

*Sezione tematica*  
Inscribing space: Topography & Communication  
in Attic Epigraphy



This thematic section brings together a series of papers dedicated to the theme of the epigraphic landscape of Athens and Attica. Despite their diverse origins, all of these works share a common thread that aligns to the editors' long-standing research interest in this topic, and are an outcome of their multi-year commitment of scholarly exploration and educational pursuits in the theme of 'semantic topography' and 'epigraphical communication' of Attic inscriptions. Multiple project frameworks have laid the research groundwork for the reflections presented here: the seminar *Inscribing space: the topography of Attic inscriptions* (Heidelberg, May 2015), product of a collaboration of the Department of Historical Studies of Turin with the Heidelberg project *Materiale Textkulturen (SFB 933 - Subsection A01: Lettered and Inscribed. Inscriptions in Urban Space in the Greco-Roman Period and the Middle Ages)*; the *Epigraphic Landscape of Athens* project, based in Turin, and the extensive collaborative work that has been established around the *ELA* database ([www.epigraphiclandscape.unito.it](http://www.epigraphiclandscape.unito.it)) from 2016. In particular, as the reader will see, many of the studies collected here are related to collaborations aimed at populating the *ELA* database and are the result of research works on the epigraphic landscape of Athens initially presented in the seminar *Le vie come pagine scritte. Incontro di Studio del Progetto The Epigraphic Landscape of Athens* (Turin, May 2019). All in all, these different project frameworks have played a crucial role in the development of this thematic section. They have provided the editors with diverse perspectives and an extensive network of resources, thus enhancing the scholarly exploration and understanding of the theme of 'epigraphic landscape' in Athens and Attica. Among the various perspectives explored, a recent addition has been an emphasis on the innovative dissemination of epigraphy. This particular focus stems from an ongoing PhD project *Narrating Epigraphy in the Sites of the Ancient City: A Digital Project for the Epigraphic Landscape of Athens*, based in Turin and funded by the EU's Next Generation Plan of the Recovery Fund, PON Action IV-Research and Innovation, that forms the subject of the final paper in this section.

The thematic focus on the 'epigraphic landscape' is highly relevant in the current field of Greek epigraphy, reflecting new sensitivities in scholarly research to the material and monumental aspects of inscriptions. It explores not only the topography but also the praxeology of epigraphic production and the communicative value of inscriptions, examining their role not as isolated pieces but as integral components of the semantic, cultural and memory landscape of ancient societies. Far from being purely descriptive, this thematic exploration offers new insights into the urban landscapes of the ancient city as semantic landscapes deeply embedded in the organisation and values of ancient societies. This research perspective constantly engages with archaeological, historical and cultural aspects,

including a view of epigraphic production as praxeology and inscriptions as communication media.

Although the studies presented here are of different scope and perspective, they share a remarkable methodological coherence, providing a clear framework for addressing the challenges and analytical approaches inherent in the study of the 'epigraphic landscape'. By exploring the complex relationship between topography, epigraphy and communication, they contribute to strengthening the foundations of what is certain to remain a fertile area of study, both in the field of Athenian epigraphy and in many others throughout the Greek world. Indeed, the theme of 'epigraphic landscape' – related to that of 'epigraphic communication' – promises many further results and is proving extremely fruitful not only for epigraphic research but also for promoting a wider understanding of Greek inscriptions in their original context.

Chiara Lasagni  
Daniela Marchiandi  
Irene Berti