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## ❖ Editorial

The CARMEN project is nearing its conclusion. It has provided a valuable opportunity for experienced colleagues, the supervisors, and the Early-Stage Researchers (ESRs) to engage in professional networking. The majority of participants were able to adhere to the guidelines set forth by the European funder, providing support for the project at the conclusion of the three-year contract period. This posed a significant challenge, as the majority of participants had no prior experience working on the Carmina Latina Epigraphica. Through the training programmes, they were able to gain expertise in non-book epigraphy, which involved fieldwork, contextualising the texts within their original discovery and installation contexts.

In addition to acquiring methodology and training in research, these three years have provided the entire team with the opportunity to make stimulating discoveries. The ESRs have travelled extensively throughout Europe and to Tunisia, fostering an appreciation for diverse cultures and methodologies. They have been able to compare the training offered in different countries and observe the administrative complexities in some cases. In the context of a European project, it was essential for the CARMEN project to adopt an open-minded, tolerant and curious approach. It was the supervisors' concern that these three objectives be achieved – and we were successful.

In addition to these crucial elements of their thesis work, the ESRs have been introduced to the fundamental aspects of research, which extended beyond the confines of individual work at a desk, and which are essential to those seeking to engage in research programmes, apply for grants or research contracts. The ESRs have also been instrumental in organis-

ing a series of meetings, including those scheduled to take place in Dijon in April 2023, Trier in April 2024, Seville in May–June 2024 and beyond. How might one reconcile work sessions with time for discovery? How might we ensure that conviviality is not neglected while respecting the necessary timing? Finding the right balance is essential, and this learning experience will undoubtedly prove beneficial in their future missions.

It was therefore necessary that the interactions between the ESRs were consistent over the three-year period. The occasions to convene on a regular basis at training events was highly regarded, and the underlying solidarity that fostered these relationships was evident. The network of relationships that has been established between the researchers, their supervisors and all those involved in the project, is now active. It remains to be seen what the doctoral students will do with the opportunities opened up to them by the intensive research training and the internship ('secondment') in the non-academic sector. From the outset, the EU experience, which began for the ESRs on the very first day with a move to another country, was certainly the most unusual aspect of this three-year doctoral programme. However, over time, it became the most 'normal' aspect of the programme.

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## ❖ Organised Events

## Seminar-Conference “Social Media in the Ancient World”, Dijon

📅 April 3–6, 2023

by Gabriël de Klerk  
Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz

From 3 to 6 April 2023, the CARMEN Project held its third seminar-conference in Dijon, at the cultural heart of the Bourgogne region. The three-day event comprised an in-depth exploration of the seminar’s topic, “Social media in the ancient world”, on the first day. This was achieved through presentations and contributions from Early-Stage Researchers (ESRs) and external speakers. On the second day of the seminar-conference, participants visited the nearby MuséoParc Alésia, which revolved around the Gallo-Roman town of Alesia and its famous toponymic battle. The third day concluded with meetings between the ESRs and their supervisors, a supervisory board meeting and a closing lecture.

The seminar-conference addressed the topic of social media in the ancient world in two distinct ways. Firstly, Latin verse epigraphy was approached as a medium for the dissemination of social identity in a manner analogous to that of modern social media. Some contributions reflected on the similarities and differences between the two types of communication, such as the talk of Prof. Christine Hoët-van



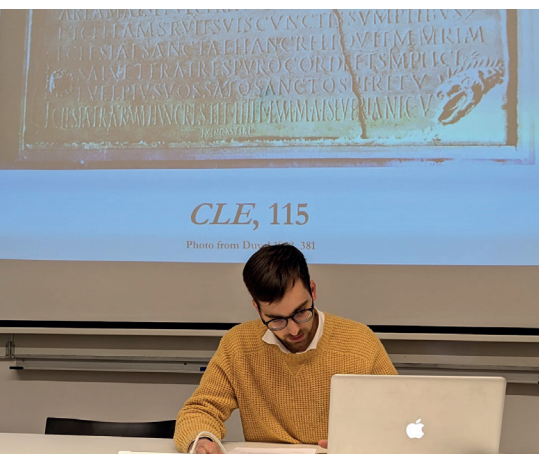
MuséoParc Alésia, view of the museum in close proximity to the identified battle site. © L. Sarli.

Cauwenberghe (Université de Lille), which focused on the topic of graffiti in Northern Gaul as a means of communication. Similarly, Ana Lemes’ (ESR 9) presentation on the topic of ancient and modern funerary speeches focused on the (dis)similarities between social media and ancient epigraphy. Other presentations focused on specific aspects of funerary epigraphy as a form of social media. Giovanni Naccarato (ESR 4) discussed the mausoleum of the Flavii in Cilium (modern-day Tunisia), examining the ways in which personal identity was expressed and disseminated through monumental epigraphy. Moreover, the investigation of ancient media was broadened through an examination of parallels between Roman material and immaterial culture, predominantly exemplified by the *imago*, in addition to rhetorical techniques such as *enargeia* on verse epigraphy, as elucidated by Dylan Bovet (Université de Lausanne).

Secondly, the seminar-conference addressed the use of social media for the investigation of the ancient world, with particular emphasis on its function in

the dissemination and communication of contemporary attitudes, understandings and knowledge about Roman society. This approach was primarily investigated during the second and third days of the seminar-conference (see below), as well as during the scheduled breaks. During these intervals, the ESRs were encouraged to contemplate and formulate potential drafts for the dissemination of interesting features of their research via contemporary social media platforms. This resulted in the publication of at least one clip on the CARMEN website and YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tue3GrKeOhk&t=23s>), in which Gabriël de Klerk (ESR 5) provides an in-depth analysis of the poetic styles evident in a single verse inscription from Aquincum (modern-day Budapest).

On the second day of the programme, the participants proceeded to the nearby MuséoParc Alésia. The symbolic importance of the museum’s site as a cultural and political landmark of French unity is clearly underscored by the monumental mid-19th-century statue of Vercingetorix

Francesco Tecca (ESR 3) presenting his research.  
© M. Butini.





A view from the museum to a reconstruction of Caesar's double circumvallation. © G. de Klerk.

who, leaning on his sword, intently kept guard of the site of his famous defeat. The park is situated in close proximity to the ancient Gallo-Roman settlement of Alesia. It comprises an imposing three-story circular museum building, flanked by a reconstruction of Caesar's circumvallation and archaeological remains of the ancient town. The guests were initially presented with a guided tour of the ancient site that was enhanced through the utilisation of virtual reconstructions of the original Gallo-Roman edifices. These reconstructions were displayed on tablets, offering a 3D perspective of the buildings in their original splendour. Consequently, the ancient ruins were transformed into fully-realised theatres, temples, and residential structures, thereby facilitating a more profound understanding of Gallo-Roman architectural styles while ensuring the preservation of the surviving archaeological discoveries.

Following the visit to the ancient site, a guided tour of the museum was conducted. The museum, which houses artefacts related to the period preceding and following Caesar's conquest of the region, has a dual focus on both the military and the civil context. This is exemplified by the juxtaposition of replicas of Roman *ballistae* with an instructive model of a Celtic *carnyx*, while other rooms are dedicated to the lived experience of the city's in-



An impressive replica of a Celtic *carnyx*. © G. de Klerk

habitants. This is illustrated by a display of miniature representations of Roman Alesia in a room with walls filled to the brim with ancient pottery and inscriptions. Ancient artefacts alternated by visual me-

dia that reflected primarily on the intricacies of Roman warfare, exemplified by the famous siege of Alesia. Primarily, the museum elucidates the daily lives of the ancient inhabitants of the Gallo-Roman town through a comprehensive display of artefacts and digital resources. Additionally, it informs on the aims and techniques of archaeology, specifically, the archaeological research conducted in the region. For example, an interactive stratigraphic profile offers a concise representation of the challenges archaeologists face during their excavations, while simultaneously providing a tangible experience of archaeology. This is particularly significant given that the museum caters to younger demographic, including children and young adults.

After a savoury Burgundian lunch, the topic of archaeology and conservation within the context of the museum was addressed by a number of speakers, including Nicolas Potier (director of the Museum of Sens) and Dominique Darde (director of the Museum of Nîmes), who both reflected on epigraphy as a subject of education within the museum context. They also discussed the potential of modern media, such as audio-visual representations (e.g. speakers or light shows), to facilitate a clearer interpretation and consultation of ancient inscriptions. This included a discussion of how ancient inscriptions could be linked to other ancient objects, such as coins, and the manner in which such connections should resonate with the imagination of the museum's public.



Dominique Darde explaining the use of lighting on inscriptions. © G. de Klerk.

The topic of the museum's role in the dissemination of information via social media was emphasised by a presentation by Laura Sarli (ESR 11), which considered the role of social media as a conduit for communication between the museum and its



Laura Sarli (ESR 11) presenting her research during the museum visits. © E. Oikonomou.

public, as well as the potential of social media as a means of reaching a broader audience for the museum itself.

Following a speedy return to Dijon, the day was concluded by a gala dinner where the guests were provided with the opportunity to sample a wide array of local delicacies, accompanied by the region's renowned red wines.

The last day of the seminar-conference was dedicated to meetings between the ESRs and their supervisors. The event was brought to a close with a lecture delivered by Véronique Rey-Vodoz and Michel Aberson, who discussed the role of the visual, digital and auditory equipment in the Roman Museum of Nyon (Switzerland) for the creation of a narrative in and between inscriptions. In doing so, digital text representations and fictional voice-acted recordings of monologues and dialogues (for example, a conversation between an old man and his granddaughter), introduced the audience to a number of

epigraphic intricacies, including abbreviations and technical terms, in an accessible manner.

The seminar-conference, held in Dijon, proved an excellent combination of academic discourse and engagement, coupled with the unique opportunity to explore one of France's historically significant regions. The programme included engaging talks, interspersed with exquisite food, and participants were able to enjoy the company of their fellow attendees, enhanced by the region's magnificent surroundings. We would again like to take this opportunity to extend our thanks to Professor Sabine Lefebvre (Université de Bourgogne) and Giovanni Naccarato (ESR 4) for their role in organising this wonderful seminar-conference.



**Gabriël de Klerk**  
Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz

ESR 5

## Workshop “Cultural Exchange”, Tunisia

📅 April 22 – May 1, 2023

by Francesco Tecca  
Universidad de Sevilla

Utina, amphitheatre, 26 April 2023, temperature approximately 40° Celsius. The driver who had transported us to the archaeological site requested that I provide him with the drawing of the reconstruction of the amphitheatre that I was holding. Smiling in amazement, he told me: “Je ne croyais pas que c'était comme ça”. He did not think the amphitheatre looked like that. Interesting!

From 22 April to 1 May 2023, we ESRs were afforded the opportunity to visit Tunisia as part of the workshop “Inter-cultural Exchange”, conducted by Dr Erika Fischer (University of Mainz) and Prof. Ferdinand Heimerl (University of Trier), and accompanied by Prof. Mads Daugbjerg

(Aarhus University), member of the CARMEN Advisory Board. From a diachronic and diatopic perspective, we were able to observe the exchange between different civilisations and nations.

One aspect of the workshop that merits particular attention is the geographical proximity between Europe and the Maghreb, which is accompanied by a considerable cultural and human (or perhaps societal) distance. It is evident that there is a significant untapped potential for collaboration between the two shores of the Mediterranean!

Indeed, for a period of over six centuries, the northern regions of the African continent were under Roman control. However, the distinctiveness of its earlier cultures, of the cultural substratum, has persisted



Dr Erika Fischer informing about Sidi Bou Said.  
© F. Heimerl.

and continues to be visible and recognisable in Roman buildings (e.g. the magnificent *opus africanum* and Libyan-Punic



mausoleums), in iconography and, on occasion, in onomastics and language. Subsequently, the Arabs, with their dynasties, introduced a radical transformation in Maghrebi culture.

Instead of focusing on the achievements and cultural heritage of these civilisations, I am drawn to the concept of a “matrimonio culturale” between Europe and the Maghreb, a felicitous expression used by Matteo Lucchetti, Curator for Contemporary Arts and Cultures of the Museum of Civilisations in Rome. This encompasses notions of a collaborative partnership based on principles of equality, friendship and mutual assistance. From this perspective, considering and valuing diversity, the mission is to care for the children of these lands, who can now be more accurately defined as our common ancestors. This interweaving of history also involves us citizens of the 21st century and encourages collaboration in an increasingly globalised world.

The spirit in question can be discerned, for instance, in the aims and projects of the Scuola Archeologica Italiana di Cartagine (SAIC), which we visited during our stay in Tunis. One of its recent achievements was the establishment of the Sabatino Moscati



Details of architecture in the village of Sidi Bou Saïd.  
© F. Tecca.

Library on the Byrsa hill. This library contains in excess of 6,000 volumes formerly in the possession of this Italian scholar, a donation made by the deceased's heirs. The SAIC also provides scholarships for students from the Maghreb region. Italy is generally regarded as one of the European countries that cooperates most closely with the Tunisian government.

Further examples of Italy's commitment were presented to us at the Istituto Italiano di Cultura di Tunisi by its director, Fabio Ruggirello. Subsequently, Prof. Mads Daubjerg led us to the United States of America and the legacy of their civil war. He initiated our engagement with his current field research through a lecture entitled “Approaching heritage anthropologically: the powers and problems of the past in Gettysburg”.

The remainder of the journey was primarily focused on exploring a range of archaeological sites, including Carthage, Thuburbo Maius, Uthina, Thignica, El Djem, Dougga, Makthar and Sufetula. The itinerary also encompassed other significant locations such as the Medina (old town) of Tunis and the renowned village of Sidi Bou Saïd with its characteristic whitewashed buildings and blue painted architectural elements that harmoniously blend with the sky and the clouds.

The archaeological sites we visited were marvellous with many and impressive monuments and preserved objects. One of the favourable factors for this situation is the region's semiarid climate. The challenge of maintaining such sites and providing archaeological information on site that meets the needs of the intended visitors is significant. I am considering the sites of Thuburbo Maius, Uthina, Thignica, El Djem and Makthar where we observed a number of remarkably well-preserved structures. These include the baths of Uthina and its subterranean areas, the amphitheatre of El Djem, the mausoleums of Makthar and the various Byzantine fortresses. These sites are in no way inferior to European archaeological sites (on the contrary!), but they receive far fewer visitors.



The ESRs with Prof. Mads Daubjerg in front of the El Djem amphitheatre. © F. Heimerl.

During the course of our excursion, the renowned Bardo Museum was still closed. Fortunately, we were able to visit the museum in Sousse, which boasts an impressive collection of Roman mosaics and other noteworthy archaeological discoveries.

Our visit to the various sites of Tunisia's multifaceted and invaluable cultural heritage has once again highlighted the significant potential of joint Maghrebi-European institutional projects. Such initiatives, which are dedicated to research, preservation, enhancement and promotion of these sites and their surrounding areas, not only contribute to the expansion of scientific knowledge and the development of tourist attractions, but also facilitate diplomatic relations and the exchange of diverse expertise.

And who knows, a Tunisian driver maybe one day be standing in front of the Oudna amphitheatre and say to a European tourist: “Voyez-vous cela? Des études archéologiques récentes ont montré que notre amphithéâtre devait être très semblable au Colisée que vous avez en Italie”.



**Francesco Tecca**  
Universidad de Sevilla

ESR 3



## Final Seminar-Conference “Resonances of the Ancient World in Contemporary Culture”, Trier

📅 April 9–12, 2024

by Eleni Oikonomou  
Universidad del País Vasco

The final seminar-conference bearing the title “Resonances of the Ancient World in Contemporary Culture” was held in the city of Trier, formerly known as Augusta Treverorum during the Roman era. The event was organised by Prof. Dr Stephan Busch, Prof. Dr Torsten Mattern and two of our ESRs, Ana Lemes and Laura Sarli, who were instrumental in ensuring the success of the event and providing a unique experience for all participants. This event marked the conclusion of the in-person meetings of the entire team involved in the past three years in the CARMEN project, which has been an exciting and fruitful endeavour.

The inaugural session of the seminar was exclusively dedicated to the ESR cohort. Consequently, we got the chance to peruse the Roman archaeological sites of the city and discover not only their importance during their own era, but also their evolution and impact in different historical periods. Ana Lemes and Laura Sarli guided us

through the historic city centre to iconic monuments such as the famous city gate Porta Nigra and the Imperial Baths (Kai-



Guided tour in the Roman amphitheatre of Trier by Alexander Strunk. © L. Sarli.

serthermen), providing insights into the historical evolutions of these structures, while Alexander Strunk offered us a guided tour in the amphitheatre, which is used even today for re-enacted gladiator fights and other performances.

The day of the ESRs concluded with a roundtable discussion on ways of navigating the academic paths, headed by Dr Theofanis Tsiampokalos and Dr Piotr Wozniczka, including a fruitful exchange of views on our respective thesis development, where main results and key questions were highlighted.

The subsequent days of the conference, directed at all CARMEN participants, featured an equally comprehensive and diverse programme. It included interesting lectures devoted primarily to the subject



Apartment buildings near the Imperial Baths showing resonances of the ancient world in the contemporary graffiti art of the city of Trier. © E. Oikonomou.



Roundtable discussion headed by Dr Theofanis Tsiampokalos and Dr Piotr Wozniczka. © L. Sarli.

of the event such as “Augustus in Saigon!? Resonances of the Ancient World in French Indochina and modern Vietnam” by Dr Elisabeth Günther (Universität Heidelberg) and Dr Sven Günther (Changchun University), and “Perceptions and Receptions of the Etruscans from the Middle Ages to Modern Times” by Dr Aura Piccioni (Universität Trier), as well as the presentation of the project “ARGO – Augmented Archaeology”, by Dr Sascha Schmitz (Universität Trier), which employs augmented reality (AR) to preserve and disseminate cultural



The Porta Nigra, seen from inside the city. © E. Oikonomou.



heritage. This innovative approach allows users to access and view ancient monuments on their smartphones or tablets.

Moreover, the four-day event provided an opportunity for direct engagement with our supervisors, facilitating in-depth discussions on the latest developments, queries and challenges related to our PhD theses, shortly before the completion of the latter.



Guided tour to the Papyrology Collection of Universität Trier by Raphael Ruf. © L. Sarli.



Guided tour to the Papyrology Collection of Universität Trier by Raphael Ruf. © L. Sarli.

Additionally, two unique guided tours were conducted: one to the Papyrology Collection at Universität Trier by Raphael Ruf and one to the Archaeological Collection at the same institution. These tours were accompanied by a presentation on the digitisation project, delivered by Daria Reschke and Isabell-Sophie Göbel.

In light of the conference “Resonances of the Ancient World in Contemporary Culture”, the experience of examining the ways in which ancient Roman culture is perceived and transmitted in the archaeological parks of the broader area was also extremely interesting. On the third day, we were afforded the opportunity to gain insight into the “French model” of promoting antiquities. This model is primarily based on a meticulous conservation and selective, non-invasive reconstruction of certain parts of the archaeological remains. A prime example of this approach is the French section of Europäischer Kulturpark Bliesbruck-Reinheim, which we had the privilege of touring.

Subsequently, we visited the Archäologiepark Römische Villa Borg, where we were given the opportunity to participate in a guided tour and attend a lecture presented by Dr Bettina Birkenhagen. The *villa rustica* is not only fully restored, but also fully functional, with festival rooms, a gatehouse, gardens where plants common to a garden or crops of the period are cultivated, an impressive villa bath, a kitchen and a tavern where a typical Roman meal was enjoyed. The excursion was concluded by a visit to the Römische Villa Nennig, which is regarded as one of the most significant Roman monuments in the Saarland, primarily due to its spectacular mosaic floor.

The conclusion of this highly stimulating seminar-conference was held at Rheinisches Landesmuseum of Trier, where several facets of the city’s impressive ancient heritage were revealed through a captivating tour. In an atmosphere of both joy and emotion, we reflected on the three-year history of the fascinating ITN CAR·M·E·N project. As we parted ways, we expressed our hope that this period marked not the end, but the beginning of a long journey into the realm of discovery and dissemination of knowledge about Roman culture and its multifaceted creations, both literary and otherwise.



Visit to Europäischer Kulturpark Bliesbruck-Reinheim. © L. Sarli.



Archäologiepark Römische Villa Borg. © E. Oikonomou.



Guided tour of Rheinisches Landesmuseum of Trier. © L. Sarli.



**Eleni Oikonomou**  
Universidad del País Vasco

ESR 7



❖ Defended Dissertations

## Carmina Latina Epigraphica of Caesarea Mauretaniae. Edition, Translation, and Commentary



ESR 3

**Francesco Tecca**

Universidad de Sevilla

📅 July 2, 2024



© C. Fernández Martínez.



## The Carmina Latina Epigraphica of Carthage. Edition, Translation, and Commentary



ESR 2

**Michele Butini**

Universidad de Sevilla

📅 July 15, 2024



© C. Fernández Martínez.

## Christian Latin Verse Inscriptions of Rome and Italy. Rhetorical Analysis of the Picture of Children



ESR 7

**Eleni Oikonomou**

Universidad del País Vasco

September 17, 2024





## Carmina Latina Epigraphica post-Bücheleriana of Rome. A Selection of Epitaphs in Elegiac Couplets



ESR 1

**Timo Eichhorn**Sapienza Università di  
Roma

September 23, 2024

## Verse Inscriptions of Rome in Renaissance Manuscripts. A Study on the Epigraphic Sylloges of Michele Fabrizio Ferrarini



ESR 10

**Christin Rochlitzer**Sapienza Università di  
Roma

September 23, 2024



## Poetry in the Name of God. The Self-Representation of Bishops and Clerics as Spiritually Authoritative People in the Carmina Latina Epigraphica of Italy (4th–5th Centuries CE)



ESR 8

**Eleonora Maiello**Johannes Gutenberg-  
Universität Mainz

📅 October 11, 2024



© M. Horster.



## Roman Masculinity and Latin Poetic Funerary Epigraphy



ESR 5  
**Gabriël de Klerk**  
Johannes Gutenberg-  
Universität Mainz

📅 October 15, 2024



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❖ Consortium



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