

Abstinendum a libris inhonestis

Dangerous Latin Literature from Antiquity to the Modern Age

International Conference

SERICA (Sino-European Religious Intersections in Central Asia) Project

Turin, 30th June – 1st July 2022

The Jesuit *Ratio Studiorum* (*Regulae Praepositi Provincialis*, n. 34), written late in the XVI century, warns against reading books which might harm the morality of both students and teachers. Specularly, around those same years, another Jesuit work, Antonius Possevinus' *Bibliotheca Selecta* offered a solution to this issue by providing a reading list within a more general discourse on Catholic education, the main goal of which was to counter Konrad Gessner's *Bibliotheca Universalis*, an encyclopaedic bibliography with no religious bias. Yet the problem of distinguishing good from bad works finds its roots back in antiquity, as is evident from Quintilian's famous negative judgement on Seneca (*Inst.* 10.1.125-131), accused of becoming a dangerous example of Latin style. But literature can also be dangerous in another way, as the case of Ovid's *Ars amatoria* and the poet's ensuing exile make it clear (cf. *Trist.* 2.1.207: *perdiderint cum me duo crimina, carmen et error*). The aim of this conference, organised in the scope of the SERICA Project (*Sino-European Religious Intersections in Central Asia*, PIs Andrea Balbo and Chiara Ombretta Tommasi), is to investigate both the ways in which Latin texts from antiquity to the XVIII century can be regarded as dangerous and the possible solutions to this problem.

Topics might include, but are by no means limited to:

- Works which might be dangerous within a given historical-political context;
- Works which are not included within a canon because potentially dangerous in some way;
- Forms of reaction and/or opposition to unwelcome texts;
- Rewriting of dangerous content manuscripts (e.g. palimpsests);
- Retractions by the authors themselves (e.g. palinodes);
- How to make texts *honesti* out of *inhonesti*.

We welcome proposals for 30 minute papers from established scholars, early career researchers and PhD students. Languages of the conference are English, French, German, Italian and Spanish. Please send abstracts as an email attachment (Word or PDF, max. 300 words) to the organisers, Elisa Della Calce (elisa.dellacalce@unito.it) and Simone Mollea (simone.mollea@unito.it) by 31st March 2022. Speakers will be notified by 15th April 2022. Publication of the Proceedings is envisaged.

Confirmed speakers:

Alberto Anrò, Linda Bisello, Alice Borgna, Stefano Briguglio, Margaret Graver, Mario Lentano, Massimo Manca, Guido Milanese, Bernard Mineo, Stephen Oakley, Dirk Rohmann and Chiara Tommasi.

Scientific committee:

Andrea Balbo, Federica Bessone, Edoardo Bona, Maria Goretti Castello, Elisa Della Calce, Monica De Togni, Ermanno Malaspina, Simone Mollea, Alberto Pelissero, Rosa Maria Piccione, Stefania Stafutti and Francesco Stella.