



BA/HONOURS-, MA- AND RMA COURSE

Royal Netherlands Institute in Rome

3 April – 16 April 2018

Archaeology of Myth and Legend

In modern science myths, legends, and religious traditions are generally understood as stories about supernatural phenomena that serve to legitimize a particular world view or commonly held values. In such a perception, myths are ideological constructs without material basis, and therefore not appropriate objects of archaeological study. However, the broad consensus that myths and religious traditions lack an empirical basis developed only relatively recently. In the 18th century, for example, mythical topography was still a respectable scientific discipline. Having been banned from the academic theatre for some time, the archaeology of mythology currently appears to be undergoing some sort of come-back.

This course is not about the truthfulness of 'discoveries' of legendary places, architecture and objects. Instead it takes a step back and starts by exploring the many methods, goals, and motivations that have informed the archaeology of myth and legend in the 500 years leading up to the present.

During the first week of the course the archaeology of Roman origin myths is discussed, focusing especially on places connected to Aeneas and Romulus. Following introductory classes at the Royal Netherlands Institute Rome, the course visits several mythical places such as the tomb of Aeneas, the city of Lavinium, and the hut of Romulus on the Palatine. The second week of the course is dedicated to early Christian legends, and focusses on places connected to St. Peter and St. Paul and the emergence of the 'Archeologia Sacra'.



CREDITS

6 ECTS

MORE INFO

www.knir.it

secretary@knir.it

APPLY BEFORE

7 January 2018

TEACHING STAFF

Dr. Jeremia Pelgrom (KNIR)

Dr. Jetze Touber (UU)

Dr. Eva Mol (Brown University)