

Early Modern Istrian Inscriptions in the European Context

Pula, Croatia · 9–10 April 2027

We are pleased to announce the final conference of the research project *Early Modern Latin Lapidary Inscriptions in the Churches of Southern Istria: Documentation, Analysis, Contextualisation* (2023–2027), to be held in Pula, Croatia. We hereby invite scholars to submit proposals for papers.

Early modern Istria occupied a distinctive position at the crossroads of Mediterranean and Central European worlds. Divided between the Republic of Venice and the Habsburg domains, the peninsula generated a rich and varied corpus of inscriptions that reflects the complex interplay of political authority, confessional identity, humanist culture, and local tradition. The conference aims to place these inscriptions within the broadest possible comparative framework, bringing together epigraphists, art historians, philologists, and historians working across the wider European context.

Participants are encouraged to consult and draw on the [LAPIS database](#) of Istrian lapidary inscriptions — encompassing texts beyond Latin and the early modern period — as a resource for comparative analysis. However, presentations need not be geographically confined to Istria.

TOPICS OF INTEREST

The conference welcomes contributions addressing any aspect of early modern (AD 1400–1800) inscriptions in Europe, including but not limited to:

- Palaeography and scripts (letter forms, hands, workshops)
- Language and multilingualism (choice of language, code-switching, vernacular use)
- Linguistic and stylistic aspects (syntax, rhetorical strategies, formulaic language)
- Quotation and intertextuality (classical and biblical sources, cento technique)
- Material and technological properties (stone types, carving techniques, pigments)
- Sculptural and architectural context (frames, monuments, spatial setting)
- Functions and genres (funerary, commemorative, dedicatory, votive)
- Social circumstances (benefactors, entombed persons, commissioners)
- Institutional contexts (ecclesiastical, civic, military)
- Editorial methodology (transcription, critical apparatus, epigraphic standards)
- Digital approaches (databases, encoding, 3D documentation)

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Accommodation: The organiser is pleased to provide two-night stay for all accepted participants.

Venue: Archaeological Museum of Istria, Carrarina ulica 3, Pula, Croatia.

Travel bursaries: We will possibly be able to cover travel costs for a limited number of early career scholars (before or up to 5 years after obtaining PhD) and independent scholars. Please indicate this in the form.

Presentation format: The language of the conference is English. The duration of the talks is 20 minutes, followed by a 10-minute discussion. If requested, a presentation can be given online.

Publication: We will invite speakers to send full papers for publication in the peer-reviewed proceedings.

SUBMISSION

Proposals should include: (1) a title; (2) an abstract of no more than **200 words**; and (3) a brief biographical note of up to **100 words**. Please submit via the form below by **15 September 2026**. Notifications of acceptance will be sent out by **15 October 2026**.

Submission form can be found [here](#).

For enquiries, please contact **Šime Demo** at lapis2027@fhs.unizg.hr.

ORGANISER

University of Zagreb – Faculty for Croatian Studies

PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

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CONFERENCE WEBSITE

<https://lapis.fhs.unizg.hr/lapis2027>

The conference is organised as part of the project
*Early Modern Latin Lapidary Inscriptions in the Churches of Southern Istria:
Documentation, Analysis, Contextualisation (2023–2027)*
Faculty of Croatian Studies, University of Zagreb
Croatian Science Foundation, grant IP-2022-10-5068