



**PHD IN HISTORY, CULTURAL HERITAGE AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
DEPARTMENT OF LITERATURE, LANGUAGES AND CULTURAL HERITAGE**

PhD Students (R1 – First stage Reserchers)

XL cycle

Deidda Valerio

Research project:

At the Origins of Art History in Cagliari: Curricula, Methods, and Disciplinary Perspectives (1900–2000).

Supervisor:

Prof.ssa Usai Nicoletta

Co-Supervisor:

Prof.ssa Todde Eleonora

Abstract:

The project adopts a historical-critical methodology integrated with digital tools to reconstruct, from a diachronic and comparative perspective, the emergence and development of Art History teaching at the University of Cagliari between the early twentieth century and the early 2000s. The methodological framework combines: (a) systematic archival research; (b) analysis of teaching syllabi and pedagogical practices; (c) examination of the scholarly output of faculty members; and (d) the use of text-mining and network-analysis techniques to map themes, relationships, and lexical transformations.

Ezzehouany Imane

Research project:

China's Digital Silk Road in North Africa: a case study of Tanger Tech City.

Supervisor:

Prof.ssa Barbara Onnis

Co-Supervisor:

Prof.ssa Isabella Soi



Abstract:

The Digital Silk Road (DSR), a key component of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), plays a crucial role in strengthening China's partnership with North Africa. Despite the existing literature on DSR, its impact in North Africa remains underexplored. This research project aims to study the implementation of China's DSR in North Africa as a part of the BRI and its impact on technological development and digital connectivity, with a particular focus on smart cities. Tangier Tech City, one of the largest projects launched in Africa, serves as a key case study for understanding how Beijing is translating its digital ambitions into concrete initiatives. Through a descriptive-qualitative approach, the study explores the contributions of Chinese technology companies to regional technological development and digital connectivity. However, since the research also employs a qualitative method, we studied the Tangier Tech City project from its early stages of construction through to completion. Therefore, it will be developed in stages until the project is completed.

Floris Carolina

Research project:

Digital Narratives and Museology in Sardinia: A Critical Inquiry into Accessibility and Network-Building through the Case of Àndalas de Cultura.

Supervisor:

Prof.ssa Ladogana Rita Pamelas

Co-Supervisor:

Prof.ssa Campus Simona

Abstract:

This research project aims to investigate the impact of digital narration within the cultural landscape of Sardinia, analysing the digital not only as a technological tool but, above all, as a narrative language capable of shaping processes of knowledge, participation, and collective identity. The core case study is Àndalas de Cultura, a regional innovation initiative that integrates the digital resources of archives, libraries, museums, and cultural sites to provide a unified and sustainable access to Sardinia's cultural heritage. The project explores how digital storytelling, applied to a complex and fragmented territory, can transform community perceptions of heritage and foster new forms of cultural networking and social cohesion. The analysis combines a theoretical framework with both qualitative and quantitative evaluation of data provided by Sardegna Cultura, ultimately outlining an interpretative model that captures the cultural, narrative, and participatory significance of the initiative.



Manganelli Chiara

Research project:

For a social history of Italian penitentiaries in the liberal era: life and memory in Buoncammino prison (1900-1915).

Supervisor:

Prof. Pignotti Marco

Co-Supervisor:

Prof. Mura Salvatore

Abstract:

The research aims to reconstruct a history "from the prisoners' point of view", focusing on the perspective of those who populated the Buoncammino prison during the liberal era, between 1900 and 1915. Attention will be focused both on those who were forcibly interned and on the prison staff, who for a long time shared the miserable living conditions of the detained population.

Through the analysis of local and national archival sources - preserved at the AS-CA and ACS - periodical sources and quantitative sources, an attempt will be made to shed light on both the social composition and the mentality of the prison population. We will also attempt to investigate the actual impact that the second wave of prison reforms had on prison life and the responses of the inmates.

Finally, the project plans to carry out a comparison with the French prison tradition - placing the Cagliari experience within the continental and european context - and highlighting similarities and differences.

Mereu Francesca

Research project:

Analysis of the relationship between mineral resources and settlements during the "metal ages" in the Sulcis Iglesiente region (south-western Sardinia).

Supervisor:

Prof. Cicilloni Riccardo

Abstract:

The research project aims to reconstruct the relationship between metalliferous resources and settlement systems in the Sulcis Iglesiente region between the Copper Age and the Bronze Age. Its objective is to understand to what extent, and through which mechanisms, the significant availability of mineral resources influenced territorial occupation and the forms of organisation of prehistoric and protohistoric local communities. The case study of the Grotta di Acquacadda, located in an area of particular mining relevance, will serve as the starting point for an investigation extended to the surrounding contexts. The integration of



archaeometric analyses of metal artefacts, field surveys, and spatial analysis tools will make it possible to outline patterns of resource exploitation and mobility, contributing to a more articulated interpretation of the prehistoric and protohistoric landscapes of south-western Sardinia.

Scifo Maria Laura

Research project:

Cold War Journalism: the influence of IFJ and IOJ on the development of "Third World" countries.

Supervisor:

Prof.ssa Deplano Valeria

Co-Supervisor:

Prof.ssa Isabella Soi

Abstract:

This project aims to analyse the role played by the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) and the International Organisation of Journalists (IOJ) within the dynamics of the Cold War and the impact they had on the development of journalism in the so-called "Third World" countries. The research, therefore, involves a comparative analysis of the operating methodologies of the two associations through the study of the documentary material produced. The time frame of the analysis covers the period immediately following the Second World War, when the two organisations established themselves on the international scene, up to the 1990s, marked by the dissolution of the Soviet Union and subsequently of the IOJ.

Zappalà Jessica

Research project:

Dwelling and reclaiming contaminated space: ethnography of risk in Ch'iatura, Georgia.

Supervisor:

Prof. Bachis Francesco

Abstract:

The research project aims to investigate, from a socio-anthropological perspective, the social, environmental, and public health implications of manganese extraction in the municipality of Ch'iatura (Imereti, Georgia). Through a multimodal ethnographic approach, the project offers a reflection on the relationship between economic vulnerability, produced by a mining industry, and ecological disaster, exploring the strategies through which the local population reappropriates space and claims the right to live in a contaminated environment. The project aims to contribute to the contemporary anthropological debate on the anthropology of mining, disasters and risk, with a particular focus on forms of coexistence with toxic ecology and the possibilities for action by the population in post-Soviet contexts.



Zedda Flavia

Research project:

Archaeology in Euboea: Cultural and Cultic Dynamics From the so-called 'second colonization' to the Hellenistic period.

Supervisor:

Prof.ssa Carboni Romina

Co-Supervisor:

Prof. Giومان Marco

Abstract:

Euboea occupied a central position in the Greek world thanks to its strategic location between mainland Greece and the Cyclades, serving as a natural bridge for trade since prehistoric times and contributing decisively to the historical and cultural development of the Hellenic world. The research, while taking into account the phenomenon of the "second colonization," will focus primarily on the relations between Euboea and Athens, reevaluating the Euboean poleis as autonomous actors in their own history, seeking to transcend the fragmentary and Athenocentric studies.