

“A SCHOLARLY ODYSSEY”

Report on EMCC 2022 VI Summer School

TOULOUSE, 2022

EUROPEAN MASTER IN CLASSICAL CULTURES

Introduction:

This report provides an overview of the participants of the VI EMCC Summer School, held at the Université Toulouse Jean Jaurès (based in Toulouse, France) from the 21st to the 26th of June 2022.

Throughout these days, numerous EMCC coordinators, students and guests could get the chance to meet each other. All of the participants came from up to 8 European countries and 13 partner universities: Germany (Universities of Freiburg, Hamburg and Münster), Turkey (University of Istanbul), Slovenia (University of Ljubljana), Poland (University of Poznan), Cyprus (University of Nicosia), Italy (Universities of Palermo, Perugia and Roma Tre), Spain (University of Salamanca) and France (University of Toulouse Jean Jaurès). The local coordinator of the University of Athens could join some parts of the Summer School such as the Final discussion and evaluation.

The Summer School program offered an enriching academic and social experience for students of ancient history, archaeology and classic philology. At the same time, it provided a space of dialogue and meeting between academics and students from all around Europe. The program was comprised of several papers presented by students cursing their last or second semester along with the institutional greetings and farewell and a *lectio magistralis*, and also a trip. All these sessions were presented either in French either in English, and most of them supported with additional documents such as texts or pictures. In addition, the sessions were chaired by esteemed academics that contributed to a rich scholarly dialogue and with the smooth development of the Summer School.

This report aims to cover the program structure and the extracurricular activities. They will be addressed in accordance with timeline of the event.

Program Structure:

Monday, 20.06.2022: Arrival

The EMCC 2022 VI Summer School kicked off with the arrival of the students, coordinators, and guests at Toulouse. The day concluded with the first coordinators' dinner, providing a casual and convivial atmosphere for networking, whereas the students had free time.

Tuesday, 21.06.2022: Academic Sessions and Networking

The academic sessions commenced at the campus of the University of Toulouse Jean Jaurès with a breakfast for all participants. Thereafter, once the institutional greetings were done, the day featured insightful students' presentations on various topics:

- Maciej Binek (Poznan – Roma III) presented in the very first place “The image of chariot races in epic poetry. Iliad, 13.257-491: a commentary”.
- Norma Quagliana (Palermo – Toulouse), did afterwards the performance of “La Ψυχή comme organe du Λόγος dans l’encyclopédie homérique”.
- Kristin Rehling (Münster – Roma III), after the break talked about “The Imitatio Alexandri in Coin Imagery: Alexander the Great as a non Roman Model of Identification”.
- Fynn Riepe (Münster – Toulouse), was the last one before lunch with his paper: “Roman Thermae in Northern Syria: The Case of the Bath Complex in Doliche”

After lunch break, participants could attend the subsequent presentations:

- Vincenzo Parisi (Palermo – Münster), who talked about “Rome and Antiochus: a case of 'geographical pragmatism' within ideal conflicts”.
- Irene Plotegher (Roma III – Freiburg), with the presentation “Vettius Agorius Praetextatus a profile through the epigraphic sources”.
- José Alberto Díaz Valero (Salamanca – Freiburg), right after the break spoke on “The poem *Parce, precor, uirgo*: one text, two lives”.
- Elena De Luca (Roma III – Hamburg), with “Two Medieval Manuscripts in a 19th-century Library: the Pagès Fond and the Pagès 4 and 7 mss” was the last one to present.

The day ended with free time for dinner. Later the students found time to hang out together and keep learning and seeking to create synergies.

Wednesday, 22.06.2022: More Scholarly Exploration

The academic exploration continued on the second day with the following sessions:

- Francesca Scifo (Palermo – Toulouse), who started the day with “La divination dans la comédie: le tirage au sort oraculaire dans la *Casina* de Plaute”.
- Francesco Scozzaro (Palermo – Toulouse), right after his colleague he presented “*Fatis agimur*: la divination dans l’*Oedipe* de Sénèque: les mille et *varii* couleurs”.
- Manuel Llorente Pescador (Salamanca - Toulouse) after the coffee break spoke on “L’oralité de l’être: existence et copule d’Homère à Parménide”.
- Alice Giocondo (Palermo – Münster), performed the first and only presentation of the day in English: Parmenides in Doxography.
- Caterina Schorer (Freiburg - Toulouse), after the lunch break held the last presentation of the day: “Texte et image dans les piliers hermaïques datant de l’époque hellénistique tardive et impériale”.

The session followed with the evaluation of students’ presentations and concluded with a thought-provoking *lectio magistralis* by Corinne Bonnet called “Du syncrétisme au multiperspectivisme: le polythéisme au prisme des interactions culturelles”.

A common dinner offered by the University of Toulouse Jean Jaurès finished the day, fostering further interaction among students and coordinators.

Thursday, 23.06.2022: Field Trip to Comminges

A change of scenery awaited participants on the third day as they embarked on a field trip to Comminges, exploring the Garonne Valley and the Pyrenean foothills. This offered a refreshing break from the academic sessions, providing a different perspective on the region’s cultural and historical richness, and also supposed a fascinating insight on some archaeological discoveries of the classic period. Moreover, the participants could visit a roman villa on the way back.

Friday, 24.06.2022: Final Discussions and Working Sessions

The penultimate day featured a fruitful final discussion held by the EMCC Coordinators Board in which the students had the chance to express their opinions on the Summer School outcomes and even to make some suggestions for future editions. Afterwards, the Summer School for the students was over.

After waving good bye the students, the EMCC Coordinators Board used the whole day to develop the working sessions. The day ended with a coordinators' dinner.

Saturday, 25.06.2022: time to say goodbye

The VI EMCC Summer School concluded with the departure of EMCC coordinators, staff, and guests.

For the last participants remaining still in Toulouse, a cultural visit to the Musée Saint-Raymond provided an enriching conclusion to the academic gathering.

Conclusion and personal reflections

In summary, the EMCC 2022 VI Summer School blended rigorous academic exploration with vibrant social interactions, creating a multilingual environment conducive to intellectual growth and cultural exchange and enrichment. The diverse range of topics covered and valued with international excellence (all of them concerning at least one of the three principal fields of the EMCC, that would be archaeology, ancient history or classic philology) and the collaborative spirit among participants contributed to the success of this event.

As a participant of the Summer School and the EMCC as a student, I found both experiences challenging and rewarding. The varied nature of the sessions presented at the Summer School and the wide range of information that I got to learn on my Double Master degree helped me to expand my knowledge and to go very beyond my previous academic education. The valuable insights gained from this Summer School, and the net of contacts and - I can already say- friends that I got to meet at Toulouse have already vastly contribute to my academic and professional development. And I bet they will still do for a long time.

Julián Bautista Bernal (Salamanca – Palermo)

2022-2023 EMCC student's spoke person