Traveling is a human being’s distinctive trait: it is a primary and essential element for developing social relations, for learning, for discovering the outer and inner worlds.

Since before the Neolithic, the moving of skilled men was one of the reasons that allowed the spreading of techniques to forge tools. The Babylonian captivity shows how the Jewish people, after a coerced exodus, based their social cohesion on the creation of a shared traditional culture, entrusting it in the book of the Bible; Phoenicians’ commercial journeys brought about the export of their alphabet, giving birth to the Hellenic writing.

Travelers populate the ancient Greek world: the castaway Odysseus lands in unknown territories, without knowing whether he came among hostile or welcoming people; Herodotus discovers other populations and cultures, which could be both fascinating and barbaric at the same time. The Sophists, itinerant philosophers, and the colonies founders, for cultural reasons on the one hand, political and economic on the other, sail the same Mediterranean Sea, the basin around which Western culture flourishes. In fact, the exiled Aeneas, fleeing from the Trojan War, gives rise to Rome: its people, through the centuries, expanded their borders becoming one of the widest empires of the Ancient world. They also established a dense communication network to connect territories at the edge of the known world, and to facilitate the moving of men, goods, and, above all, ideas.

Then, the system of logistical and cultural infrastructures inherited from the Roman world provides the basis for the subsequent human paths: the long journeys taken by medieval pilgrims to find answers to their inner needs; the search for new markets to strengthen the economy, like Magellan, Diaz and Colombo’s voyages of discovery, which even marked a break between historical periods. During the eighteenth century, the journey increasingly took on the characteristic
of a predetermined itinerary, like the Grand Tour carried out by scholars and *giovin signori*. Diplomatic relations between different countries, especially in the early twentieth century, developed the globalisation, simplifying travel procedures, but also quickening the spreading of disease, generating epidemics and pandemics. Recently, technology has enabled sidereal explorations, taking humans to the moon and the discovery of new planets.

Hence, journeys: through time, space, and with established purposes or expected ones from the experience itself. The conference aims to reflect on this topic, not only from an interdisciplinary point of view, but also - and in particular - to understand the multiple trip profiles: a multi-voice survey to enhance the theoretical richness of this experience, which can weave together different argumentative scenarios. Therefore, we provide a functional division in two main areas, that places the title “Sistema binario” between tradition and innovation, from the rails on which literature travels to the codes of Digital humanities. We will accept focused contributions, but also proposals that link more points of reflection and that go beyond the division itself.

**Real dimension**

- *Journeys to real places*. Exploring faraway, unknown and different places and peoples, seeking the dynamics that trigger when meeting the Other and the Diverse; in particular, suggested topics are ethnography, anthropology, cultural anthropology, ethical, political, and social dimensions (between inclusion and exclusion of what is foreign and different). Reports of voyages, focusing on the authors’ point of view and on “instruments”: stars, compasses, maps, web sites, blogs, social networks: from the ancient travelers’ reportage to contemporary posts on social media;

- *Journeys to invisible places*. The meaning of what exists in its invisibility, deeply affecting reality (e.g.: boundaries, barriers, limits, dividing ideologies and ideas). “Building” of ideal cities, i.e. exemplary, becoming regulating models, both negatively and positively, between utopia and dystopia;

- *Journeys through the reasons why*. Forced voyage: exodus, exile, emigration, immigration. From working issues to the social, political, economic, humanitarian, and climatic ones. The impact of new media on communicating the coerced voyage experiences. Education voyage: from the trip to Athens to the Grand Tour. Exploring unknown places to improve one’s formation and making it excellent. Reports, memories, drawings, and feelings perceived from ‘the sublime’ of an unknown (yet personal) landscape.
**Virtual dimension**

- *Journeys to virtual places.* The potentiality of new technologies, able to offer online paths and explorations, despite the “voyagers”’ stillness: from the tours of museums and archaeological sites to the voyages into digital archives, i.e. virtual places where to find precious information for research;
- *Journeys between past and future.* Virtual explorations of monuments, cities, buildings, and habits of near and far civilizations and ages; reconstruction and projections, virtual tours, augmented reality, and immersive experiences. The trip to the future: cities of the future, smart cities, coexistence with non-human beings, impact of techno-sciences on relations among people, ethical and political implications. Role of Digital Humanities in realising innovations and in foreseeing future scenarios in different areas of knowledge;
- *Journeys into the text.* The usefulness of sources, preparatory materials, notes, and notebooks for the reconstruction of a literary work and the dynamic leading from the idea to its realization. The use of new markup technologies to digitally enhance a work in its textual, para-textual, epi-textual, and philological aspects.

**Submission instructions**

The International Conference “Sistema Binario” will take place online in March 2021 and it is open to Ph.D. students and Ph.D.s by no more than three years. The researchers who would like to present a proposal, can fill the form available at the following link <https://tinyurl.com/sistemabinariounimc>. The deadline for the submission is February 10th, 2021. The acceptance of the proposals will be notified via e-mail within March 3rd, 2021, with further details about the event.

In the form, candidates should include:

- abstract;
- short biography (max. 1000 types);
- current role;
- e-mail and telephone number;
- scientific-disciplinary sector of the proposal;
- keywords (max. 5);
- short summary of the proposal (max. 2000 types);
- references (max. 5 studies).
We will take into consideration proposals in Italian, English, and French. Candidates should prepare a 20 minutes presentation. Attendance is free of charge.

For any further information, please contact sistemabinariounime@gmail.com.

**Scientific board**

Prof. Arianna Fermani

Prof. Roberto Lambertini

Prof. Laura Melosi

Prof. Patrizia Oppici

Prof. Stefano Pigliapoco

**Organising committee**

Gioele Marozzi

Federica Marti

Federica Piangerelli