



Lifelong
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Programme



Second Circular issued 1.6.2014

UNIVERSITY OF PADOVA
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHICAL AND ANTIQUITY SCIENCES

17th EUROPEAN SEMINAR ON GEOGRAPHY OF WATER

“Geo-historical Evolution of the Waters in the Southern Venetian Plain”

Padova, 22nd June – 3rd July 2014

Padova, 1st June 2014

Dear Participants of the 17th European Intensive Program (IP) Seminar,

It is our honor to have you as our guests in the Venetian region, at the University of Padova from June 22nd to July 3rd. With this second circular we would like to share with you the following points:

1. Theme of the Seminar
2. Organizing and Scientific Committees
3. Working Groups
4. Oral and Poster Presentations
5. Arrival in Padova
6. Accommodation and Meals
7. Location of Lectures/Presentations
8. Registration Desk
9. Social Dinner
10. Other Social Activities (not included)
11. Contact Information and Maps



1. Theme

This year's Seminar will focus on the **Geo-historical Evolution of the Waters in the Southern Venetian Plain**. The Seminar will be primarily aimed at driving the attendants into an interdisciplinary, multi-scalar and diachronical approach to research the historical evolution of the relationships between man and waters in the southern Venetian Plain. The participants will deepen their knowledge on the complex man-water relationships at both an urban scale (i.e. Padova city) and in a wider regional scale (i.e. the alluvial plain between the Adige and Po rivers and the Po Delta region). In particular, the issues of land reclamation, river management, flood risk, territorial

conflicts in a park, urban canal navigability, sustainable tourism of water, exploitation of landmarks related to the waters for the valorisation of the territory will be addressed.

Students will have the opportunity to pursue the following three themes:

- to recognize the **stakeholders** that act in the **territory**, their concerns, and to participate in an interactive discussion with the stakeholders on the economical and political water-related conflicts.
- to study the historical evolution in rivers, canals and wetlands, methods of water control and **flooding** mitigation and to make a diachronical comparison of historical water management to present-day water control systems.
- to propose and rank criteria representing the water-related elements of the natural and cultural heritages for a sustainable **tourism**.

2. Organizing and Scientific Committees

Organizing Committee:

- **Dr. Silvia Piovan**: the head of the organizing and scientific committee and tutor of the 2nd working group “Flooding and flood water mitigation”; e-mail: *silvia.piovan@unipd.it*
- **Angelica Dal Pozzo**, PhD student: member of the organizing and scientific committees and tutor of the 3rd working group “Environmental and cultural tourism”; e-mail: *angelica.dalpozzo@libero.it*
- **Mauricio N. Vergara**, PhD student: member of the organizing and scientific committees and tutor of the 3rd working group “Environmental and cultural tourism”; e-mail: *mauriconicolas.vergara.1@studenti.unipd.it*

Scientific Committee:

- **Prof. Marina Bertoncin**: lecture and tutor of the 1st working group “Actors and Territorial Strategies”; e-mail: *marina.bertoncin@unipd.it*
- **Dr. Daria Quatrida**: tutor of the 1st working group “Actors and Territorial Strategies”; e-mail: *daria.quatrida@unipd.it*
- **Dr. Franco Benucci**: guide in Padova and tutor of the 3rd working group “Environmental and cultural tourism”; e-mail: *franco.benucci@unipd.it*
- **Prof. Michael E. Hodgson**: lecture and tutor of the 2nd working group “Flooding and flood water mitigation”
- **Dr. Antonella Miola**: lecture and guide in the Botanical Gardens.
- **Dr. Alessandro Fontana**: lecture on “Geology and Geomorphology in the Veneto Region”
- **Dr. Paolo Mozzi**: lecture on “Padova Underground”
- **Dr. Elisabetta Novello**: lecture on “Land Reclamation Consortium”
- **Dr. Ugo Fadini**: lecture on “Canals and Walls in Padova” and stakeholder
- **Dr. Emanuele Caravello**: lecture on “Culverts and Underground Canals in Padova” and stakeholder

3. Working Groups

Participants have been divided into three working groups based on the specified research interests. Each working group has two or three tutors, professors, and students. Seminar activities will include lectures, field trips, and interviews with stakeholders, discussion forums and analysis of historical maps. Students will also have the opportunity to use a Geographic Information System (GIS) and

Global Positioning System (GPS) with your smartphone to collect data, design cartographic visualizations, and analyze spatial relationships.

Actors and Territorial Strategies (tutors: Marina Bertocin and Daria Quatrida)

The Venetian area could be considered a “natural” laboratory to study conflicts involving the economical and the political management of water in a populated alluvial-coastal plain. In particular, the Padova city and Po Delta area offer two examples, at different scales, to analyze the stakeholder concerns that drive the territorial strategies, and often result in conflicts, related to management of water resources.

A current debate in the city of Padova concerns the re-opening of the urban canals (buried during the last century, especially during the 1950s) for the reorganization of the urban traffic and the “re-qualification” of the city centre. The debate involves public administrations, cultural associations and public opinion, and includes the historical role of canals. Such a debate offers an ideal case-study to probe present-day reasons for re-thinking the management of urban waters.

The Po Delta located in the southeastern part of the Veneto region, presents an emblematic case of territorial conflicts due to the coexistence of the interregional park, instituted in 1997, the Porto Tolle thermoelectric plant and agricultural, fishing and hunting activities. All the aforementioned activities foster the territorial development but through different and sometimes conflicting ways. Therefore the management plan goals may be in conflict with a complex set of interests from internal, external, strong and weak stakeholders. The main aim of this working group is to understand and analyze territorialization processes, actors and relational dynamics of power in the case studies. For example, for the Delta Po region, are the management goals of the park consistent with those of the electric utility company, the agricultural community, the fishing consortium and the recreational hunting enthusiasts? Which goals of these stakeholders take priority during periods of low-flow water conditions? Is the water quality equally protected by the goals of all stakeholders?

PARTICIPANTS for Actors and Territorial Strategies		
Students		Professors
Bettina Balog	Rita Grisot	<i>Andrea Guaran</i>
Chiara Briatico	Valentina Sanna	<i>Miguel Garcia Martin</i>
Boglarka Czellecz		<i>Antti Roose</i>

Flooding and flood water mitigation (tutors: Silvia E. Piovan and Michael E. Hodgson)

The alluvial plain is one of the most common forms of the natural landscape. The distinctive feature of the southern Venetian plain is that of being crossed by four large rivers – Po, Adige, Brenta and Bacchiglione – which, from a geomorphological point of view, shaped the alluvial plain during Pleistocene and Holocene.

Over time, these rivers made the plain a good place for human settlements and served as a regional and superregional link between the Alps and the Adriatic Sea. The rivers acted not only as communication lines and trade routes but also as significant sources of water and food. Over time the rivers served many other activities, such as worship, recreation and energy production.

However, rivers also present a flood hazard for human life and activities. Flood events as those of Po (1951), Adige (1882), Brenta (1966) and Bacchiglione (2010) are only a few recent examples in a long series. How did man respond to the flood risk by management practices in the past and how does he act today? Are these management practices the best? What are the trade-offs? Who benefits most (or least)? Has flood risk been reduced from these management practices?

The city of Padova, as well as the Adige-Po alluvial plain between, offers relevant case studies to study flood-mitigation strategies in two different geographic contexts.

PARTICIPANTS for Flooding and Flood Water Mitigation		
Students		Professors
Julia Danko	Elisabeth Magyar	<i>Jansky Bohumír</i>
Kristyna Falatkova	Katerina Marouskova	<i>Arvo Jarvet</i>
Teresa Heidemann	Josè Louis Mellado Blanco	<i>Milada Matouskova</i>
Morten Jogi	Valentin Kostadinov	<i>Levente Ronczyk</i>
Rain Karner	Stefan Weinberger	<i>Mark Vetter</i>
		<i>Daniela Zlatunova</i>

Environmental and cultural tourism (tutors: Franco Benucci, Angelica Dal Pozzo and Mauricio N. Vergara)

Since the proto-historic times, in the southern Venetian alluvial plain, the rivers both guided settlements and encouraged trade up to the Baltic region, while the anthropogenic activities imposed radical changes in the natural water-related forms as rivers, streams, swamps and coastlines.

The urban center of Padova and alluvial plains of Bassa Padovana and Polesine provide case studies of different palaeohydrographic elements and anthropogenic structures related to the waters. Such physical and cultural elements include ancient bridges, alluvial ridges, meander cut-offs, industrial archeological sites (e.g. pumping stations), ancient siphon bridges, and canals. The elements are of great interest not only from geomorphological and historical points of view but also by the tourism perspective.

What are the metrics that can help us in identifying and ranking the features, both natural and anthropogenic, that can be considered environmental and/or cultural heritage related to the waters? How they can be valorised for a sustainable tourism and a local development of the study area? Who are the tourists we wish to attract?

PARTICIPANTS for Environmental and Cultural Tourism		
Students		Professors
Laura Altin	Niya Shekerova	<i>Franca Battigelli</i>
Lisa Baumeister	Manuel Toth	<i>Andrea Corsale</i>
Alpar Csegzi	Francesca Uleri	<i>Robert Loncaric</i>
Kateřina Fraindová		<i>Zoltan Pal</i>
		<i>Belen Pedregal</i>
		<i>Branimir Vukosav</i>

4. Oral and Poster Presentations

The posters from the students' research and case studies will be presented in two poster sessions on Tuesday 24th, in the hall of the Geography Section Department. During the poster session each student should stand beside the poster and be prepared to answer questions from the other participants. Professors can present results of their topical research in the form of powerpoint-type presentation (15-minutes for presentation and 5-minutes for questions and answers).

5. Arrival in Padova and Welcome Desk

We recommend arriving to Padova by plane (Treviso airport Marco Polo) or by train. The airports of Venice, referred to as Treviso (Antonio Canova) and Verona (Valerio Catullo), are reached by an additional short train ride from Padova. From Marco Polo airport you can take a bus (there are buses every 30', ~10€) to reach Padova. From Treviso airport you can take a bus (~5€) to Padova. A third nearby airport, Verona airport, can be reached from Padova by train (6,15€) and bus (6€ from the town of Verona to the Verona airport).

Many Central European universities can easily use private car to reach Padova.

Participants are required to stay for the duration of the seminar June 22nd - July 3rd. Remember that 75% of real travel cost will be reimbursed from University of Tartu on the basis of invoices, receipts, boarding passes, tickets and proofs of payment. Please consult the reimbursement rules to be provided by Antti Roose (University of Tartu) in the upcoming weeks (email to antti.roose@ut.ee).

On Sunday (22nd of June), members of the organizing committee will be present in the Casa del Pellegrino Hotel during the afternoon. We will have a welcome meeting at the Casa del Pellegrino on Sunday, June 22nd, at 20:00 (Sunday dinner on your own). At the welcome meeting, you will be provided with further information.

Dinner of 22nd is not included: there is the possibility to have the dinner at the restaurant of Casa del Pellegrino Hotel or other places in Padova (there are many restaurants and pizzerie in the city center or close to the hotel). Please, let us know if you plan to arrive earlier than Sunday.

6. Accommodations and Meals

In Padova:

- From June 22nd to 24th and from June 28th to July 3rd all participants will stay at Hotel "Casa del Pellegrino" (address: via Melchiorre Cesarotti 21, Padova; telephone: +39 049 8239711; e-mail: info@casadelpellegrino.com; website: www.casadelpellegrino.com). The hotel is located in the city center, beside the Sant'Antonio Basilica and Prato della Valle, at only 5-minutes walk from the main seminar places, 2-minutes from the bus, metrobus (i.e. tram) stop, and the Geography Section Department, and 30-minutes by walk from the train station.
- Breakfasts are included for all days and will be provided by the Casa del Pellegrino hotel.
- Lunches and some dinners will be at the "Oktoberfest" restaurant (address: via Del Santo 80, Padova; website: <https://sites.google.com/site/ristoranteoktoberfest>). Two dinners will be at the university canteen "Mensa Pio X" (address: via Bonporti 20, Padova).
- You can park your car at the Casa del Pellegrino for 5€/day. (Free parking at other locations in the city is possible.)
- The Casa del Pellegrino Hotel provides free Wi-Fi.
- The Casa del Pellegrino Hotel is very easy to reach from the Main train and Bus stations (these two central stations are very close each other). Out of the Main train station, you should take the blue metrobus at the "Stazione" stop (located outside the train station, just to the right as you exit). The closest metrobus stop to the Casa del Pellegrino Hotel is "Santo", located a 2-minute walk to the right as you exit the hotel on via Riviera Businello).
- The cost for one ticket (for both metrobus and bus) is 1,30€.

In Po Delta:

- From June 24th to 28th all participants will stay at the “Rifugio Al Paesin” (address: via Boschetto 17, Mesola, telephone: +39 0533 993176; e-mail: rifugioalpaesin@torreabate.it; website: <http://www.aqua-deltadelpo.com/dove-mangiare-e-dove-dormire/rifugio-al-paesin/>). [Note: Unfortunately, if you search for the location of the Rifugio Al Paesin, Google Maps shows an incorrect position. You can see the correct position on the maps we provide].

The Rifugio is also referred to as a ‘hostel’ although the accommodations are very nice. The hostel is located in a very small village (called Santa Giustina) in the Polesine countryside, close to the Po di Goro river and at about 4-km far from the little town of Mesola.

- Breakfasts are included and will be provided by the hostel.
- The number of rooms is limited so everyone will share the room.
- Each room has a private bathroom.
- The hostel provides free Wi-Fi.
- 3 lunches will be packed (provided by the hostel) and 1 lunch will be at the trattoria in Boccasette.
- All dinners in the Po Delta will be at the Rifugio al Paesin.

7. Location for Lectures/Presentations

The seminar activities (lectures, presentations and working group) will primarily be held at the Geography Section of the Department of Historical, Geographical and Antiquity Sciences (address: Palazzo Wollemborg, via Del Santo 26, Padova). The Geography Section is located a 2-minute walk from the Casa del Pellegrino.

8. Registration Desk

The participation fee is € 100 for students and € 150 for professors **to be paid in cash** at the registration desk on June 23rd. To speed payment, please complete the attached **data payment** form and bring to the registration desk (the form is attached with this Second Circular).

9. Social Dinner

The social dinner will be on Wednesday, July 2nd and is included in participation fees.

10. Other Social Activities (not included)

Beyond the seminar activities, we hope that participants will also enjoy the evening social life that Padova city offers. During this Seminar period there will be World Cup matches of interest. We also recommend the following two events to participate in:

- **Monday June 30th 20:00 – Padova Tango Festival 2014 - Piazza dei Frutti: free tango lesson for beginners.** Following the lesson, tango dance and tasting from “Sotto il Salone” Consortium. Free entrance. - See more at: http://digilander.libero.it/cochabamba444/Il_Festival.html
- **Tuesday July 1st afternoon – Excursion to Venice: optional.** We will depart from Oktoberfest restaurant immediately after lunch. We will take a short train from Padova to Venice (8.10€ roundtrip).

11. Contact Information and Maps

Contact Information. The official e-mail of the seminar is ipseminarpadova@gmail.com

Also, you can reach us via mobile phone numbers:

+39 347 1510908 (Silvia)

+39 340 7711696 (Angelica)

+39 348 1149586 (Mauricio)

Useful websites. Other useful websites are listed below:

- University of Padova: <http://www.unipd.it/>
- Padova tourism: <http://www.turismopadova.it/en>

As soon as possible, you will find the link to the Seminar on the website of the DiSSGeA:

- DiSSGeA Department: <http://www.dissgea.unipd.it/>

Clothing and Related Material. The summers in Padova are warm. Thus, dress is relaxed and short pants and skirts might be comfortable. The days in the Po River valley will often include outdoor excursions and sunscreen, hats, and mosquito repellent are suggested. A swimsuit might be useful for the two excursions to the beach.

Map. Below you will find three maps: 1) an overview map of the Polesine Delta with the key locations on the Geography of Water Seminar, 2) a map of central Padova and 3) the Rifugio in the Po Delta. The important seminar locations during the visit to each region are shown.



Figure 1 Map of the Polesine Delta.



Figure 2 Map of central Padova with important locations during the Seminar.

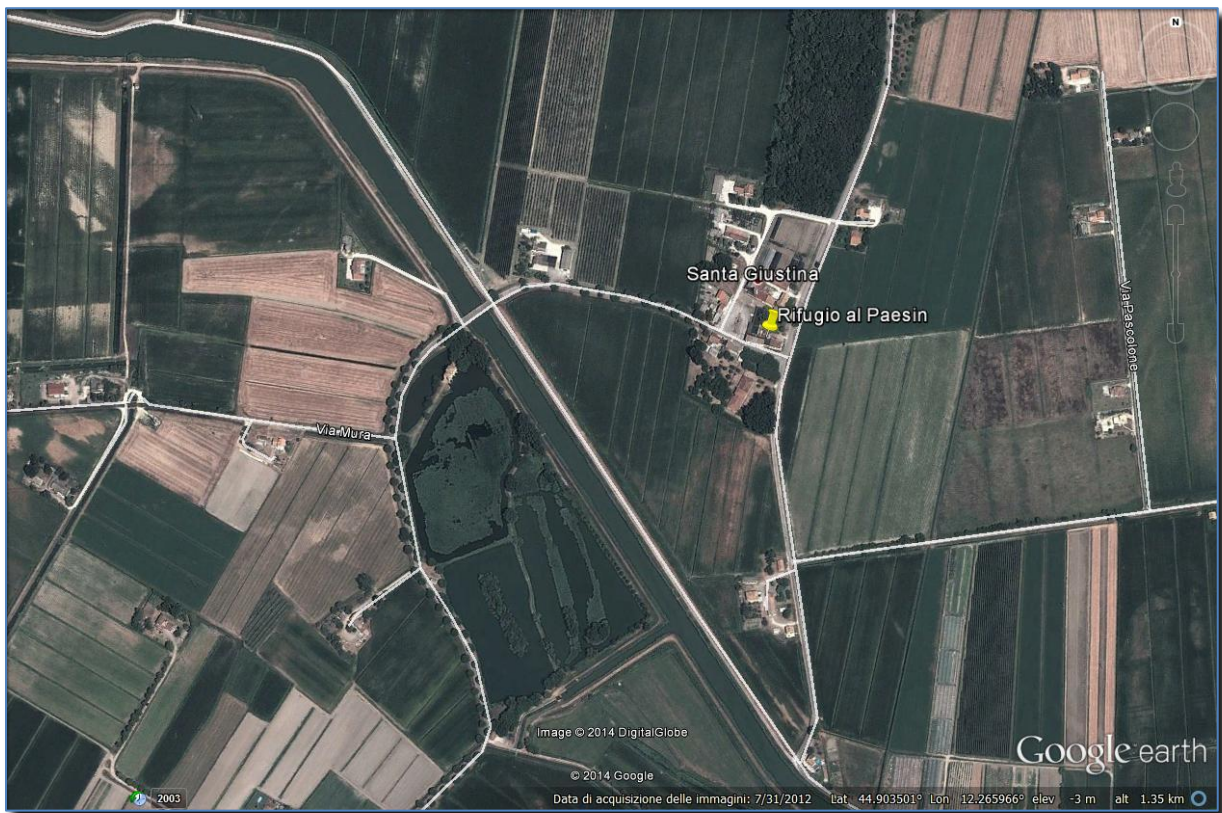


Figure 3 Map showing the Rifugio location in the Po Delta region.

We look forward to seeing you soon in Padova later this month!

Ciao,

Silvia
Angelica
Mauricio

Attached files:

Detailed provisional programme,
Form for the cash payment