Still Caput Mundi?
The Role of Rome between Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages in the Western Mediterranean and the Early Middle Ages
The decline of the Western Roman Empire is often accompanied by the decline of the city from which it all sprang: Rome. The city, the historical and moral center of the empire, had long since lost its role as capital city, yet it retained its symbolic and traditional authority as caput mundi, recognized and felt by everyone in the world. The Late Antique period and the early Middle Ages witnessed the gradual evolution of Rome from the city of the emperor to the city of the pope, on the one hand rising to the role of the center of Christianity, and on the other preserving the memory of its former status as the fulcrum of the imperial world.

The aim of this conference is to present in multiple aspects (literary, historical, archaeological) this transformation of Rome, particularly at the religious level. The proposed framework of study covers the late antique period and the early Middle Ages (4th-7th centuries). It intends to offer a case study of thematic and regional studies, with the clear aim of obtaining a comprehensive overview of this phenomenon and paying particular attention to the role of Rome as perceived in the individual socio-cultural and socio-religious realities of the Mediterranean area.

**Thursday, 3 March 2022**
- Welcome and Introduction
  - Prof. Dr. Sabine Panzram
  - Universität Hamburg
- 18.00 h
- Prof. Dr. Carlo Machado
  - Università degli Studi di Aveiro
  - Imagining pagan topography in Christian Rome
- 18.15 h
- Prof. Dr. Fabrizio Oppedissimo
  - Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa
  - Subversive anticoncy: the Roman senate and the end of the ancient world
- 19.00 h
- Reception
- 20.00 h

**Friday, 4 March 2022**
- History: Between Imperial Features and Religious Identity
  - Moderation: Dr. Rocco Selvaggi
  - Universität Hamburg
- 9.30 h
- Prof. Dr. Christian Raschle
  - Université de Montréal
  - Rome without emperor: the transformations of the “empire cult” in the Western Empire from the 4th to the 6th century
- 10.15 h
- Prof. Dr. Umberto Roberto
  -Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II
  - The pagan reaction to the decline of Rome in the 5th century
- 11.00 h
- Coffee break
- 11.30 h
- Prof. Dr. Philippe Blaudeau
  - Université d’Aix-Marseille
  - The Petrine primacy of Rome: claim and reception of an elaborated geo-ecclesiological conception (IV-VIII centuries)
- 12.15 h
- Dr. Paolo Tedesco
  - University of Birmingham
  - Economic trajectories of the Italian Churches in Late Antiquity
- 13.00 h
- Lunch break

**Saturday, 5 March 2022**
- Literature I: Central Religion vs. Local Beliefs
  - Moderation: Prof. Dr. Carla Noce
  - Università degli Studi Roma Tre
- 10.30 h
- Prof. Dr. Alberto D’Anna
  - Università degli Studi Roma Tre
  - The Transformation of Urbs Roma in Late Antiquity
- 11.15 h
- Prof. Dr. Riccardo Santangeli Valenzani
  - Università degli Studi Roma Tre
  - Inscriptions by Christians in Late Antique Rome (6th-7th century): an overview
- 12.00 h
- Coffee break
- 12.45 h
- Prof. Dr. Javier A. Domingo
  - Pontificia Università della Santa Croce
  - Saint Jerome in Rome. Historical data, tradition and archaeological evidence
- 13.30 h
- Prof. Dr. Ralf Behnwald
  - Universität Bayreuth
  - A Cenotaph dissolved and reassembled. Rome’s many meanings at the end of Antiquity
- 14.00 h
- Prof. Dr. Javier Arce
  - Université Libre de Bruxelles
  - Conclusions
- 15.00 h
  - Dinner

**Archaeology: Transforming Architecture and Urban Planning**
- Moderation: Prof. Dr. Sabine Panzram
  - Universität Hamburg
- 15.30 h
- Prof. Dr. Alberto D’Anna
  - Università degli Studi Roma Tre
  - The Transformation of Urbs Roma in Late Antiquity
- 16.15 h
- Prof. Dr. Antonio E. Felle
  - Università degli Studi di Roma “La Sapienza”
  - Inscriptions by Christians in Late Antique Rome (6th-7th century): an overview
- 17.00 h
- Coffee break
- 17.30 h
- Prof. Dr. Javier A. Domingo
  - Pontificia Università della Santa Croce
  - Saint Jerome in Rome. Historical data, tradition and archaeological evidence
- 18.15 h
- Prof. Dr. Ralf Behnwald
  - Universität Bayreuth
  - A Cenotaph dissolved and reassembled. Rome’s many meanings at the end of Antiquity
- 19.00 h
- Prof. Dr. Javier Arce
  - Université Libre de Bruxelles
  - Conclusions
- 20.00 h
  - Dinner