



WORKSHOP

Landscapes of Power

The Colonial Legacies of the Corpus Agrimensorum Romanorum

Groningen, 12 June 2026

The Corpus Agrimensorum Romanorum is a selection of Roman texts on the topic of land surveying in colonial contexts. It contains specialist treatises, extracts from legal texts, and mathematical texts, varying chronologically from the late first century AD to the eighth century. Our goal is to explore the uses of these texts beyond technical uses and beyond Antiquity. We ask in what ways the corpus was mobilized, interpreted, and adapted to meet shifting legal, political, and administrative needs, throughout history.

To register, send an email to Dinah Wouters (dinah.wouters@rug.nl) and Anouk Vermeulen (a.e.vermeulen@vu.nl).

Sponsors: The Free University of Amsterdam, The Groningen Research Institute for the Study of Culture ICOG and the CRASIS Research institute (Groningen), and OIKOS, the National Research School in Classical Studies in the Netherlands.

PROGRAMME

09.15-09.30 Welcome

9.30-11.00 Panel 1: Real and imagined boundaries

Enrico Giorgi (Bologna) – “The agricultural landscape of the Roman era in the western central Adriatic area: between continuity and transformation”

Anouk Vermeulen (Amsterdam) – “Colonial Landscapes of Control: The Corpus Agrimensorum from Roman Expansion to Imperial Consolidation”

Serafina Cuomo (Cambridge) – “Weapons of the Weak: Contested land surveying in Ptolemaic and Roman Egypt”

11.20-12.20 Panel 2: Medieval Receptions in the Landscape

Graham Barrett (Durham) – “Recolonising the Colonised: the Corpus Agrimensorum Romanorum and the Early Medieval Iberian Landscape”

Uta Kleine (Hamburg) – “Colonial landscapes in a Post-Roman World: Rewriting and Reusing the Corpus Agrimensorum in Ostrogothic and Carolingian Times”

13.30-14.30 Panel 3: Medieval Teaching between ideal and practice

Richard Marshall (Newcastle) – “The Corpus agrimensorum Romanorum as scientific repository”

Frances Foster (Cambridge) – “Learning surveying: a practical education”

15.00-16.00 Panel 3: Early Modern Uses between Metropole and Colony

Mattia Petro Balbo (Turin) - “Physiocracy and land survey in the 18th century: a reevaluation of Roman taxation?”

Dinah Wouters (Groningen) – “A Seventeenth-century Edition of the Corpus Agrimensorum in the Context of Dutch Colonialism”

16.15-17.00 General discussion