

Call for Papers

AquAntica, Workshop on Water Management in Antiquity (500 BC-700 AD)

University of Ghent (Belgium), 10–11 September 2025

An Enlight+ co-operation between the Universities of Ghent (B), Uppsala (S) and Bern (CH)

CfP deadline extended until 21 April 2025

With this two-day interdisciplinary workshop, we aim to assemble young researchers to present (on-going/starting) work on the broad topic of water in Antiquity.

As a primordial and timely concern for both urban centres and rural settlements alike, water management played a crucial role in shaping the ancient world, and subsequently also in shaping our modern-day cities and landscapes as heirs of this antique heritage. Understanding how ancient societies coped with for example water supply and waste water disposal, especially in times of adversity and changing climatic conditions, can help us think about similar issues in our contemporary world. We encourage a multidisciplinary interaction, accepting contributions from all disciplines within Classics (e.g. history, archaeology, art history, philology, philosophy, etc.) but also other relevant fields of research (e.g. geology, climatology, architecture, cartography, etc.).

Key themes can include (but are not limited to) water management, water use, weather phenomena, including climate and environmental change, water infrastructure and display (e.g., fountains, baths), water technology (e.g., dams, water mills) and so on.

Participants are invited to step out of their „comfort zone“ and think about their research in a polyfocal way, considering how their specific topics interweave with larger historic processes (e.g., climate change, city formation, cultural change, etc.) and still have impact on modern-day society.

Each day will start with a keynote lecture by a senior researcher (45 minutes), followed by six presentations of the participants. The day ends with a general discussion (30–45 minutes) chaired by a committee of senior researchers from the participating universities. The workshop offers the opportunity for starting researchers to share their research or research project with peers and senior researchers, while working on their presentation and networking skills.

Practicalities

Who? Advanced BA and Master students, pre-doctoral candidates and PhD students of Ghent University, Uppsala University and the University of Bern interested in or working on any topic related to water in Antiquity (500 BC – 700 AD).

When? 10-11 September 2025

Where? Faculty of Arts and Philosophy, Ghent University (Belgium).

How? Please send a 300-word abstract in English to andrea.schaer@faculty.unibe.ch by ~~31st March 2025~~, also indicating the stage of your career and your affiliation.

21 April 2025

We expect speakers to be present in person and on-site. Contributions should be in English and last ca. 15 minutes (plus 5 minutes for discussion).

Expenses: All expenses will be covered (including travel costs up to CHF 400, coffee breaks, lunches, dinner and accommodation). Participants are free to make their own travel arrangements and can apply for a refund afterwards. Accommodation will be booked by the organizers.

Organizers: Sadi Maréchal (Gent University), Patrik Klingborg (Uppsala University) and Andrea Schaer (University of Bern).

Confirmed keynote speakers: Dr. Martin Finné (University of Uppsala) and Dr. Sebastian Gairhos (town archaeologist, City of Augsburg)

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