cases and to their historical, cultural, and geographical settings; rituals, symbols, and ideologies associated with death within social organizations; material culture and funerary contexts; perceptions and management of death in ancient and contemporary societies; the contribution of physical anthropology and paleopathology within funerary archaeology; the definition and perception of “anomaly” in the context of death.
- **Archaeology and Forms of the Sacred.** Religion, cults, and spirituality in ancient and contemporary societies; material culture in sacred contexts and its uses; structures and spaces of worship that are physically separated from, or perceived as distinct from, spaces of “ordinary” life; the contribution of written and iconographic sources in ancient and contemporary societies; rare, unusual, or poorly documented archaeological finds within specific contexts.
- **Archaeology of Production.** The production of artifacts conceived or perceived as valuable, rare, or non-ordinary; craft activities and production



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chains that are little known or scarcely attested; the economy and trade of raw materials and craft products.

- **Landscape Archaeology and Ancient Topography.** Human impact in the creation of “anomalies” within ancient and contemporary landscapes; methods and tools for the analysis of landscape and spatial archaeology; liminal and frontier urban and extra-urban spaces; the perception and construction of the “liminal” and the non-ordinary in ancient and contemporary societies.
- **Ethnoarchaeology.** The study of atypical and marginal forms in archaeological contexts and contemporary practices; ethnoarchaeology as an investigative tool.
- **Digital Archaeology.** The contribution of digital technologies to archaeological research for the identification of anomalies and atypical patterns; advantages and limitations of applying computational analyses in archaeology; graphic reconstructions and 3D modeling as tools to support the interpretation of the archaeological record; virtual archaeology and video games, between historical reconstruction and creative imagination.

The following SSD (Scientific Disciplinary Sector) codes will be considered for the evaluation of abstracts: **ARCH-01/A-G; STAA-01/F, K** (formerly L-ANT/01; L-ANT/04; L-ANT/06; L-ANT/07; L-ANT/08; L-ANT/09; L-ANT/10; L-OR/06; L-OR/11).

#### **PHILOLOGY, LITERATURE, AND HISTORY OF ANTIQUITY:**

- **Philology and history of textual transmission.** Manuscript traditions characterized by single or partial witnesses, or by particular or anomalous transmission paths; palimpsests; translations of classical texts into specific or peripheral languages and contexts; transmission of fragmentary texts through both direct and indirect traditions; accidental preservation of works and authors outside the “canon”; rare textual variants or *hapax legomena*; presence of evidence in unexpected geographical and cultural contexts; manuscripts with distinctive iconographic features; palaeographical rarities.
- **Literary history and non-literary texts.** Minor, poorly attested, or culturally marginal literary genres; works of uncertain genre; literary experiments and ancient debates; fragmentary authors; minor or marginal authors; genres or



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authors outside the “canon”; fragmentary epigraphic and documentary texts, of uncertain genre or difficult interpretation; the relationship between text (literary and non-literary) and music.

- **History of the language.** Rare or poorly attested lexical items or *hapax legomena*; anomalous and debated orthographic, morphological, and syntactic structures; dialectal and non-literary variants; phenomena of bilingualism and multilingualism; linguistic experiments and ancient debates; attestations of rare or anomalous meanings.
- **Cultural traditions.** Rare or marginal mythological variants; local literary traditions; distinctive characterizations of literary figures; cultural contaminations; minor and rare religious and ritual practices, culturally marginal, poorly attested, and difficult to interpret.
- **Ancient history.** Poorly or insufficiently documented historical events; historiographical gaps; fragmentary or difficult-to-interpret historical evidence; rare or anomalous traditions concerning historical figures; anecdotal traditions; distinctive perspectives of other peoples and cultures on the Greek and Roman world.

The following SSD codes indicate the disciplinary fields within which abstracts will be evaluated: **FICP-01; FLMR-01/A; HELL-01/B-C; LATI-01/A; STAN-01; HIST-04/A-B, D; GLOT-01/A** (formerly L-FIL-LET/01-02, 04-08; L-ANT/02-03; M-STO/06-07, 09; L-LIN/01).

#### **ITALIAN STUDIES, MODERN LITERATURES, TEXT AND PERFORMANCE STUDIES:**

- **Philology and history of textual transmission.** Analysis of manuscript traditions characterized by single witnesses, fragmentary transmission, or non-canonical dissemination paths, along with related methodological reflections; study of *hapax legomena*, preparatory materials, or little-known sources; publishing environments or peripheral cultural contexts; digital editions, computational tools, or new technologies that make rare or marginal phenomena in textual transmission visible.
- **Linguistics and history of the language.** Rare and marked linguistic constructions; study of poorly attested terms, technical vocabulary, loanwords, or borrowings in specific cultural or literary contexts; research on



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the use of dialects, regional varieties, or minority languages; anomalous or isolated linguistic developments.

- **Poetics of rarity.** Authors or movements that deliberately pursue the atypical, the strange, or the marvelous; investigations into understudied genres, hybrid forms, or minority literary productions.
- **Anti-heroes and eccentric characters.** Analysis of literary figures at the margins of the traditional heroic model; analysis of texts representing mental disorders, altered states of consciousness, or challenging cultural, social, or identity norms.
- **Authors or editorial cases outside the “canon.”** Research devoted to marginalized or understudied writers, with reflection on mechanisms of canon formation and exclusion; rare or experimental literary journals and their role in cultural history.
- **Unconventional theatrical and cinematic narratives.** Use of anomalous, fragmentary, or experimental narrative structures; atypical directorial choices in the construction of theatrical and cinematic space; strategies through which theatre and performing arts represent the marvelous, the anomalous, or the extraordinary.

The following SSD codes indicate the disciplinary fields within which abstracts will be evaluated: **ANGL-01/A; ANGL-01/B; FRAN-01/A; GERM-01/B; GERM-01/D; GLOT-01/A; SLAV-01/A; SPAN-01/A-B; COMP-01/A; FLMR-01/B; ITAL-01/A; LICO-01/A; LIFI-01/A; LIFI-01/B; PEMM-01/A-B** (formerly L-FIL-LET/09-14, L-ART/05-06, L-LIN/01, 03, 05-06, 10-11, 12, 13, 15, 21).

## GENERAL INFORMATION

PhD candidates, early-career researchers who obtained their PhD within three years of the CfP deadline, and recent Master's graduates are invited to submit their proposals to the following email address: [convegno.phd.diraas@gmail.com](mailto:convegno.phd.diraas@gmail.com) by **June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026**. Please indicate in the subject line “Doctoral Conference Proposal” and specify the relevant section (“Archaeology,” “Classical Studies,” “Italian Studies, Text and Performance Studies,” or “Foreign Literatures”).

Submissions must include **a PDF file** containing the title and an abstract (maximum 300 words, excluding bibliography). In addition, applicants are required to submit **a**



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**separate PDF file** containing a brief *curriculum studiorum* (maximum 100 words), including the home institution and, if applicable, the date of PhD completion. **Please avoid including personal data in the proposal file, in order to ensure anonymity during the review process.**

Proposals in Italian and English are accepted. Notification of acceptance will be communicated by **August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026**. Each presentation will last a maximum of **20 minutes** and will preferably be held in person; online participation will be allowed only in cases where attending the conference venue is not possible. Applicants are therefore asked to specify in the body of the email their preferred mode of participation (in person/online).

The conference programme will be organized according to the thematic or methodological affinity of the contributions.

**Keynote speakers** affiliated with national and international academic institutions will be included, among them: Guido Carpi (University of Naples “L’Orientale”), Marco Corradini (Università Cattolica di Milano), Stefan Schorn (University of Leuven), Jay Silverstein (Nottingham Trent University, Cranfield University, Director of the Tell Timai project).

The conference will take place at the Aula Magna of the Palazzo in Via Balbi 2, Genoa, from **21 to 23 October 2026**. No registration fee is required.

For further information, please contact:

**convegno.phd.diraas@gmail.com**