



(R)MA/PHD COURSE

Royal Netherlands Institute in Rome

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Excavating National Pasts

Rome and the (Trans) National Archaeologies of Europe in the 19th and 20th Centuries

CREDITS

5 ECTS

MORE INFO

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APPLY BEFORE

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Since the late eighteenth century archaeology developed in Europe from antiquarianism and connoisseurship into an academic discipline. The city of Rome played an exceptional role in this dynamic process of academic professionalization and institutionalization, not only because of the richness of the classical heritage in situ, but also due to the fact that already in the centuries before these antiquities had been studied by *eruditi* from many countries, thus creating important transnational networks. In the course of the nineteenth century, however, this universal notion, merged with and was challenged by the birth of new nation states, including the kingdom of Italy (1861). Consequently, processes of nation building and the search for new national identities, rooting in a common past, started to play an important role in the formation of archaeology as a scholarly discipline. *Romanità*, and the Roman past that was shared by all Italians in and beyond Italy became the main ingredients of new narratives that served both the liberal governments since the country's unification and the fascist regime of the 1920s and 1930s. However, the nature of these narratives, and hence the role of archaeology, differed dramatically.

This course questions how local, national and transnational archaeological institutions, projects, and networks interacted in Rome, while at the same time such initiatives (co)constituted the cultural hierarchies and imaginings that played a crucial role in the colonialist, racist and fascist worldviews of the modern era.

