

## Conference

TOPONYMS, PERCEPTIONS AND TERRITORIAL REPRESENTATIONS  
Critical readings, methodologies and new perspectives between research and teaching

(University of Salerno, 10-11 December 2024)

## CALL FOR PAPERS

## PRESENTATION

Place names, already considered “geological deposits of history” by Gabriele Grasso, are the first manifestation of the anthropic appropriation of space and constitutive elements of the territorialization process, in which they constantly change over the centuries. In some cases, as “wrecks” of bottom roots of the past, they represent cultural assets to be preserved, but also forms of the *Genius loci*, custodians of internal places, shared resources, configurations of the collective imagination, emotions and lived experiences. From the perspective of the Public Sciences and the performative nature of linguistic communication, they become intermediaries for humanistic and socio-territorial values, as well as tools for the application of the concepts of sustainability and active citizenship.

## GOALS

The conference proposes a series of research orientations “sub specie nominum”, aimed at highlighting the intrinsic value of Toponymy and its epistemological potential as a science of territory and landscape *tout court*. It thus aims to bring out, from different study perspectives, the multiple meanings, and aspects of place names, such as cultural, linguistic, geographical, historical, economic, political, ideological, artistic, symbolic, religious manifestations and so on. In particular, the conference intends to enhance the denotative and connotative aspects of toponyms, such as geographical indicators and ‘sentinels’ of the integral sense of places, containers of shared knowledge and artistic production, documents of territorial synthesis and witnesses of the identity meanings of landscapes, today recognized by the European Landscape Convention and by the systemic logic underlying the objectives of the 2030 Agenda.

## PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

Researchers interested in participating are invited to submit proposals in relation to the themes of the conference, structured in nine sessions:

- 1) Methodological and applicative approaches for the study of Toponymy: from the criteria for retrieval, analysis, and interpretation of place names to the methods of classification and union of their qualitative and quantitative aspects.
- 2) Toponyms and cartography: from the reconstruction of landscapes and their functions to the interpretation of the dynamics and hierarchical-territorial relationships underlying them.
- 3) Toponyms as textual forms of power: from political-administrative toponymy to naming conflicts in contested or border spaces, in relation to the language and/or the observation point.
- 4) Toponyms as tools of symbolic control of the territory: from the place names of colonialism, post-colonialism, and neocolonialism to the policies of construction and reconstruction of the sense of identity and collective memory, to gender toponymy.

- 5) Toponymy and changed value of environmental frameworks: from the corruption and/or loss of toponyms in deterritorialization phenomena to research on the original characters of historical rural landscapes, on regional languages or local idioms.
- 6) Toponyms of natural disasters: from risk prevention to environmental protection and territorial planning.
- 7) Participatory and collaborative toponymy: from the protection of cultural heritage to the increased relationship between toponyms and landscape (using performing media, “cross-media” experiments, storytelling), to the frontiers of Artificial Intelligence and the Metaverse.
- 8) Toponymy in travel literature and artistic production: the construction of collective imaginaries for the birth of a shared landscape and cultural heritage (from places and travelers’ stories to cinema and mass media).
- 9) Toponymy in teaching: from the instances of constructivism and action research to the development of the concept of sustainability and active citizenship.

The registration form must be completed by **15 July 2024**, indicating the author and title of the contribution proposal, accompanied by a short abstract (2,500 characters).

All proposals will be subjected to preliminary evaluation by the Scientific Committee.

The contributions will be published in a dedicated volume, according to criteria subsequently communicated.

#### Salerno 2024

The conference, including the final works of the National Research Project “To rewrite the history of late medieval Southern Italy. Textual forms of power (14th-15th centuries)”, is organized by the chairs of Geography and French Language, in collaboration with GESTO (Geohistory Laboratory) and GenderLab (Interdisciplinary Teaching Laboratory of Gender Studies), of the Department of Humanistic Studies of the University of Salerno and by the Italian Center for Historical-Geographical Studies. The event, open to the public, will take place in the conference room of the Department of Humanistic Studies of the University of Salerno. There is no registration fee.

#### INFORMATION

To register for the conference, refer to the page <https://forms.gle/8Sx2zfBMfuKgL6Pm6>.

For further information write to the following address: [convegnotoponomastica2024@gmail.com](mailto:convegnotoponomastica2024@gmail.com).

#### SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

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#### ORGANIZATION

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