

Deafness in the Premodern Mediterranean

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CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF MEDICINE AND THE BODY IN THE RENAISSANCE

Domus Comeliana
17-18 November 2026

INSTITUTIO SANTORIANA
FONDAZIONE COMEL

YALE UNIVERSITY
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

Julius-Maximilians-
UNIVERSITÄT
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UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI PARMA

THE EDWARD WORTH LIBRARY
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STUDIO FIRMANO
PER LA STORIA DELL'ARTE MEDICA E DELLA SCIENZA

Programme



Organisers

Nicola Reggiani
Davide Astori

Keynote Speaker

Ilaria Cariddi
Stephanos Efthymiadis
Christian Laes
Nazan Maksudyan
Mara Rescio
Fotis Vasileiou

Santorio Awardees

Sivan Gottlieb
Simona Ferrara

17 November

10.30 *Registration*

11.00 *Welcoming Address*

Chair: Davide Astori

11.30 **"In the Deaf We Trust" Kings & the Deaf at the Hittite Court**
Domenico Giuseppe Muscianisi

12.00 **The Language of Deafness: Representations & Cultural Conceptions of Hearing Impairments in Ancient Egyptian Literary & Para-Literary Texts**
Ilaria Cariddi

12.30 *Lunch*

14.30 **Deafness in the Graeco-Roman World**
Christian Laes

15.00 **"For the Other One I Count as No Son of Mine". Critical Disability & Croesus's Other Son**
Grant Hussong

15.30 **"Si Vero Obstrusa Sensus Morietur in Aure" Vocabulary & Definition of Deafness in Quintus Serenus' "Liber Medicinalis"**
Giovanna Ligorio

16.00 *Coffee Break*

16.30 **Deaf & Deafness in the Graeco-Egyptian Papyri**
Nicola Reggiani

17.00 **Inhabiting Marginality: Beyond the Rhetoric of Healing. The Deaf between Gospel Narratives & Documentary Papyri**
Mara Rescio

17.30 **Exploring Deafness in Latin through the LiLa Knowledge Base**
Rachele Sprugnoli & Federica Iurescia

18.00 **The Silence of the Senses. Deafness & Speechlessness in Medieval Religious Experience**
Ninon Dubourg

18.30 Santorio Lecture
Latin & Hebrew in Dialogue. Text & Illustration in Late Medieval Herbals
Sivan Gottlieb

18 November

09.00 *Registration*

Chair: Nicola Reggiani

09.30 **Deafness, Muteness, & Communication in Late Antiquity**
Fotis Vasileiou

10.00 **When Not Hearing Heals. The Discipline of Hearing in Late Antique Religious Controversy**
Muxin Yan

10.30 *Coffee Break*

11.00 **Cases of Curing Hearing Impairment in Middle & Late Byzantium: The Evidence of Greek Hagiography**
Stephanos Efthymiadis

11.30 **Deafness and Deaf Gods in World's Mythologies**
Davide Astori

12.00 **Challenges & Strategies for a Linguistic Research on Signs in the Pre-Modern Age**
Cassandra Dagani

12.30 *Lunch*

14.30 **Deaf Desire: Punitive Soundscapes in Dante's "Commedia"**
Catherine Shepard Bloomer

15.00 **Speech without Sound. Deaf Legal Personhood in Islamic & Rabbinic Law of the Medieval Mediterranean**
Iqbal Akhtar

15.30 **The Definition of Deafness in Ottoman Medicine. The Attitude of Ottoman Physicians Toward the Deaf, & the Place of the Deaf in Ottoman Society**
Serra Ağırman Yılmaz

16.00 **Silence of the Sultans. Mute Servants & Sign Language in the Early Modern Ottoman Court**
Nazan Maksudyan

16.30 *Coffee Break*

17.00 **Rights, Signs, & Cognition. The Redefinition of Deafness between Innocenzo III's Rome & Girolamo Cardano's Milan**
Donata Chiricò

17.30 **Silence in Colors. Deaf Artists & Artistic Mobility in Pre-Modern Italy**
Maria Tagarelli De Monte

18.00 **Teresa de Cartagena. The Juridical against the Theological Deaf Person in Fifteenth-Century Castile**
Lucas P. Depierre

18.30 Santorio Lecture
Rethinking the Living Body. Physiology & the Crisis of Galenism in 17th-century Naples
Simona Ferrara