

VivaMente Conference on
Deafness in the Premodern Mediterranean

17 November 2026

chair: Davide ASTORI

10:30 Registration

11:00 **Introduction**

Fabrizio BIGOTTI

Davide ASTORI / Nicola REGGIANI

11:30 *“In the Deaf we Trust”: Kings and the Deaf at the Hittite Court*

Domenico Giuseppe MUSCIANISI (University of Parma)

12:00 *The Language of Deafness: Representations and Cultural Conceptions of Hearing Impairments in Ancient Egyptian Literary and Para-literary Texts*

Ilaria CARIDDI (University of Florence)

12:30 lunch

14:30 *Deafness in the Graeco-Roman World*

Christian LAES (University of Manchester / Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies)

15:00 *“For the other one I count as no son of mine”: Critical Disability and Croesus’s Other Son*

Grant HUSSONG (University of California, Los Angeles)

15:30 *“Si vero obstrusa sensus morietur in aure”: Vocabulary and Definition of Deafness in Quintus Serenus’ Liber medicinalis*

Giovanna LIGORIO (University of Rome “Tor Vergata”)

16:00 break

16:30 *Deaf and Deafness in the Graeco-Egyptian Papyri*

Nicola REGGIANI (Centro Italiano di Egittologia “Giuseppe Botti” / University of Parma)

17:00 *Inhabiting Marginality: Beyond the Rhetoric of Healing. The Deaf between Gospel Narratives and Documentary Papyri*

Mara RESCIO (University of Regensburg)

17:30 *Exploring Deafness in Latin through the LiLa Knowledge Base*

Rachele SPRUGNOLI & Federica IURESCIA (Catholic University of Milano)

18:00 *The Silence of the Senses – Deafness and Speechlessness in Medieval Religious Experience*

Ninon DUBOURG (University of Köln)

18:30 (Santorio Award Lecture) *Latin and Hebrew in Dialogue: Text and Illustration in Late Medieval Herbals*

Sivan GOTTLIEB (Koret Center for Jewish Civilization, Tel Aviv University)

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9:30 *Deafness, Muteness, and Communication in Late Antiquity*

Fotis VASILEIOU (Ionian University, Corfu)

10:00 *When Not Hearing Heals: The Discipline of Hearing in Late Antique Religious Controversy*

Muxin YAN (KU Leuven)

10:30 break

11:00 *Cases of Curing Hearing Impairment in Middle and Late Byzantium: The Evidence of Greek Hagiography*

Stephanos EFTHYMIADIS (Open University of Cyprus)

11:30 *Deafness and Deaf Gods in World's Mythologies*

Davide ASTORI (University of Parma)

12:00 *Challenges and Strategies for a Linguistic Research on Signs in the Pre-Modern Age*

Cassandra DAGANI (University of Parma)

12:30 lunch

14:30 *Deaf Desire: Punitive Soundscapes in Dante's Commedia*

Catherine SHEPARD BLOOMER (Brandeis University)

15:00 *Speech Without Sound: Deaf Legal Personhood in Islamic and Rabbinic Law of the Medieval Mediterranean*

Iqbal AKHTAR (Florida International University)

15:30 *The Definition of Deafness in Ottoman Medicine, the Attitude of Ottoman Physicians Toward the Deaf, and the Place of the Deaf in Ottoman Society*

Serra AĞIRMAN YILMAZ (University of Istanbul Medipol)

16:00 *Silence of the Sultans: Mute Servants and Sign Language in the Early Modern Ottoman Court*

Nazan MAKSUDYAN (Free University of Berlin)

16:30 break

17:00 *Rights, Signs, and Cognition: The Redefinition of Deafness between Innocenzo III's Rome and Girolamo Cardano's Milan*

Donata CHIRICÒ (University "Magna Grecia" of Catanzaro)

17:30 *Silence in Colors. Deaf Artists and Artistic Mobility in Pre-Modern Italy*

Maria TAGARELLI DE MONTE (University of International Studies, Rome)

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18:00 *Teresa de Cartagena: The Juridical against the Theological Deaf Person in Fifteenth-century Castile*

Lucas P. DEPIERRE (University of Chicago)

18:30 (Santorio Award Lecture) *Rethinking the Living Body: Physiology and the Crisis of Galenism in 17th-century Naples*

Simona FERRARA (University of Bari “Aldo Moro”)

