

Redes de comunicación y organización territorial del Imperio romano de occidente. Network Analysis aplicado al transporte en la antigüedad. RTI2018-098905-J-I00. (MCIU/AEI/FEDER, UE)

Investigador/s principal/s: Pau de Soto

Dates: 22/11/2019 - 21/11/2022

Finançament: Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación y Universidades, Proyectos I+D modalidad JIN (RTI2018-098905-J-I00)



Studying the transport networks of Roman times represents understanding how Rome structured each of the Roman provinces, how the Romans located the construction of its cities and how they evolved, depending, in a very important part, on their situation within the transport network.

We know that the construction of infrastructures in Roman times responded to various economic (transport, production), political (propaganda, official mailing) and territorial (organization) objectives. Determine the impact of these motivations can only be achieved from a detailed and global knowledge of the communications network, its evolution and its operation.

The Viator-e project is designed to analyse the social, political and economic repercussions of the construction of transport infrastructures during several periods in the Roman Empire.

The analysis of historical transportation networks is based on three main aspects:

- **Documentation of the infrastructures.** It represents the first step of the project in which all the elements that make up the network are collected, digitized and disseminated.

- **Analysis of the structure of the transport network.** From the knowledge of the network, it is possible to analyse how it is configured by quantifying the connectivity of the different urban centres.
- **Analysis of the transport network functionality.** Thanks to historical knowledge about transport costs and speeds, it is possible to create models that evaluate the costs (in time and cost) of the transport of goods through the network

SUPPORTED BY



Research

Viator-e will collect and study all the published information related to Roman roads of the Western Roman Empire



Digitisation

In the next 3 years, all the Roman roads of the Western Roman Empire will be digitised and published online.

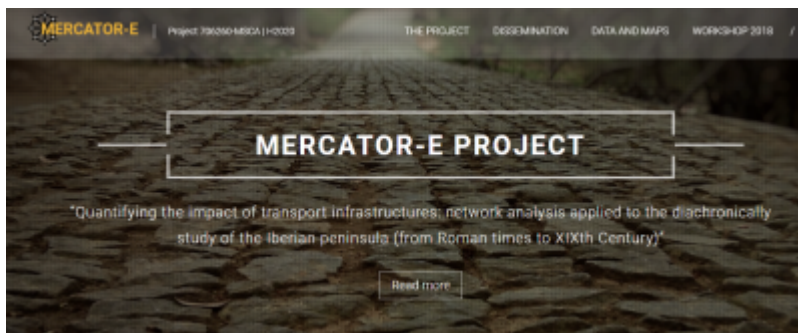


Networking

Viator-e has been conceived as a meeting point where all the researchers about Roman roads can get in contact and can share their methodologies and data.

PARTNER PROJECTS

- **MERCATOR-E.** European Commission Funding (Project 706260-MSCA | H2020).
“Quantifying the impact of transport infrastructures: network analysis applied to the diachronically study of the Iberian peninsula (from Roman times to XIXth Century)”



- **ITINER-E.** Pelagios Commons RDG (Univ. Exeter).
“A resource development project that will confront a unique challenge in the gazetteer eco-system: a gazetteer of historical roads to support the creation of linked open road datasets.”

I

Home | About Us | Projects | News | Contact Us | Search

A Gazetteer of Roads

Until now, the most common way of approaching the study of communication routes has been to focus on the places where the routes started, ended and passed through. This approach is crucial and partly inevitable, but time it will explore an alternative to this.

The novelty in this project is that each possible route between every pair of places is understood as a single element that is either historically documented or not, but that can be investigated as a whole. In other words, it is not the sets of places conceptualized as points that create a route, but the opposite: we conceptualize routes as entities connected through places. Each potential route between a pair of places can receive a unique URI to refer to it, if it is historically documented or merely mentioned. Doing so will enable for each route (supported by the linking of historical documentation, GIS vector-based descriptions of its physical path, photos and other research outputs, dating to chronologies, descriptions, multiplicity of options, etc.) also enables the visualization of different chronologies of places of the same route. It will be possible to observe how a locality has some links with other places at a certain moment and how subsequently those relationships change.

Each of the created elements (routes) will configure a [new online gazetteer](#) accessible as a linked with other sources of information and research. In this way, it will be possible from any existing node in a route to quickly visualize all the information of the set to which way or routes it belongs in a certain moment or in several moments; which cities or settlements are related to it; explore the role the place played in the global network, etc.