

IN-ROME
Studies Series
- 1 -

(RE-)UNITING CITY AND COUNTRY

New Research on Urban and Suburban Socio-Topographical Structures

Edited by

Barbara E. Borg, Antonio Campus, Francesca D'Andrea, Daniel P. Diffendale,
Consuelo Manetta, Umberto Soldovieri



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Preface

(Re-) Uniting City and Country is the inaugural volume of a new publication series related to 'IN-ROME – The INscribed city: urban structures and interaction in imperial ROME', a project funded by an ERC Advanced Grant (GA 101054143). The project seeks to provide a fuller understanding of how the ancient city of Rome managed to function and thrive for several centuries, sustaining an extraordinary population variously estimated between 750,000 and 1 million inhabitants at the time of Augustus. To this end, its primary goal is to produce the first comprehensive synthesis of the features and urban structures of Rome beyond the fourth-century BCE 'Servian Wall' – already long surpassed by the time of Augustus – and of its peri-urban surroundings between the first century BCE and the third century CE. Bridging the divide between research on the area within and beyond the late Aurelian Wall, it will consolidate the widest possible range of activities and their locations including military stations, meeting places of associations, sanctuaries and cult places, various production sites, quarries and mines, gardens and fields, infrastructure and water supply, market places, baths and entertainment venues, guesthouses, taverns and villas, graveyards and tombs. These activities are studied within their natural environment through topographical, geological and pedological maps.

The project area's outer limits are determined by a key element of its methodological approach, the re-contextualisation of inscriptions from Rome and its surroundings with a known provenance as collected in *CIL VI* and the Epigraphic Database Rome, directed by our project partner Silvia Orlandi. *CIL VI* and EDR traditionally include an area up to about the ninth milestone of the consular roads. Re-uniting the information these inscriptions contain with the archaeological evidence and the natural landscape allows us to add activities that did not leave any physical remains and to restore agency to the archaeological landscape. The aim is not merely to provide a more integrative description of an inhabited landscape, but also to reconstruct from these 'topographical facts' organising principles (intended or unintended) as well as likely interactions and relationships between sectors of society that may differ in social status, occupation, gender, or ethnicity. It will literally map the social history of Rome.

The *IN-ROME Studies Series* publishes the results from this project as well as from the conferences that complement it. This first volume offers food for thought on one crucial aspect of IN-ROME, the bridging of the divide between the study of the city centre and that of its surroundings outside the Aurelian Wall, a disciplinary division which also prevents us from understanding how the city worked and was perceived in its lived experience. The following chapters enhance our own research by offering both theoretical and methodological considerations and empirical, comparative studies.

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The British School at Rome provided us with a wonderful environment to discuss our ideas during the conference in November 2024, and we are deeply indebted to its Director Abigail Brundin and the BSR staff. We are also most grateful to the publisher L'Erma di Bretschneider and its CEO Roberto Marcucci for accepting our series into their programme, and to its staff for their excellent work and advice on the production of the book. Last but not least, we wish to thank the anonymous reviewers of the 16 chapters presented here. We appreciate their commitment and valuable advice that have enhanced the quality of the volume as a whole while any remaining shortcomings remain, of course, our own responsibility.

Pisa, October 2025

Barbara E. Borg, Antonio Campus, Francesca D'Andrea,
Daniel P. Diffendale, Consuelo Manetta, Umberto Soldovieri