

Call for papers
On Metamorphosis. Interdisciplinary Perspectives
International Conference, Palermo, 8th - 9th May 2025

Cultures and Societies Department, University of Palermo, Italy

Academy of Fine Arts, Palermo, Italy

French Cultural Center, Palermo, Italy

Deadline for abstracts: April 20th, 2025

Our aim at this conference is to explore the concept of ‘metamorphosis’ and the theories associated with it in anthropology and other disciplines such as archaeology, semiotics, cultural studies, narratology, history of arts and so on. We shall focus on investigating the meanings of metamorphosis from an inter-disciplinary perspective, comparing a number of disparate viewpoints. What fundamental meanings should we attribute today to the notion of metamorphosis? What theoretical interconnections may emerge from this concept? The conference is designed to gather together both Italian and international scholars eager to engage in discussions of metamorphosis in the context of modernity. One key question which we intend to pose to participants is: What perspectives are applied by different disciplines and scholars and which methodologies can best capture the multi-faceted nature of metamorphosis in life, culture and narrative? Throughout the conference, experts will discuss and reflect on the meanings their respective practices and theories assign to the concept of metamorphosis and its related terms – transformation, change, becoming, transition and (rites of) passage – and which theoretical tools can best comprehend those ideas and thus foster inter-disciplinary dialogue.

Modalities of participation and deadline:

Send abstracts by April 20th, 2025 to Stefano Montes (stefano.montes@unipa.it) and Giancarlo Germanà (giancarlo.germana@abapa.education). Abstracts, max 300 words, include title, 3 keywords and a short biography (max 5 lines, not to be counted among the 300 words). Applicants will be notified as soon as possible. The conference will only take place, in-person, in Palermo, at the Institut français Palermo (via Paolo Gili 4, 90138 Palermo). Admitted languages are English, Italian and French. Each speech is 20 minutes. Registration to the Conference is free of cost. Grants are not foreseen. Travel, accommodation and food costs are to be covered by participants.

Scientific board:

Eric Biagi, Institut français Palermo, Italy

Massimo Canevacci, University of Roma “La Sapienza”, Italy

Roberto Cipriani, University of Roma Tre, Italy

Vincent Crapanzano, Graduate Center of the City University of New York, USA

Hanna Geara, artist

Giancarlo Germanà, Accademia di Belle Arti, Italy

Stefano Montes, University of Palermo, Italy

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Kristiina Rebane, University of Tallinn, Estonia

Andrea Smorti, University of Florence, Italy

Paul Stoller, Friedrich Alexander University, Erlangen/Nuremberg and University of Pennsylvania

Ray Zammit, University of Malta, Malta

Organizing committee:

Eric Biagi, Giancarlo Germanà, Stefano Montes