

“Animal Culture and Animal Behaviour in the Ancient World”

14th Celtic Conference in Classics, 11-14 July 2023 at the University of Coimbra

- Nombre y Apellidos: Eleonora Voltan
- Situación: Doctor de investigación (doctorado en cotutela con mención internacional); Investigador contratado postdoctoral (fecha actual)
- Institución y departamento perteneciente: Universidad de Málaga, Facultad de Filosofía y Letras - Departamento de Ciencias Históricas / Centre Jean Bérard (USR3133-CNRS-EFR)
- Correo: [eleonoravoltan@uma.es](mailto:eleonoravoltan@uma.es) / [eleonora.voltan92@gmail.com](mailto:eleonora.voltan92@gmail.com)

Breve CV:

Licenciada en Arqueología (Laurea Triennale en Archeologia) (2015) y Máster en Arqueología (Laurea Magistrale en Archeologia) (2017) en la Università degli Studi di Padova, Italia. He enfocado mi línea de investigación tanto en el estudio de la iconografía antigua, el valor social de las imágenes, su importancia en los contextos arqueológicos, como en la valoración y socialización del patrimonio. Estas líneas, se han tratado en profundidad en mis estudios de doctorado (2017-2022) entre la Universidad de Málaga y la Università di Padova, fruto de los cuales realicé una tesis titulada *Picta nilotica romana. Elaboración y difusión de la iconografía del paisaje de Egipto en el mundo romano*, actualmente en proceso de edición (aparición en 2023). Desde enero de 2023 estoy disfrutando un contrato Margarita Salas, el cual desarrollo entre Centre Jean Bérard (USR3133-CNRS-EFR) y la UNED de Madrid (desde 2024).

Título propuesta: *Egyptian Fauna in Nilotic Scenes*

The land of Egypt was fought over and incorporated into Rome's mentality in a similar way to the conquest of Greece: the conquered subjugated the conqueror and, through its culture, bound him to itself in a way that was as subtle as it was indissoluble. In fact, Roman swords and war strategies were disarmed by the knowledge and exotic fascination of the Nilotic land, to the extent that the ferment created by the influence and direct confrontation with this millenary civilisation led to the creation of a peculiar material culture inspired by Egypt through the Roman perspective. An effective proof of this is the elaboration of nilotic landscapes which, from the first testimonies of the late Republican period, became popular in the Imperial period, becoming a real fashion driven by the more intense contacts between Egypt and the Empire, especially with the annexation of the former to the Roman territories. Within the repertoire of Roman Nilotic representations, there are some recurrent iconographic elements that "mark" this figurative typology. In addition to the flora, the representation of the fauna living on the banks of the Egyptian river plays a fundamental role in the iconography of the Roman Nilotic. The aim of this paper is to draw attention to the different types of animals that animate these images, such as crocodiles, hippopotamuses, ibises, etc., their manner of representation, especially between the 1st and 2nd centuries AD, as well as their representation as an abstraction of exoticism, rarity and distance associated with the Roman province of Egypt. Finally, some of the main compositional schemes relating to the encounter/confrontation between the Nilotic fauna and the pygmies, central characters in the Nilotic scenario, will be briefly considered.

Keywords: Egypt; fauna; Roman iconography; Nile; pygmy.