

WORKERS AND LABOUR IN THE ROMAN WORLD: Legal Forms and Social Realities (2nd Century BCE – 3rd Century CE) COLLEGIUM OF ROMAN LAW - JANUARY 2026

The Center for Studies and Research on Ancient Law CEDANT is committed to promoting advanced education and research in the field of Roman and Ancient law. Founded in 2002 thanks to the support of the University of Pavia and of the Advanced Studies IUSS Pavia, CEDANT became a Research Center within the Department of Law of the University of Pavia in 2015. In 2025, it was established as a Training and Research Center of the Collegio Ghislieri of Pavia, under the patronage of the Department of Law of the University of Pavia.

CEDANT carries out its activities in collaboration with specialists selected according to the subject under study, with a commitment to broad scholarly participation and openness to diverse methodological approaches.

For the academic year 2025-2026, CEDANT is organizing the seventeenth «Collegium of Roman Law», an intensive residential course.

The Collegium will take place over three weeks in January 2026 at Collegio Ghislieri in Pavia, bringing together professors from Italian and international universities, along with early-career scholars participating as auditors. The professors will lead a series of seminars – held in both Italian and English – structured to ensure strong pedagogical coherence, while also providing a valuable opportunity for scholarly dialogue and exchange. Participants are expected to develop individual research contributions building on the themes explored in the seminars. These works will be reviewed collaboratively during a second phase of the Collegium, held over one week in September 2026, with a view to shaping a curated selection for inclusion in a collective volume published by Pavia University Press.

THE THEME

The theme of the 2026 edition of the Collegium CEDANT is **Workers and Labour in the Roman world: Legal Forms and Social Realities (2nd Century BCE – 3rd Century CE)**, under the direction of **NICOLAS TRAN** (Université de Poitiers) and **MARTIN SCHERMAIER** (Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn)

APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION

Fifteen early career Italian and/or foreign scholars, graduates of Italian or foreign universities, with degrees in Law, History, Literary Studies, Economics or Philosophy will be admitted to the «Collegium».

Applications for admission must be submitted exclusively through the dedicated online procedure available on the website <https://www.ghislieri.it/cedant/> by **13 October 2025**.

Candidates will be requested to provide the following information:

- full name, personal data and complete address (telephone, e-mail)
- university title (a degree in Law, History, Literary Studies, Economics or Philosophy is preferred)
- curriculum vitae
- self-certification of proficiency in Italian and English
- a letter of reference from a professor (where the candidate is not already a professor or researcher at a university or at an Italian or foreign research institute)
- list of published works (if applicable)
- programme of future research
- any other qualifications relevant to the application.

STUDY GRANTS

Participants will be selected based on academic merit, the relevance of their research interests, and age (preferably 37 years or younger).

Each admitted participant will receive a study grant.

The grant covers full board and lodging at Collegio Ghislieri and Collegio Giasone del Maino in Pavia, as well as all expenses related to participation in the educational and research activities.

LOCATION AND TIME OF ACTIVITIES

Educational and scholarly activities will be held at Collegio Ghislieri, Pavia, from 12 to 30 January 2026.

Professors and participants will be accommodated at Collegio Ghislieri and Collegio Giasone del Maino and meals will be served at Collegio Ghislieri.

Study sessions will take place from 9 am to 12 pm, with afternoon sessions from 4 pm to 7 pm.

For their individual research, participants will have access to the Library of the Department of Law at the University of Pavia, as well as to the Library and the Aula Pietro Ciapessoni at Collegio Ghislieri.

WEEK I _ 12-16 January 2026

Sources, Historiography, and Methods

1. *Towards a Social History of Labour in Ancient Rome: a State of the Art* (**Nicolas Tran** – Université de Poitiers)
2. *Towards a History of Roman Labour Law: a State of the Art* (**Martin Schermaier** – Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn)
3. *The Latin Lexicon of Labour and Workers* (**Mattia Balbo** – Università di Torino)
4. *The Philosophies of Work in Ancient Rome* (**Seth Bernard** – University of Toronto)
5. *A Roman Religion of Labour and Workers?* (**Françoise Van Haepereen** – Université Catholique de Louvain-la-Neuve)

Social and Economic Aspects

6. *Geographical Mobility of Workers in the Roman Empire* (**Claire Holleran** – University of Exeter)
7. *Work and Social Relations in the Roman Empire* (**Sarah E. Bond** – University of Iowa)
8. *Roman Women at Work* (**Miriam J. Groen-Vallinga** – Radboud Universiteit)

WEEK II _ 19-23 January 2026

Social and Economic Aspects

9. *Roman Children at Work* (**Christian Laes** – University of Manchester)
10. *Skilled and Professional Work* (**Elena Tassi** – Sapienza Università di Roma)
11. *Farm Work in the Roman Empire* (**Jesper Carlsen** – Syddansk Universitet)
12. *Work and Private Associations in Ancient Rome* (**Nicolas Tran**)
13. *Visual Representations of Labour in Rome: Art History and Sociology* (**Emmanuelle Rosso** – Université Paris-Sorbonne)
14. *Workspaces in the Roman World* (**Nicolas Monteix** – Université de Rouen)

The legal framework

15. *Training and Entry into Work: Apprenticeship Contracts* (**Raffaele d'Alessio** – Università del Salento)
16. *Self-Employment and Subordination: A Real Antithesis?* (**Alfons Bürge** - Ludwig Maximilian Universität München; **Martin Schermaier**)

WEEK III _ 26-30 January 2026

The legal framework

17. *The Work Relationship in Roman Juristic Thought* (**Giovanni Finazzi** – Università di Roma Tor Vergata)
18. *The Work Contract: Documents from Practice* (**Christel Freu** – Université Évry, Paris-Saclay)
19. *Internal Organization of Major Employers and Its Effects on Workers' Status* (**Alice Cherchi** – Università di Cagliari)
20. *Profit-Sharing and Labour: socius operae, coloniae partiariae, and Other Forms of Workers' Participation in Profits* (**Constantin Willems** – Philipps-Universität Marburg)
21. *Unpaid Work: The operae libertorum* (**Carla Masi** – Università Federico II Napoli)
22. *Legal Restrictions on Slave Ownership and Their Impact on the Labour Market* (**Richard Gamauf** – Universität Wien)
23. *The Roman Model in Modern Labor Law: Legacy and Divergences* (**Ferdinando Mazzearella** – Università di Palermo)
24. *The Influence of Roman Legal Forms on Modern Labour Law* (**Giovanni Chiodi** – Università di Milano-Bicocca)



For further information, please contact

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