

THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE STUDY GROUP ON ANCIENT HISTORY – RIO GRANDE DO SUL SECTION: 24 YEARS OF TEACHING, RESEARCH, AND OUTREACH

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1. Study Group on Ancient History

This dossier is the result of lectures presented at the *6th National Cycle and the 4th International Cycle of the GTHA-RS – Ancient and Medieval History: Pasts and Presents in a World in Transition*, held from June 23 to 25, 2025. Conceived as a remote event and streamed via the YouTube platform (through the channel of the *Laboratory for the Study of Ancient Ceramics* at the Federal University of Pampa – LECA-UNIPAMPA), its program forms part of the celebrations marking the 24 years of consolidation of the work carried out by the professors who have led the *Study Group on Ancient History* (GTHA) of the *National Association of History* (ANPUH), Rio Grande do Sul Section.

The National GTHA of ANPUH brings together an interdisciplinary collective dedicated to teaching, research, and outreach in the field of Antiquity in Brazil. Since its establishment in 1999, the GTHA has promoted spaces for collective reflection aimed at fostering debate on Antiquity and encouraging academic exchange with Brazilian society. Its national structure is organized around three central axes and specific objectives, namely:

Three fundamental reference points: (1) the various themes and problems inherent to the study of ancient societies; (2) the multiple forms of preservation, transmission, and reception of the ancient tradition in modernity, and in Brazil in particular; (3) the diverse methodological possibilities for studying the Ancient World, with special attention to similarities and differences in relation to the contemporary world.²

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² Available at: <<https://gtha.ufsc.br/sobre-o-gtha/>>. Accessed on: August 29, 2025.

It is within this context that the creation of the GTHA-RS took place, on December 20, 2000, by the Profs. Drs. Anderson Zalewski Vargas, Fábio Vergara Cerqueira, Francisco Marshall, Katia Maria Paim Pozzer, and Margareth Marchiori Bakos (*in memoriam*). This initiative continued the deliberations taken at the *20th Annual Meeting of ANPUH*, held in Florianópolis in 1999, when the decision was made to establish the GTHA at the national level. Thus, the creation of the GTHA-RS should be understood not as an isolated movement, but as part of a broader effort toward the institutional consolidation of Ancient History in Brazil.

Since its inception, under the inaugural coordination of Prof. Dr. Margareth Bakos, the GTHA-RS sought to establish itself as a space for dialogue, promoting exchange among researchers, students, and others interested in the Study of Classical and Eastern Antiquity. The group's activities also included direct support for several initiatives, such as the *Conference on Ancient Near Eastern Studies*, organized by the Prof. Bakos herself at the *Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul* (PUCRS), as well as the *9th Symposium on Ancient History* and the *2nd National Meeting of the GTHA of the ANPUH*, held in September 2002. The latter event, promoted by the Center for Ancient History of the Department of History at the *Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul* (UFRGS), proved fundamental to strengthening the group at the national level, as it fostered the dissemination of research, collective learning, and articulation among scholars from different institutions.

Under the coordination of Prof. Dr. Anderson Zalewski Vargas, beginning in 2002, the GTHA-RS redefined its profile, giving its activities a more systematic character of study and research. At that time, themes of shared interest were defined, bringing together classicists and orientalist in seminars held at various institutions across the state. In accordance with deliberations of the national Study Group, the group also opened its meetings to the participation of undergraduate History students, encouraging their integration into the specialized academic community.

After a period of relative inactivity, marked by alternating phases of greater and lesser activity, the GTHA-RS was reactivated on July 19, 2016, during the *13th Regional History Meeting of ANPUH-RS*, held in Santa Cruz do Sul. On that occasion, a new coordination was elected, composed of Semíramis Corsi Silva, PhD (Coordinator); Rafael da Costa Campos, PhD (Vice Coordinator); Wellington Rafael Balém (First Secretary); and Carlos Eduardo Costa Campos, MA (Second Secretary). Subsequent changes also occurred, including the replacement of Wellington Rafael Balém by Vinícius de Oliveira da Motta.

In the subsequent biennia, 2020–2022 and 2022–2024, coordination was assumed by Rafael da Costa Campos, PhD, accompanied by Jussemar Weiss Gonçalves, PhD (Vice Coordinator), Matheus Barros da Silva, MA (First Secretary), and Edison Cruxen Bisso, PhD (Second Secretary). Events such as the *5th National Cycle and the 3rd International Cycle of the GTHA-RS*, entitled *From Patriarchal Society to Public Life – Ways of Thinking, Ways of Living*, were held from October 17 to 19, 2023, also in a remote format via *YouTube*.

In 2024, during the *17th State History Meeting of ANPUH-RS*, held under the theme '*Contemporary Challenges – The Places of Historians*', the current coordination was elected, composed of Milena Rosa Araújo Ogawa, PhD (Coordinator), Mateus Dagios, PhD (Vice Coordinator), and Vander Gabriel Camargo, MA (Secretary). This team assumed responsibility for promoting debates throughout the biennium of the mandate (2024–2026).

Thus, the trajectory of the GTHA-RS is organically embedded within the broader movement of the national GTHA, sharing the same objectives and concerns: to consolidate Ancient History as a relevant field of research; to promote its dissemination in Basic and Higher Education; and to contribute to making knowledge about ancient societies accessible not only to specialists, but also to society at large. The continuity of the group's activities, its capacity to bring together successive generations of researchers, and its engagement with contemporary debates attest to its relevance in strengthening the Sciences of Antiquity in Brazil, in accordance with the guidelines and purposes of ANPUH.

Among the faculty members affiliated with public and private universities who work in History programs and teach undergraduate courses in Ancient History in the state of Rio Grande do Sul are Anderson Zalewski Vargas (UFRGS), Fábio Vergara Cerqueira (*Federal University of Pelotas – UFPel*), Francisco Marshall (UFRGS), Jussemar Weiss Gonçalves (*Federal University of Rio Grande – FURG*), Katia Maria Paim Pozzer (UFRGS), Luis Carlos dos Passos Martins (PUCRS), Rafael da Costa Campos (Unipampa), and Renato Viana Boy (*Federal University of the Southern Frontier – UFFS*). All of them having PhD in subfields of Ancient History³, either in Eastern Antiquity or Western Antiquity, as classified in their curricula. In this way, the education offered to undergraduate students in Rio Grande do Sul can move, without academic loss, through a broad diversity of themes, ensuring scope and quality in teaching. Moreover, this faculty body also benefits from the constant flow of research, projects, and interinstitutional

³ Professor Renato Boy has PhD in the Byzantine period and currently coordinates the Laboratory for Medieval Studies (LEME) at UFFS. In addition to his administrative duties, he teaches courses in both Ancient History and Medieval History, contributing to students' comprehensive education and to the consolidation of studies on Antiquity, Late Antiquity, and the Middle Ages at the institution.

exchanges, which enrich the educational process and broaden students' possibilities of intellectual engagement at both national and international levels.

The state of Rio Grande do Sul currently has six *Graduate Programs in History* (PPGH) at public universities, four of which include faculty members specialized in Ancient History. These PPGHs are located at the following institutions: UFRGS, UFPel, UFFS, and FURG⁴. The Graduate Program in History at the *Federal University of Santa Maria* (UFSM) maintains, within its faculty, a connection with Professor Semíramis Corsi Silva; although she is currently affiliated with the *Federal University of Uberlândia* (UFU), she continues to supervise students at UFSM. Additionally, the Graduate Program in History at PUCRS is noteworthy for having a faculty advisor specializing in Antiquity. Luís Carlos dos Passos Martins conducts research on the Roman Republic.

2. 6th National Cycle and the 4th International Cycle of the GTHA-RS - Ancient and Medieval History: Pasts and Presents in a World in Transition

Over the course of its 24 years, the professors working in Rio Grande do Sul have consolidated a significant contribution not only within the state, but also in their respective fields at national and international levels. For the event, it was decided to integrate the fields of Medieval Studies and Classical Archaeology as guiding areas of the project; thus, in addition to the GTHA coordination, Francisco Mendonça Júnior (UFSM) and Professor Lidiane Carderaro (USP) were invited to join the organizing committee. As part of this commemoration, the following foreign universities were represented at our most recent meeting: the *University of Coimbra* (Portugal), the *University of Morón* (Argentina), the *National University of Mar del Plata* (Argentina), the *University of Tours* (France), and the *University of Kentucky* (USA).

The program consisted of opening and closing keynote lectures (evenings), thematic lecture panels (mornings), and fourteen Thematic Symposia (afternoons), addressing Eastern and Western Antiquity, Medieval History, and Archaeology. The invited speakers were: Adriana Vidotte (*Federal University of Goiás* - UFG), Airton Pollini (*University of Tours*), Cláudia Bovo (*Federal University of Triângulo Mineiro* - UFTM), Daniele Gallindo (UFPel), Edison Cruxen (Unipampa), Erica Angliker (*European Association of Archaeologists* -

⁴ The faculty members and their respective research lines are as follows: Anderson Vargas and Kátia Pozzer, "Cultures and Representations"; Fábio Cerqueira, "Images: between Iconography, Visual Culture, and Intermediality"; Jussemar Weiss Gonçalves, "Fields and Languages of History"; Renato Viana Boy (UFFS), "Culture, Resistance, and Decolonialities"; and Semíramis Corsi Silva, "Border, Politics, and Society." We highlight here only the graduate programs focused on the field of History, as some faculty members are affiliated with other graduate programs.

Community on Archaeology and Tourism Working Groups), Fábio Lessa (*Federal University of Rio de Janeiro – UFRJ*), Fábio Vergara Cerqueira (*UFPel*), Francisco Marshall (*UFRGS*), José Maria Gomes de Souza Neto (*University of Pernambuco – UPE*), Jussemar Gonçalves (*FURG*), Katia Pozzer (*UFRGS*), Leni Ribeiro Leite (*University of Kentucky*), María Cecilia Colombani (*University of Morón and National University of Mar del Plata*), Marcelo Candido (*USP*), and Semíramis Corsi (*UFU*).

We highlight nearly one hundred abstracts submitted and reviewed by the Scientific Committee, composed of the invited speakers and other collaborating faculty members: Anderson Zalewski (*UFRGS*), Anita Fattorri (*USP*), Claudia Beltrão (*Federal University of the State of Rio de Janeiro – UNIRIO*), Fábio Amorim (*UFRGS*), Gabriel Cabral Bernardo (*USP*), Helena Amália Papa (*State University of Montes Claros – UNIMONTES*), Lennyse Teixeira Bandeira (*State University of the Região Tocantina of Maranhão – UEMASUL* and the *Federal Institute of Education, Science and Technology of Maranhão – IFMA*), Mateus Mello Araujo da Silva (*UFF*), Moisés Antigueira (*State University of Western Paraná – UNIOESTE*), Stephanie Martins de Sousa (*Federal University of Ouro Preto – UFOP*), and Ygor Klain Belchior (*State University of Minas Gerais – UEMG*).

We also relied on a team of monitors from different fields and universities who contributed to the event's broadcasting which counted with more than four thousand views. These included undergraduate students in History at UFSM (Arthur Fischer and Luiz Garbin), a master's student in History at UFSM (Isabel Antonello Flores), undergraduate students in Letters at UNIPAMPA (Jucelma Cardoso and Yohana Cardoso), and undergraduate students in Journalism at UNIPAMPA (Sabrina Castanho and Taís Schmitk), who were responsible for broadcasting the Thematic Symposia.

The participation of a total of thirty-three national research centers is noteworthy, as they contributed as presenters of lectures and oral communications, namely: Sacred Heart University College – UNISAGRADO; IFMA; *University of Caxias do Sul – UCS*; UNIOESTE; UPE; USP; UEMG; *State University of Rio de Janeiro – UERJ*; UEMASUL; *State University of Campinas – UNICAMP*; UNIMONTES; *State University of Ceará – UECE*; *State University of Southwest Bahia – UESB*; *São Paulo State University – UNESP*; *Federal University of Campina Grande – UFCG*; UFG; UFOP; UFPel; *Federal University of Pernambuco – UFPE*; *Federal University of Santa Catarina – UFSC*; UFSM; *Federal University of São Paulo – UNIFESP*; UFU; UNIRIO; UNIPAMPA; *Federal University of Paraná – UFPR*; UFRJ; FURG; UFRGS; UFTM; UFF; and PUC-RS.

As outcomes of the event, and following the *Book of Abstracts*, we present this dossier, which brings together contributions from some of the invited speakers,

as well as the volume *Ancient and Medieval Studies in Transition. Study Group on Ancient History of Rio Grande do Sul: 24 Years of Education and Trajectories*, produced in co-authorship by undergraduate students, master's and doctoral candidates, recent PhDs, and some professors. Such production reinforces and fosters the work developed in the field.

3. Contributions included in this Dossier

The opening of this dossier features an interview with Professor Fábio Vergara Cerqueira, a full professor at the *Federal University of Pelotas* for over thirty years. Involved in the founding of GTHA-RS, he has shaped the trajectories of generations, training specialists in Classical Studies from undergraduate to doctoral levels. He has participated in over 250 examination committees, founded the journal *Cadernos Lepaarq* (Qualis A2), contributed to the creation of several courses at UFPel and other institutions, is a CNPq productivity research fellow at level A, served on the CNPq Advisory Committee for Archaeology, leads research groups, coordinates the LECA laboratory, and is a researcher at the Humboldt Foundation, with experience as a visiting researcher at institutions such as the Institute of Classical Archaeology at the *University of Heidelberg*, the *École Française de Rome*, and the Centre Jean Bérard in Naples. He also presided over the *Brazilian Society of Classical Studies* (SBEC) and coordinated the National GTHA. With this curriculum summary, Fábio Vergara stands as a key witness to the trajectory of GTHA-RS and, in his interview, shares his perspective on the Group as well as his reflections on the future of the field in the state.

The article presented by Professor José Maria Gomes de Souza Neto, a faculty member at the *University of Pernambuco* and researcher in the areas of History Education and Film Studies, pertinently combines his two lines of investigation in the text *Cinema and the Teaching of Ancient History: Possibilities*. In this work, the author discusses how cinema constitutes an effective teaching tool, emphasizing its impact on the development of historical consciousness. Through the analysis of films such as *Roma* (1972), directed by Federico Fellini; *Sebastiane* (1976), by Paul Humfress and Derek Jarman; *La Vie et la Passion de Jésus-Christ* (1906), directed by Alice Guy-Blaché; among other works, José Maria establishes connections between historical issues in Antiquity, the contexts of filming and exhibition, and the ways in which these distinct temporalities can be overlaid to interrogate the present. This work serves as an invitation to reflection, offering pedagogical approaches for teachers and highlighting the importance of this audiovisual documentation for critical engagement with the discipline.

Professor María Cecilia Colombani consistently contributes to historiographical thought not only in her home country, Argentina, but also throughout Latin America and Portugal, through in-person exchanges, course offerings, participation in publications, and the delivery of lectures. In the article *Following the Steps and Female Voices: Spaces, Bodies, and Functions in Ceramic Media*, Colombani examines, through the lens of ancient Greek ceramics, the presence of women in social life, highlighting spaces of sociability and, indeed, their political engagements. Thus, her study, grounded in material culture and in dialogue with literary works, integrates different types of documentation, confronts perspectives on spaces traditionally attributed to women, and provides an important reflection not only for the field of Social History but also for Gender Studies.

The Permanent Intruder: The Re-Creation of the Feminine in Tragic Theatre constitutes one of the research outcomes of Professor Jussemar Weiss Gonçalves. The professor leads the research group *Culture and Politics in the Ancient World*, whose lines of inquiry include *Greek Tragedy and Gender and Sex in the Ancient World*. In this regard, his text offers reflections that, from multiple perspectives, articulate theatre and gender, interrogating the interpretative boundaries of masculinity and femininity in Athenian society.

Leni Ribeiro Leite is an Associate Professor of Classical Studies at the *University of Kentucky* and has also made significant contributions to Higher Education in Brazil for more than a decade as a faculty member at the *Federal University of Espírito Santo*, where she trained researchers at various levels (from undergraduate to doctoral) in the fields of Literature and History. Due to her interdisciplinary experience and her work in both Brazilian and international academic contexts, she offered an overview of the field of Classical Studies, presenting, in a concise manner, reflections both in her lecture and in this dossier, through the text *Between disciplines: Classical Languages, Ancient History and Classical Studies in Brazil*.

Semíramis Corsi Silva is currently a faculty member at the *Federal University of Uberlândia*, but her connection to research conducted in Rio Grande do Sul remains a significant hallmark of her academic trajectory. She served as a tenured professor at UFSM for nine years and continues to maintain ties with the institution's Graduate Program in History (PPGH). She was one of the key figures in the reactivation of GTHA-RS and has organized meetings both as coordinator and through the laboratory she directs, the *Mediterranean Ancient World Studies Group* (GEMAM). Her participation in the event and in this dossier thus reinforces her continued relevance and contribution as a historian in the state. In her article *Would Heliogabalus be a trans woman? Considerations based on the reclassification of a Roman coin by a British museum*, the author problematizes

the decision taken in 2023 by the North Hertfordshire Museum, in England, to display a coin of Heliogabalus alongside other documents from the LGBTQIA+ collection, based on the interpretation that the emperor could be understood as a trans woman. In her research, the professor proposes reflections on the possibilities of understanding the body, sex and the limits of a queer reading of the *princeps*.

Finally, the realization of the event and this dossier is the result of the joint coordination of several universities, students and professors, committed to promote a plural dialogue on Antiquity through multiple approaches. I would like to thank all those who welcomed this initiative: the participating students, the invited lecturers, the scientific committee, the involved universities, the other event organizers, the authors of this work, Professor Glaydson José da Silva, and UNIFESP. I would also like to thank you, the reader, for taking the time to learn more about the work carried out in celebration of the 24th anniversary of GTHA-RS.