
Welcome to Mobility Studies
2026-2027

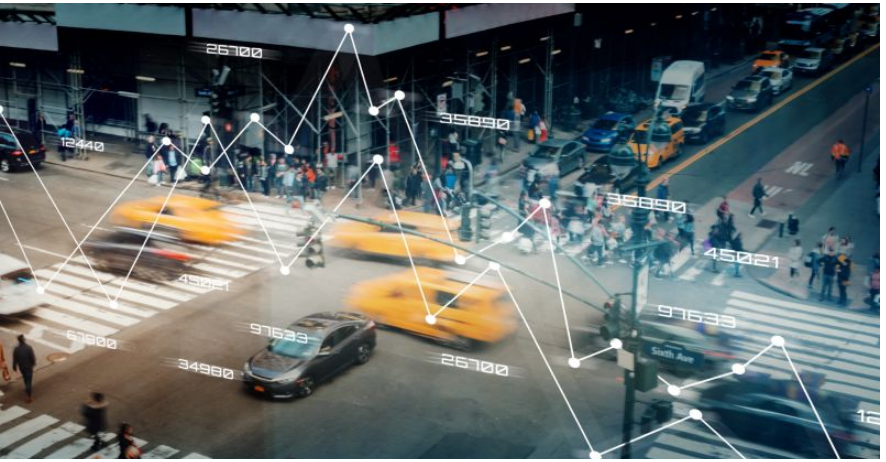
Welcome to Mobility Studies!

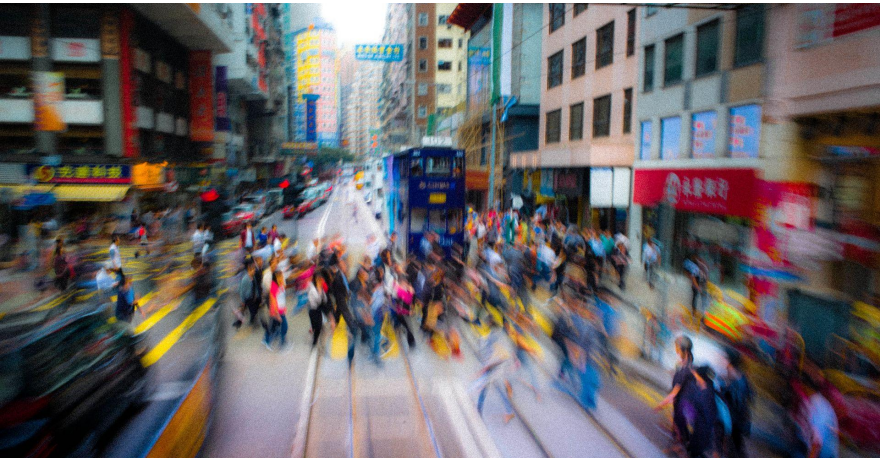
“Let us begin with a simple truth: Mobility is part of the human story. Long before it became the subject of policies, compacts, forums, and negotiated texts…people moved all around the world. They moved to survive, to find safety, and to build better futures for their children. They moved for work, some for love, for opportunity, for dignity, and for hope. To study, to earn a living, to start a business, to reunite with family, or simply to build a better life. And that movement continues today. [...]

Yet, four years after the first review cycle, the global context has become more difficult. Climate impacts are intensifying. Humanitarian needs are growing. Institutional capacity is under strain, even as migration continues to shape economies, societies, and communities in profound ways. And we must be frank: migration is becoming increasingly politicized. That makes today’s discussion only more important, [...] for the broader effort to ensure that migration governance remains effective, humane, and grounded in reality. […] So let our work, let your work, be guided by a simple recognition: human mobility has shaped every era of our shared history, and it will continue to shape the future before us.”

Annalena Baerbock, President of the UN General Assembly, 4 May 2026, **PGA Remarks at the opening of the Informal Interactive Multi-Stakeholder Hearing preceding the 2nd International Migration Review Forum**







Why Mobility Studies?

Mobility Studies is an interdisciplinary field in between Geography, the Social Sciences, History, Literature and the Humanities more in general.

Mobility Studies examines how the movement of people, objects, ideas, and information shapes societies across time and space—and how these movements are always linked to power, inequality, and cultural meaning.

Mobility Studies means studying migration of people, ideas and artifacts, tourism, digital communication, climate change, and global inequalities and understanding that many of today's key challenges are all, in different ways, **questions of mobility.**

*Mobility Studies analyses the **embodied practices of movement,** together with their infrastructures, representations, and imaginaries, showing that mobility is never neutral but always **socially organized and unequally distributed*** **(Mimi Sheller)**

*Movement becomes "mobility" when it is **socially meaningful**—defined by its speed, direction, experience, and the power relations that shape it.* (Tim Cresswell)

Università degli Studi di Padova

Why is mobility worth a MA Studies on its own?



Mobility Studies does not simply study movement—it studies **how movement makes the world**: is a «global studies» curriculum

Mobility and in particular **«mobility justice»** lies at the heart of every human activity, and provides thus not only an object of study but also a **methodological tool for analyzing societies as whole**, in the past and in the present.

The mobility studies curriculum is driven by the belief that the **humanities** (History, Geography, Philology, Archives and Library Science, Museum studies, Communication studies) **can play a crucial role in understanding and addressing mobility in modern society**.

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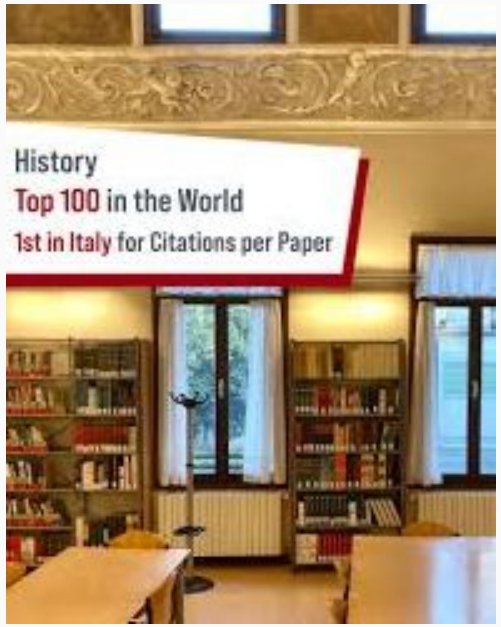
To Sum Up...

What is the MA Mobility Studies?



Interdisciplinary MA Programme in the Humanities and the Social Sciences

Embedded in a MA programme in the **Historical Sciences**

Geographically, linguistically and politically situated in Padua, Italy

What will you study?

🌍 How and why people, objects and ideas move across the world

📍 The relationship between movement and place

⚖️ The inequalities and power dynamics behind mobility

📖 The cultural and historical meanings of migration, travel and displacement

🌱 The impact of climate change and forced mobility on societies

Who is this MA for?







- Students interested in **History, Geography and the Social Sciences**
- Students looking for an **interdisciplinary approach**
- Students interested in **migration, heritage, borders, and their social and political implications**
- Students passionate about **global challenges** such as migration, climate change, and cultural circulation of texts and artifacts

What can I do after? What will be my skills on the Job market?



PhD in History, Geography, Social Sciences



Universities and Institutions working with International students



Tourism



NGO’s, associations and companies dealing with migration





Libraries, Archives and Museums

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

3x General and European History

Group A (3 courses = 18 credits)
- Migrations in World History
- Ideas and cultures in Motion
- Communication and media in history
- History of Tourism

4x Historical, socio-cultural and geographical disciplines

Group B (2 courses = 12 credits)
- Demography and migration
- Work, migration and globalization
- Politics and institutions

on the move
- Transport History
- Museums, collections and heritage

Group C (2 courses = 12 credits)
- Space, place and mobility
- Urban Mobilities
- Qualitative research methodology
- Cultural encounters
- Afro-Asian Mobilities

1x Theories and methods

Group D (1 course = 6 credits)
- Archives and libraries on the move
- Big data and social network analysis

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE page 2

2x Literature, Law and Social Sciences

Group E (2 courses = 12 credits)

- English as a global language
- Texts on the move
- Digital philology
- Global economy in historical perspective
- History of Eurasia
- Data Visualization
- European and global citizenships
- Gender EU politics and globalization
- History of Modern Political Thought
- Socio-ecological Dynamics and Mobilities

2x Classes of your choice

Group F (2 courses = 12 credits)

Picked from the other Mobility classes or from the School of Human Sciences classes

5x Workshops, internship, mandatory activities

Group G (2 workshops = 6 credits)

- Public digital history
- Digital cultural heritage
- Cities Metodologies
- Textual Narratives
- Map Mobilities

<u>Mandatory activities</u>

- Academic English speaking and writing (3 credits)
- Job-related internships (150 hours, 2nd year)
- Final dissertation

How? What and When to choose?

The study plan:
follow the instruction on your Welcome Kit e come to the meeting on **November, 9th**

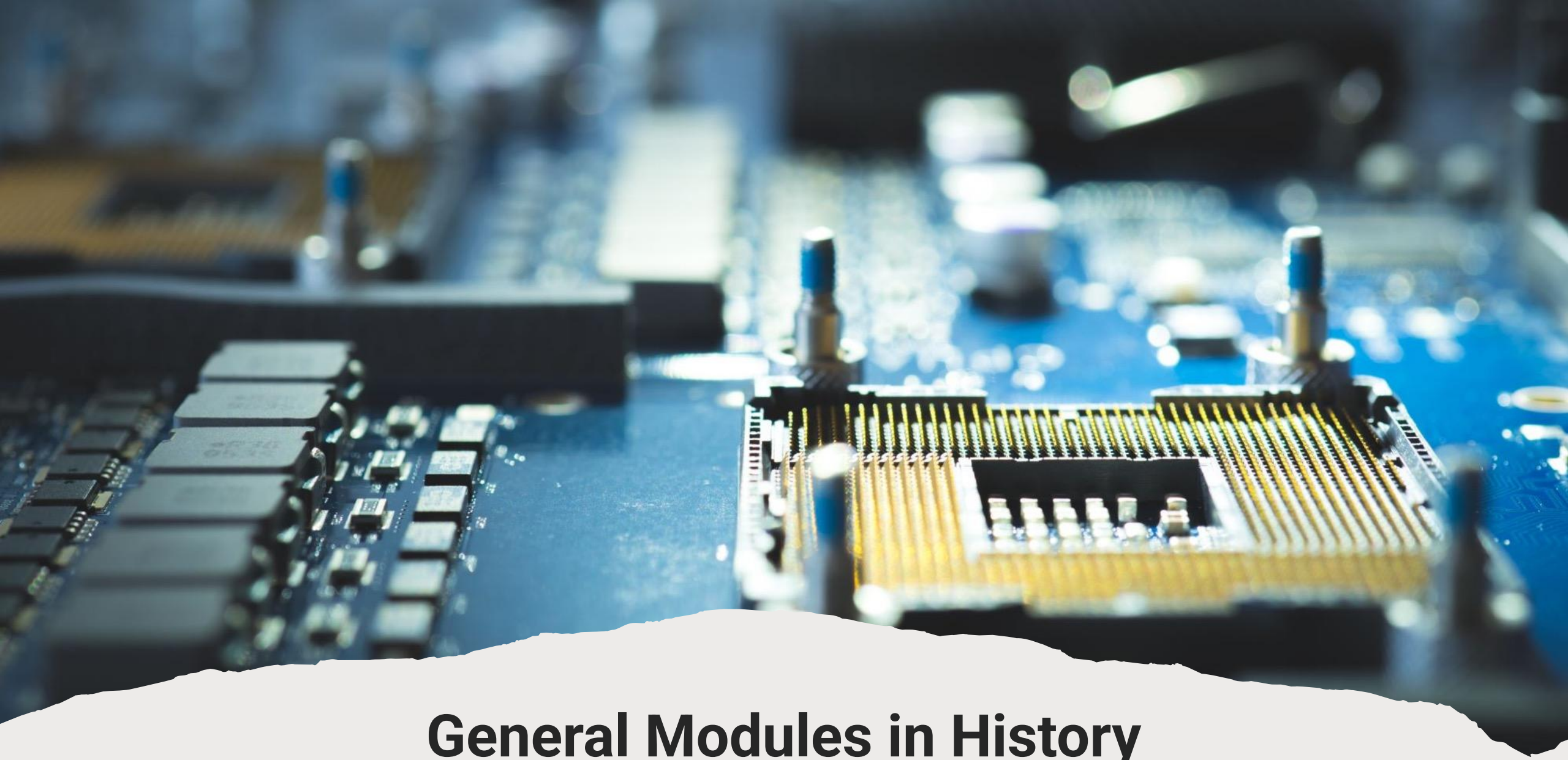
For a better understanding of the two tracks let’s look together at the Annex 3

Important Dates/Deadlines to remember

- **November 9: meeting for the study plan** –follows the submission of the study plan
- **Mid-end November- Mid January**: 1° Erasmus Call
- **End January- Mid April**: 2° Erasmus Call
- **February, 26**: Mobility Fest and Traineeship Meeting
- March: **Opens the call for the Double Degree**
- **August, 10** normally deadline for the regional scholarship (30 CFU, 1° year // 80 CFU 2° year)

Challenges of the «free study plan»

- Choose the right amount of classes and exams (no more than 30 CFU per term)
- Attend classes regularly
- Understand how exams work
- Keep focused despite multiple challenges
- Study regularly during the term and transition from BA to MA
- Don’t get stressed by deadlines for scholarships etc...
- Plan your international mobility in advance in order to choose the right classes
- Accept or refuse the exam’s mark
- Work on your Academic English throughout the term!



General Modules in History

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Ideas and cultures in Motion
Communication and media in history
Migrations in World History
History of Tourism
Gender, History and Mobilities

Ideas and cultures in Motion
(Lucio Biasiori & Louise Bonvalet)







In our class we will embark on a journey through the complex history of the **Witchcraft** in Late Medieval and Early Modern Europe.

We'll examine the diversity of witchcraft in different geographical contexts, as well as the disproportionate presence of **women** among the accused and what it reveals about **gender** in early modern societies.

Who are the **witches**, and why are they persecuted? We'll explore the social, economic, and cultural conditions that turned certain individuals into targets of **suspicion** and **violence.**

Flying to nocturnal gatherings, striking pacts with the Devil, dancing at the sabbath: we'll uncover how these **imaginaries** were constructed, believed, and confessed to under interrogation.



These aspects reveal how witchcraft persecution defined and confirmed religious, social and gender norms of the time. By studying these dynamics, students will gain insights into how the figure of the witch was constructed, and how this persecution still speaks to current debates on gender, power and authority.

Thursday-Friday: 12.30-14-30

Communication and Media in History



Nicolò Salmaso, nicolo.salmaso@unipd.it

TUESDAY: **3:00 PM – 4:30 PM**, ROOM STO2 [PALAZZO LUZZATTO DINA]

FRIDAY: **4:30 PM – 6:00 PM**, ROOM 5 CAPITANIATO [PALAZZO DEL CAPITANIO]

This course introduces students to how media and communication technologies have evolved from the twentieth century to today, showing how tools like the press, radio, advertising, cinema, television, and the internet have shaped societies and behaviors. It explores the technologies behind mass and interpersonal communication, the cultural impact of media across different contexts, and the rise of digital networks. A case study on television will compare systems in the U.S., U.K., and Italy, examining broadcasting models, programming, genres, representation, gender, and celebrity culture. By the end, students will gain a solid historical foundation and the ability to critically connect past media developments to today's communication landscape.









Migrations in World History

From settler colonialism to global labour migrations, 16th-21st centuries







Niccolò Pianciola
Associate Professor of Asian History
niccolo.pianciola@unipd.it

The course will provide students with an overview of the history of migrations over the **past five centuries**, with particular attention to connections between **Europe**, **Asia**, and the **Americas**.

Among other concepts and themes, we will explore the distinction between **forced and voluntary migration**, as well as the grey areas between them; the ways in which migrants navigate different **identity regimes** as they move between political and cultural contexts; the intersections between the history of migration and the changing meanings and attributes of **citizenship**; the relationship between migration and different forms of **labour, from slavery to free wage labour**; the ways in which the global histories of **colonialism and decolonisation** have shaped particular patterns of migration; and the role of **state borders as filters** that regulate and select migratory flows.







"There is no great City so proper for the retreat of Old Age as Venice..." (Th. Coryat, *Crudities*, London 1611)

History of Tourism

(Enrico Valseriati)







Immigrants, Ellis Island, c. 1910 · Library of Congress

Gender History and Mobilities

Laura Schettini



The course examines how gender relations and gender constructions shape migration and mobility, and how experiences of movement and migration can, in turn, transform gender roles, relations, and norms.

It introduces the main theoretical and methodological approaches of gender history and explores migration and mobility from a gender perspective.

THIS YEAR'S FOCUS

Global migration and prostitution

From the late nineteenth century to the Second World War, with particular attention to labour, social control, and state policies.

Socio-cultural and geographical disciplines



Demography and Migration

Work, migration and globalization

Politics and institutions on the move

Transport History

Museums, Collections and Heritage

Pick two!

Where do the participants in this class come from?

Label your country of origin, write your interests

Demography and Migration

Irene Barbiera



Learning strategies

- Problem solving
- Group activities
- Team based learning

Approaches to migration studies

- Theoretical
- Quantitative
- Qualitative

TOPICS

- IDENTITY AND INTEGRATION
- MIGRATION AND POPULATION DYNAMICS
- WHY MIGRATE
- GENDER AND INTERSECTIONALITY
- WHO MIGRATES AND HOW
- THEORIES OF MIGRATION

Work, Migration and Globalization



This course examines internal and international labor migrations within globalization, focusing on global production and reproduction networks.

Weekly theoretical topics—including labor mobility, migration theories, global production networks, labor and migration regimes, social reproduction, trade unions, and migrant labor—are analyzed through the in-class discussion of scientific case studies.

Francesca Alice Vianello

email:
francescaalice.vianello@unipd.it



Politics and Institutions on the Move

Giovanni Florio

My course aims to provide students with a critical understanding of past and present political institutions from a global perspective. Students will explore key concepts related to politics and institutions, examining their trajectories across time, space, and disciplines. At the end of the course, students will be able to adopt these notions diachronically, applying them to different geo-political contexts, from a comparative perspective.

Museum, Collections, Heritage (Elena Canadelli)



This course explores mobility as a defining characteristic in the life and history of objects. We follow different things through their uses, itineraries, trajectories and circulations in space and time. Key terms from museum studies and material culture – such as origin, provenance, collection and heritage – are addressed in the light of the so-called mobility turn. Students will be asked to be active learners through a variety of object-based activities and visits to museums throughout the course

Space, place and mobility

Pick two!

Urban Mobilities

Cultural Encounters

Afro-Asian Mobilities

Qualitative Research Methodology





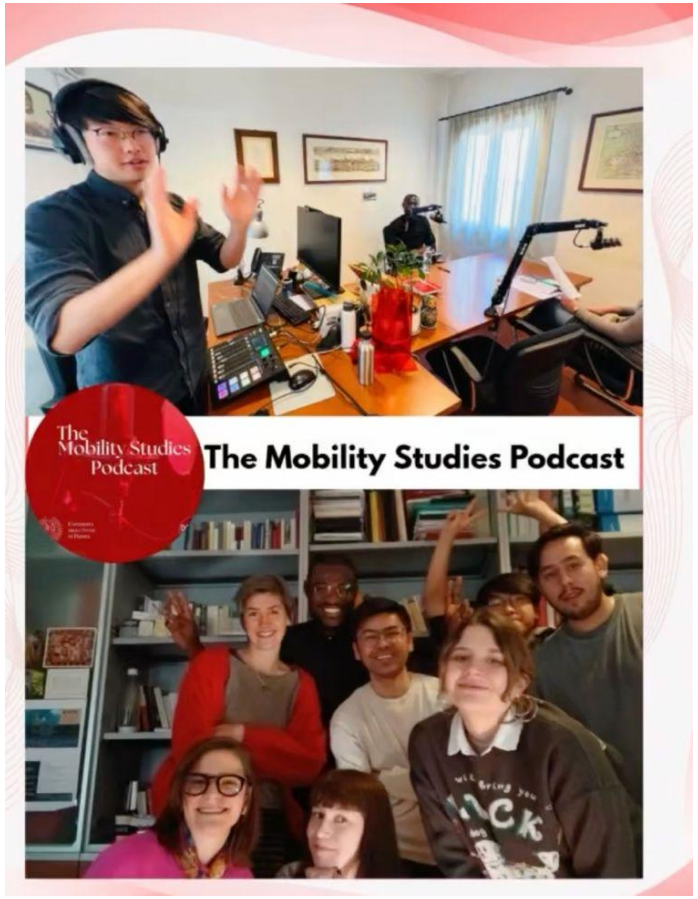
The course examines the role of women anthropologists in the early history of professional ethnography, with particular attention to fieldwork, mobility, collecting practices, photography, museum collections, and the circulation of anthropological knowledge in colonial and transnational contexts.



Cultural Encounters
(Maria Teresa Milicia)



Space, Place and Mobility



This course explores mobility as an empirical reality and an analytic paradigm from a **human-geographic** perspective.

In 2026/27 we will focus on **mobilities, transportation and intersectionality**, mainly through three main themes:

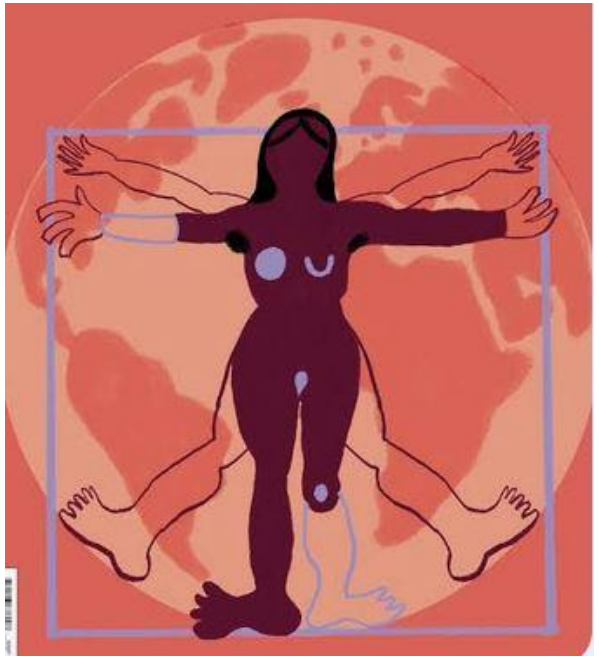


Image by Camilla Sammarco per Vita 2026

- gender
- dis/abilitation
- racialization processes

*The course is built around flipped classrooms, **ongoing activities,** group work, and a final multimedia exhibition—so get ready to be both scientifically rigorous and socially creative!*

Urban Mobilities | 6 ECTS

(L. Lo Presti, G. Tomasella)

Step into the city as a text, map, and performance!





This course explores how urban movement—from walking and migration to protests and micro-mobilities—shapes and unsettles the spaces we inhabit.



- **Interpret cities** through the lens of cultural geography, literary urban studies and mobility studies.
- **Experiment with creative cartographies**: sensory mapping, critical guides, counter-mapping, engaging in fieldwork that transforms streets into maps and maps into narratives.
- **Hands-on seminars** with experts in urban mobility and creative cartography.

Assessment:
Written questionnare + creative mapping project (multi-sensory map, alternative guide, participatory mapping practice).

Why enroll?
To read the city as a living archive of (im)mobility, where everyday movements, infrastructures, relations, struggles, traumas and desires shape urban life.

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Afro-Asian Mobilities
Experts, Pilgrims, Diplomats

(Rémi Dewière)

The course explores the multiple forms of mobility that shaped African and Asian societies in the early modern period, from the ottoman conquest of Constantinople (1453) to the Age of Revolutions (1750-1850).

- Introduction to Afro-Asian Mobilities
- Land Empires
- Maritime Empires
- Mobilities and Gender Roles
- Refugees and Exiles
- Experts and Knowledge Circulation
- Military Slavery and Prisoners of War
- The Slave Trade
- Diplomats and Envoys
- Traders and Merchant Diasporas
- Religious Mobilities and Pilgrimages





Theory and Methods

Archives and Libraries on the Move (Paola Molino)



INTERNET ARCHIVE







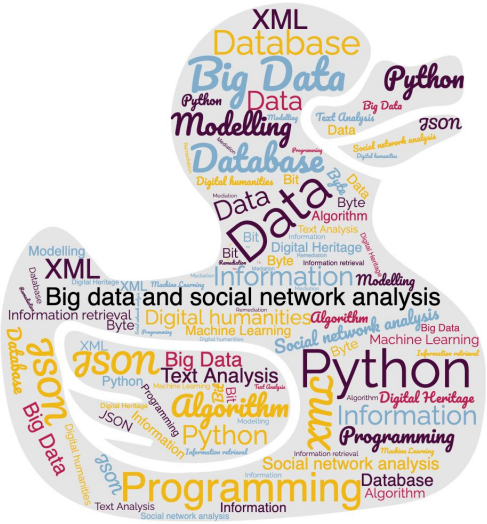




Archives and Libraries on the Move (Sofia Orsino)

Big Data and Social Network Analysis (Daniel Zilio)

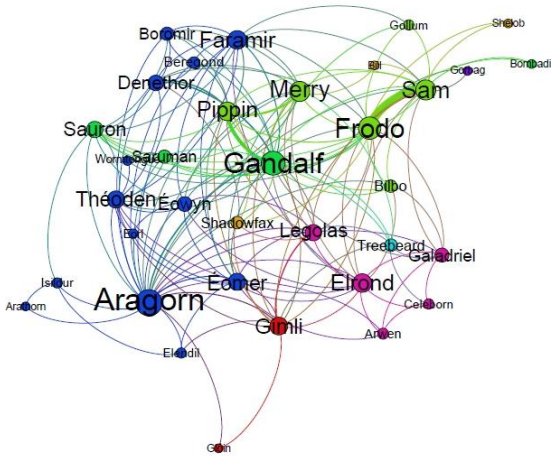




- Digital Humanities
- Coding (and vibe coding)
- AI
- Data analysis

The course aims to teach digital tools used in Humanities, including information representation, computational methods, text analysis, AI, and social network analysis using relevant datasets.






Literature, Law and Social Sciences

Depend on your study track!

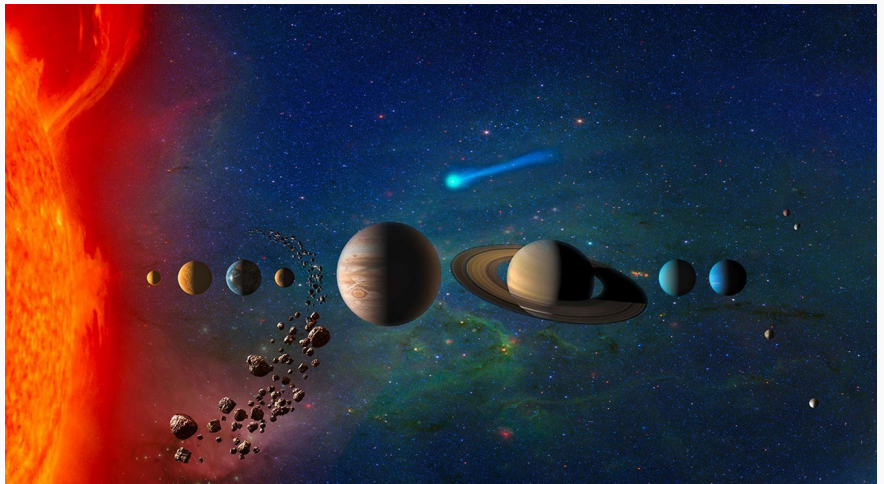
Time

ENGLISH AS A GLOBAL LANGUAGE
HISTORY OF EURASIA
GENDER EU POLITICS AND GLOBALISATION
TEXTS ON THE MOVE
DATA VISUALIZATION
DIGITAL PHILOLOGY



Space

HISTORY OF EURASIA
GLOBAL ECONOMY IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE
EUROPEAN AND GLOBAL CITIZENSHIPS
GENDER EU POLITICS AND GLOBALISATION
SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL DYNAMICS AND MOBILITY
DATA VISUALIZATION



Data Visualization

Marco Orlandi

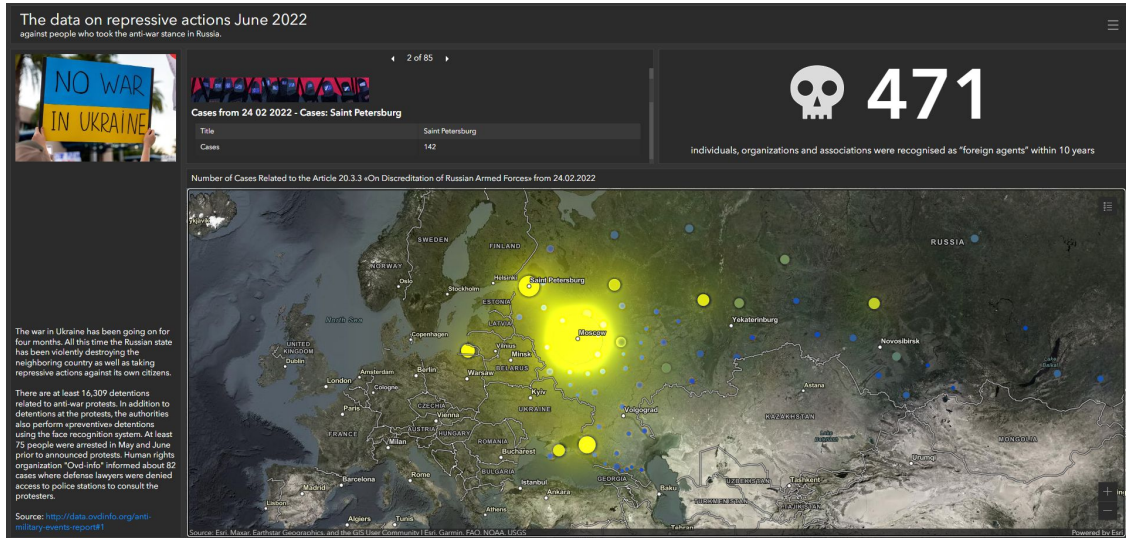
(marco.orlandi@unipd.it)

Combines the **theory and history** of Data Visualization with **hands-on practice**, from Snow's cholera map to interactive dashboards.

Using **ArcGIS Online**, Datawrapper and Flourish, students build **maps, charts and dashboards** from historical and mobility-related datasets.

Assessment: an **individual visual project** with methodological note, plus a written test.

The course runs over **21 sessions** (42 hours, **6 CFU**), from **29 September** to **15 December 2026**, every **Monday** (MobiLab1) and **Tuesday** (Sala Adriatico – no PCs, BYOD), **10:30–12:30**, at Palazzo Wollemborg, via del Santo 26.
Assessment: an individual project and a **written test**, no oral exam required.



Dashboard by Ekaterina Rodina, *Data Visualization student a.y.21/22*



WebMap by Ceren Oeztaskin, *Data Visualization student a.y.22/23*

Texts on the Move

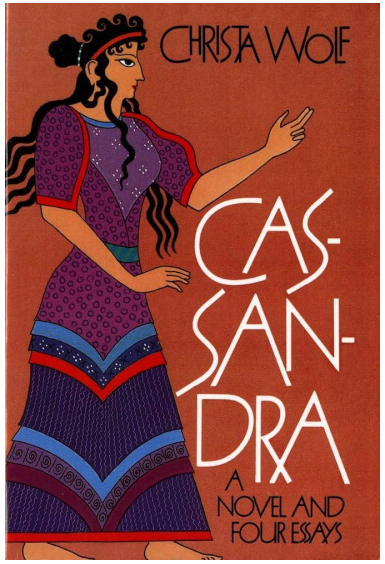
Ottavia Mazzon (ottavia.mazzon@unipd.it)

Texts participate in the process of construction of social, political, and cultural identities.

Mobility allows us to explore how written texts have the power to transform reality and shape the interpretation of the past and the present.

Key concepts we will reflect on:

- Reading as a historical practice
- Intertextuality
- Authorship vs. Authority
- Textual communities
- The role of Greek and Roman literature in shaping the Western élites' identity





What you should expect

READING

Theory

Scientific papers, literary criticism

Literature

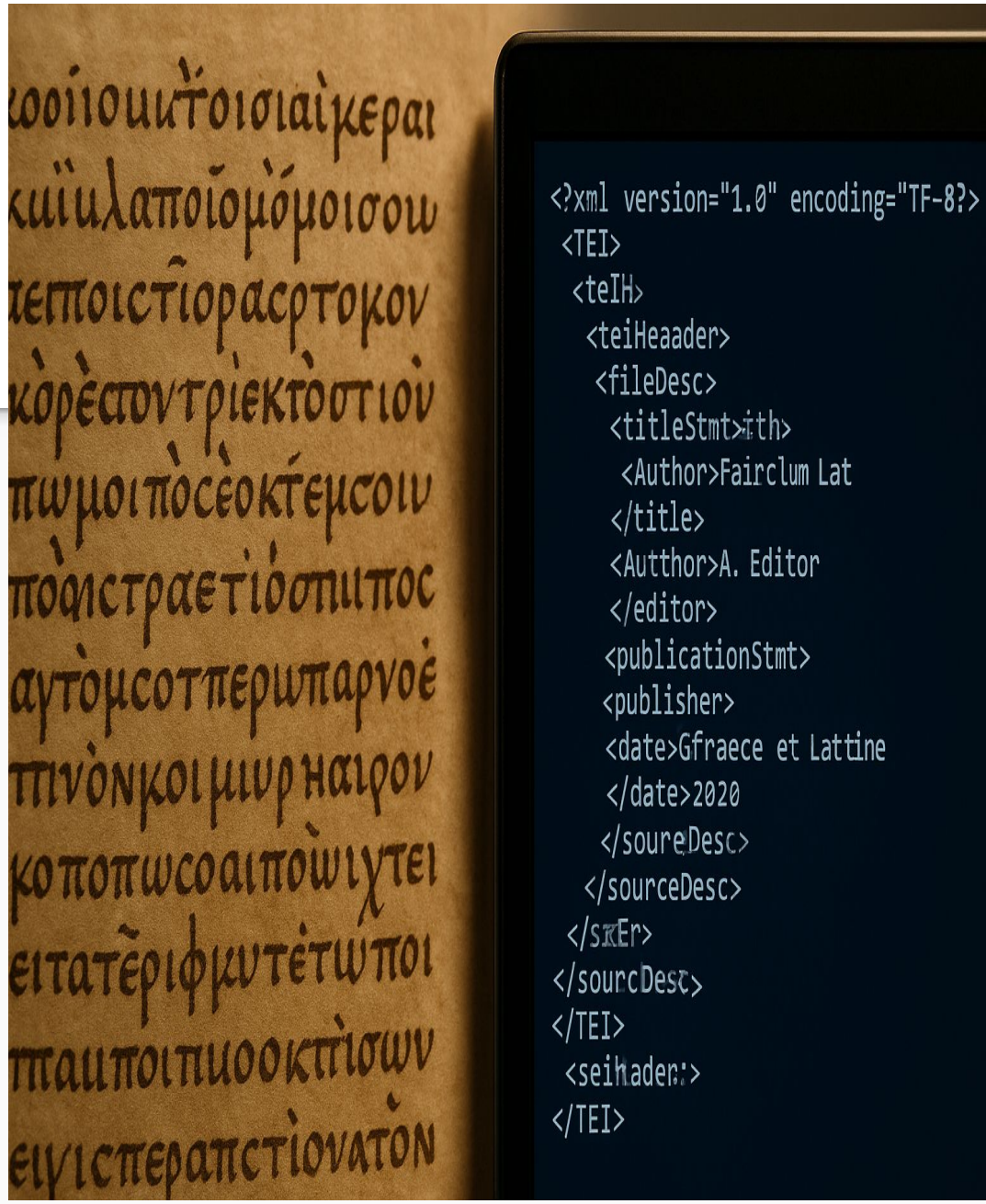
Plays, poems, novellas, excerpts from novels about the prophetess **Cassandra**, from **Aeschylus** (Athens, 5th cent. BCE) to Taylor Swift (Cassandra, 2024), but we read **mostly 19th-20th cent. literature** (F. Schiller, J. Girardoux, W. Szymborska, C. Wolf *et al.*)

Digital Philology

The course will focus on Digital Philology through its application to classical texts. Students will discover how Greek and Latin texts have been transmitted over the centuries and how they can be reconstructed through the application of philological methods.

Alongside the principles of textual criticism, students will engage with the possibilities offered by digital tools and will be guided step by step in the creation of a digital scholarly edition of a classical text.

The aim of the course is to provide students with the ability to merge philological expertise with digital methods, combining scholarly tradition with the potential of innovative tools.



Socio-ecological dynamics and mobility

Isabella Giunta

About the course

It explores socio-ecological dynamics and their links with mobility in a time of globalisation and planetary crisis, through the lens of political ecology.

How the course works

Several sessions follow a flipped classroom format: students are invited to study the assigned readings and to discuss, analyse case studies and work in groups together. Ongoing activities take place throughout the course, and active participation is encouraged.



Nick Cave, Amalgam, A-mal-gam, Arsenale di Venezia, Biennale 2026, Foto: IG

Workshops



Digital Cultural Heritage

(Elena Rizzi)


André Malraux at home working on his imaginary museum

The workshop aims to **introduce** students to Digital Cultural Heritage by working with **museum digital collections and projects:**

- ✓ How have digital technologies transformed museum core activities? Does the digitization of museum collections help mediate the physical artefacts and the narratives they embody to various publics?

What you will **learn**:

- ✓ to use museum digital collections for research
- ✓ to evaluate museum digital projects
- ✓ to employ digital tools to conduct research, create new narratives, and engage new audiences
- ✓ to design digital exhibits
- ✓ to assess the political dimension of museum digital projects

Public Digital History

(Enrico Valseriati)



André Malraux at home working on his imaginary museum

In this module students learn the fundamentals of public history. By the end of this workshop, students will be able to write, record, and edit audio content and will know how to work with the main equipment and software tools available in recording studios to create a history podcast for outreach purposes. They will also learn the fundamentals of public history and digital history.

Students will be expected to strengthen their competences in the following areas:

- Reference/research skills (finding and using primary and secondary sources).
- Content creation (podcasts and social media).
- Recording and editing audio files.
- Working effectively both alone and as part of a group.
- Clarity of exposition, providing effective feedback to others.

Narratives and Textuality

Workshop – 3 ECTS

2nd semester

Francesco Veronese



The course will focus on a well-known epic poem composed in the Anglo-Saxon world during the Early Middle Ages, namely, Beowulf.

The text will be studied from the perspective of both its exterior features, that is, its shape, style, narrative and lexical solutions, and manuscript transmission; and of its contents. Then the multiple shapes taken by this poem through time will be taken into account.

Its most recent reformulations, developed in the context of media that were developed in the last century or so (movies, graphic novels, video games, etc.), will be the object of a specific focus.

The shapes and ways of production and circulation of all these narratives will be investigated in order to understand how and why this text has been so frequently chosen to address specific messages to different categories of audience.

Cities Methodologies

Exploring Urban Nights and Day–Night Transitions

Giuseppe Tomasella

2nd semester

Workshop

3 ECTS

GOAL: Equip students to interpret cities across cultural, social and sensory dimensions

FOCUS: Transformations, rhythms and mobilities in urban space after dark

SKILLS: Creative and qualitative research methods

OUTPUT: Individual essay on an urban night (70%) + Collective “artist’s book” (30%)



Can we actually go abroad and when?



Going abroad?

Erasmus+ for studies: physical (or virtual) mobility in Europe (Paris, Berlin, Madrid, Lisbon, Vienna, Athens, Dublin, and many more) and in the UK (Lancaster)

Mobility students can apply for all destinations in the School of Human Sciences (and in particular Historical Sciences) and for destinations for "Mobility Studies only" (Aalborg)

Ulisse: Outside Europe, more generous scholarship

Erasmus+ for traineeship: for the compulsory traineeship or for a professional experience before or even after graduation (Private companies, public institutions such as Museums, Libraries, city offices, NGO's). Students choose their institution and destination

UniPD is part of **Arqus** (**Bergen**, **Granada**, **Graz**, **Leipzig**, **Lyon**, **Minho**, **Padua, Vilnius, and Wroclaw**) **free mobility: what does it mean?**

Lancaster-Padua Double MA in Mobility Humanities/Social Sciences

AY 2025/26–, **double degree programme in Mobility Humanities with @Lancaster University (UK).**

- Limited space
- MA in Historical Sciences - Mobility Studies - Padua + MA in Social Research or in English Literature from Lancaster.

After spending their **first year** at Padua in AY 2025/26, those selected will spend their **second year** (AY 2026/27) at Lancaster University.

There will be **NO additional tuition fees** payable for students, but those who participate will be required to cover the cost of their accommodation and travel.

Look in Moodle the relevant entry! Applications open in March

Where we are 我们的位置

- Manchester (1 hour) 曼彻斯特 (1小时)
- Liverpool (1.5 hours) 利物浦 (1.5小时)
- York (2 hours) 约克 (2小时)
- London (2.5 hours) 伦敦 (2.5小时)
- Edinburgh (2.5 hours) 爱丁堡 (2.5小时)



Lancaster University

Top 15 in the UK

- **10** Complete University Guide
- **11** The Guardian
- **12** The Times and Sunday Times GUG

Going abroad and double degrees

Top 150 in the World

141

QS World Rankings 2025

11 Subject Areas in Top 100

Sociology

Statistics and Operational Research

Linguistics

English Language and Literature

Art and Design

Modern Languages

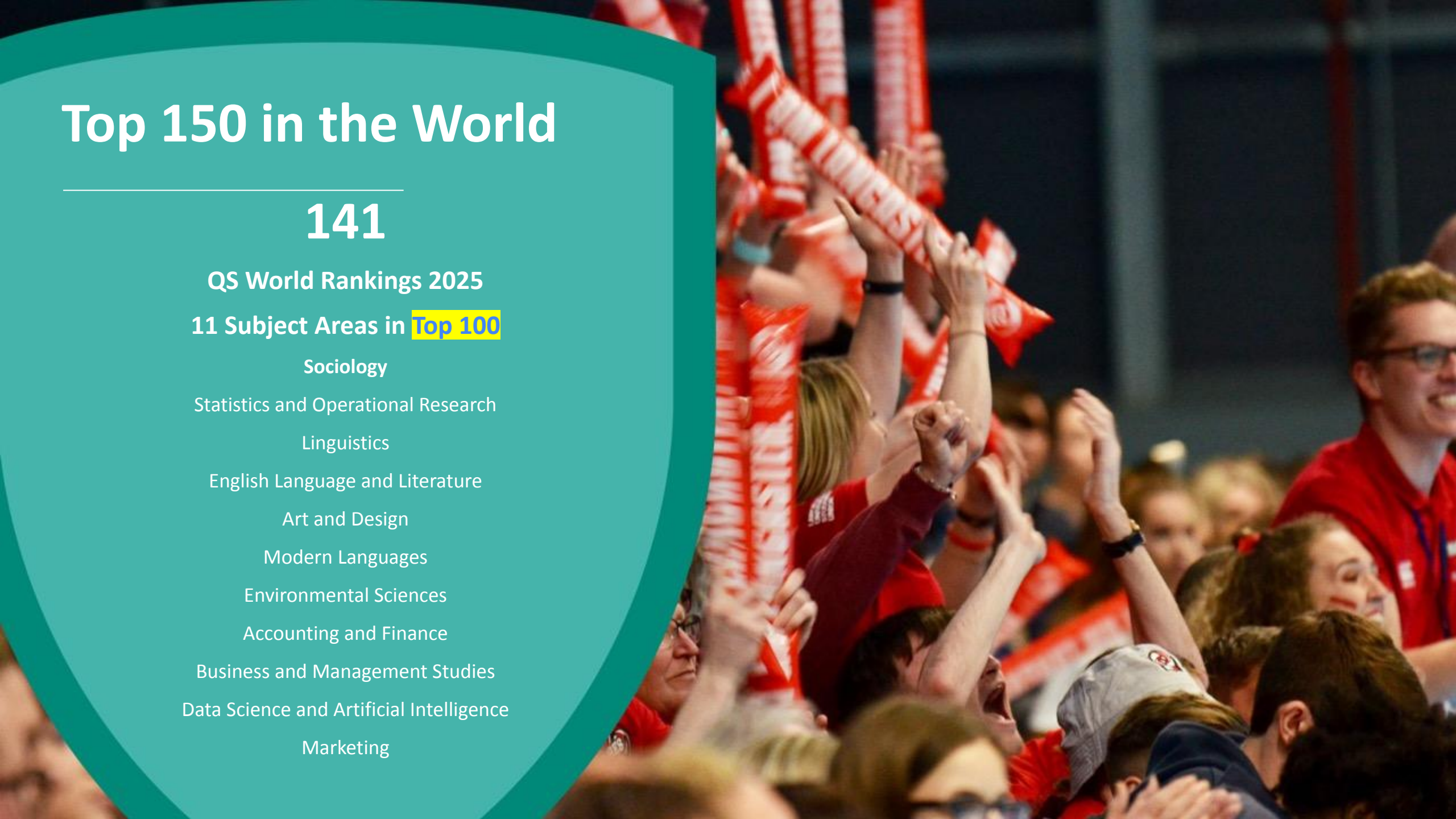
Environmental Sciences

Accounting and Finance

Business and Management Studies

Data Science and Artificial Intelligence

Marketing



English Literature and Creative Writing at Lancaster

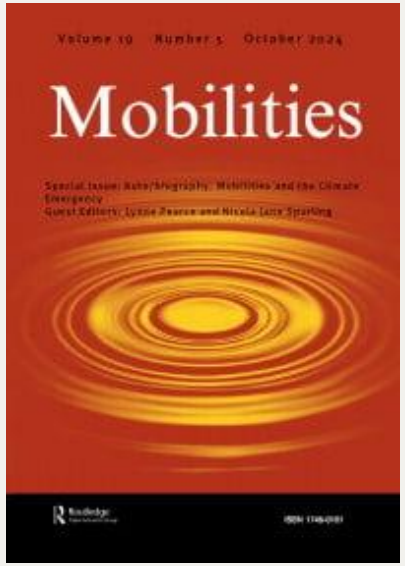


- Masters' programs for over fifty years, with its programme in English Literary Studies (ELS) attracting students globally.
- Well-known for research and teaching on contemporary literature and literary theory, but also literature ranging from the medieval period to the present across a wide range of research topics, many of which can be approached via a **mobilities lens**.
- This includes modules focusing on postcolonial and world literature, landscape, space and place, and the body.

Social Research at Lancaster

- Globally leading in both research and teaching
- Founding home of CeMore (Centre for Mobilities Research)
- Founding home of the “new mobilities paradigm”





Top 100

In the world for Sociology

QS World University subject ranking 2024

centre for mobilities research

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