CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

in the

Summer School "Negotiating the Past in Early Modern Rome: Textual and Visual Perspectives"

organized by the British School at Rome and the Academia Belgica and coordinated by Marc Laureys (University of Bonn) and Raphaële Mouren (British School at Rome)

Monday 8 – Friday 12 September 2025 (arrival on Monday 8 September – departure on Saturday 13 or Sunday 14 September 2025)

Concept:

The guiding concept throughout the program will be the **interaction and competition between classical, sacred (i.e. early Christian) and modern Rome in the Renaissance and Baroque periods**. How are these different historical and spatial layers, sometimes overlapping, often competing with each other, shaped and perceived in contemporary texts and images? How are these different components of the legacy of Rome configured in ever varying settings in the urban space?

The Summer School will focus on the scholarly and artistic processes underlying the fashioning of a **historical identity** for early modern Rome, both in its urban fabric and institutions and in the textual and visual evidence that reflects them. Particular attention will be paid to the factors that contributed to the city's **'theatricality'**, often seen as a defining characteristic of Baroque Rome and celebrated, for example, in Giovanni Battista Falda's *Nuovo teatro delle fabriche et edificii in prospettiva di Roma moderna*, 4 vol., Rome 1665 – 1699), but also arguably a relevant notion for other periods in the history of the city.

The programme will be equally divided between:
(1) **thematic walks** focussed on Pope Alexander VII and on the Via papalis; and **on-site visits**, including the Capitol and historical libraries in the city
(2) **in-house seminar sessions** devoted to early modern books on Rome (Rome guides, antiquarian treatises, travel accounts), historical maps and other visual documentation, such as *vedute* and sketchbooks

Participants should be prepared for a substantial amount of walking throughout the city, as well as for very warm weather.

The in-house seminar sessions will take place at the BSR, where we will engage with the rich resources of the **Thomas Ashby Collection**, including rare books, engravings, maps, and prints.

Group **assignments**, centring on specific places, buildings, monuments or objects, and their role and function in the intellectual, cultural and artistic landscape of early modern Rome will be distributed ahead of time. These assignments will be discussed during the in-house seminar sessions. Their topics will be defined in light of the skills and interests of the participants during an online meeting to be scheduled in advance of the course.

Practical information:

Participation will be limited to a maximum of **12 doctoral students or early post-docs** in early modern history, literary history and art history. To facilitate interdisciplinary exchange, we will strive for equal representation across disciplines. Candidates will be selected based on a CV and a letter of motivation.

The working language will be English.

Accommodation of the participants will be shared between the British School at Rome and the Academia Belgica.

The cost of participation is **950 EUR** per person. This amount will cover accommodation and meals for five nights (board includes breakfast and dinner, starting with dinner on Monday evening, at the BSR) as well as course materials, bus tickets within Rome and entrance tickets for the sites visited. The financial support that we are able to offer for this Summer School is limited to 2 bursaries:

- The BSR Bursary will cover the fee for 1 participant
- The SRS Bursary will cover travel costs of up to £200 for a student registered at a UK or Irish university.

Candidates are requested to send their **CV** (max. 2 pages) and a **letter of motivation**, in a single PDF file, to the two coordinators: Marc Laureys (m.laureys@uni-bonn.de) and Raphaële Mouren (research@bsrome.it).

The deadline for submitting applications is: **Monday 3 February 2025, 17.00 CET**.