

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Economic Interactions in the Roman Northern Adriatic

Regional trajectories of production, trade and consumption from the sea to the mountains

International Online Conference

7 May 2026

Organised by

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For decades, Roman economic narratives have centered on the Tyrrhenian coast and the western Mediterranean, reinforcing the centrality of regions stretching from Campania to Hispania in classical scholarship. Only recently have scholars begun to question the limits and lacunae of this historiographical bias, increasingly recognizing the Northern Adriatic as a vital – yet still ill-understood – component for reconstructing the commercial and ecological dynamics of the Roman world.

The Northern Adriatic – running clockwise from Ravenna to Pula and encompassing the regions of Emilia-Romagna, Veneto, Friuli-Venezia Giulia and Istria – has rarely played a leading role in scholarly discussions on the Roman economic system. This marginalization stems both from the biases of ancient sources and from modern research agendas traditionally focused on more valorized areas. Persistent uncertainties surrounding product traceability and long-term distribution patterns have further hindered this region's integration into the broader Roman economic framework.

In recent decades, however, interdisciplinary research combining ceramic studies, pollen analysis and environmental data has increasingly revealed the Northern Adriatic as a key hub in systems of production and redistribution. This conference foregrounds the area as a highly interconnected economic and ecological zone within the Roman Empire and reassesses its role in regional and interregional exchange from the 4th-3rd century BC to the 2nd-3rd century AD.

Programme

Thursday, 7 May 2026

09.00–09.15 Opening and introduction

Session 1 *Agriculture practices and cultivation systems*

Moderator: D. Van Limbergen

Time	Paper	Speaker(s)
09.15–09.30	Ambiente e paesaggio vegetale nell'alto Adriatico in età romana	S. Marvelli, M. Marchesini, E. Rizzoli, A. Muscogiuri
09.30–09.45	Paesaggio ed agricoltura nella pianura bolognese dall'età celtica al tardoantico	M. Marchesini, S. Marvelli, E. Rizzoli, A. Muscogiuri
09.45–10.15	Animal Husbandry in the Roman Venetian Lagoon: the zooarchaeological evidence from Altino and the north-western Adriatic	S. Garavello, M. Rizzetto
10.15–10.30	Rural Economies and Trade Networks in the Territory of Tergeste (Regio X): the Roman countryside in Northern Istria and the Karst Plateau	T. Žerjal
10.30–10.45	The Productive Landscapes and villae of Roman Histria. Establishment, diachronic development, estate organisation, crops and outputs	A. Konestra, D. Bulić, C. M. Rice, A. McLean, F. Welc, K. Gerometta, R. Matijašić, D. Matika
10.45–11.15	<i>Discussion</i>	
11.15–11.30	<i>Break</i>	

Session 2 *Production and consumption of foodstuffs*

Moderator: F. M. Riso

Time	Paper	Speaker(s)
11.30–11.45	Army supplies - Military taste and logistics through pottery from Early Roman Carnium (Kranj, Slovenia)	K. Stemberger Flegar, R. Urankar, B. Orehek
11.45–12.00	From Market to Table: new data on Roman amphorae in the south-eastern Alps	T. Berden, I. Bekljanov Zidanšek, M. Janežič, A. Kovačič, D. Mitrova, T. Žerjal
12.00–12.15	The estate of Loron - Santa Marina in the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD: an observatory on the evolution of the economy of Istria between the High Empire and Late Antiquity	C. Rouse, G. Benčić
12.15–12.30	The Importance of Olive Growing in the Histrian Economy: continuity and change in production strategies from the Early Empire to Late Antiquity	A. McLean, D. Bulić, C. M. Rice
12.30–12.45	Early Imperial Production of Wine and Olive Oil in Histria	J. Kopáčková
12.45–13.15	<i>Discussion</i>	
13.15–14.30	<i>Lunch break</i>	

Session 3 *Manufacture and distribution*

Moderator: A. Cipolato

Time	Paper	Speaker(s)
14.30–14.45	Between the Lagoons and the Mountains: the Wool Economy in Roman Venetia	M. S. Busana, A. Trentacoste
14.45–15.00	Il contributo dell'epigrafia nello studio dei rapporti economici nel Nord Adriatico in età romana: il caso di Aquileia	D. Radaelli
15.00–15.15	L'importazione di anfore a Tridentum fra la prima e la tarda età romana: un aggiornamento	B. Maurina
15.15–15.30	The North Adriatic in the Mediterranean Commercial Network: Insights from Amphora Analysis	P. Komar
15.30–15.45	Le produzioni anforiche minori della figlina di Loron (I-IV secolo d.C.) in Istria	Y. Marion
15.45–16.30	Discussion and conclusion	