

GIUSEPPE GARBATI – Candidate Statement – Central-Eastern Mediterranean Area

1. *Professional position*: I am a Senior Researcher at the Italian National Research Council (CNR ISPC, Institute of Heritage Science). Since June 2026, I have held the Italian National Scientific Qualification as Full Professor in Ancient Near Eastern, Middle Eastern and African Cultures. I belong to a long-standing CNR tradition of research on the Phoenician culture, rooted in the pioneering work of Sabatino Moscati and subsequently developed by generations of scholars. My research lies at the intersection of archaeology, history of religions and cultural anthropology, focusing primarily on: Phoenician settlements in the West, their configuration, material culture and relations with the “motherland”; Phoenician and Punic religion, with particular attention to deities, ritual practices and votive materials; processes of identity construction, together with methodological reflection on the debated concept of identity itself. These research interests have resulted in numerous scientific articles and, in particular, two monographs: *Religione votiva. Per un'interpretazione storico-religiosa delle terrecotte votive nella Sardegna punica e tardo-punica* (2008) and *Al di là. Gli uomini, gli dèi, la morte in contesto fenicio* (2022). Since 2012, I have been actively involved in the editorial team of the *Rivista di Studi Fenici*, founded in 1973, and I currently co-direct, with Tatiana Pedrazzi, the CNR series *TCM – Transformations and Crises in the Mediterranean*. As part of my research activities at the CNR, I coordinate the projects *MAGO – Making Gods. The Role of Ritual Practice in the Construction of Divinities* and the International Joint Lab IPlaCo – *Phoenicians in Ibiza: The Illa Plana Context*, in collaboration with the Museo Arqueológico de Ibiza y Formentera and the University of Valencia. Furthermore, I actively participate in the archaeological mission at Pani Loriga (Sardinia), directed by Massimo Botto (CNR ISPC), where I am responsible for the excavation of Area C, together with Marco Arizza (ISPC) and Tatiana Pedrazzi (CNR ISPC; see https://bollettinodiarcheologiaonline.beniculturali.it/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/2021_2_ARIZZA_et_al.pdf).

Webpages:

- https://www.ispc.cnr.it/it_it/team/garbati-giuseppe/
- https://www.ispc.cnr.it/it_it/2021/01/26/phoenician-and-punic-research-group/
- https://www.ispc.cnr.it/it_it/eventienews/mago-making-gods-ciclo-di-seminari-su-rituali-e-denominazioni-nei-politeismi-antichi/
- <https://www.cnr.it/it/tcm>
- <https://cnr-it.academia.edu/GiuseppeGarbati>

2. *Geographical Area*: I wish to stand for the Central-Eastern Mediterranean area. This choice reflects the geographical breadth of my research, which, although firmly rooted in the study of Phoenician and Punic communities in the western Mediterranean, has consistently addressed their connections with the central-eastern regions and the resulting processes of cultural formation. My work on Carthage and its relations with Tyre, my long-term archaeological and historical research in Sardinia, and my studies of Phoenician communities and religious traditions across the Mediterranean, from east to west, have allowed me to develop a perspective connecting the different shores of the Mediterranean and the Atlantic.

3. *Motivations and aims*: My candidacy is motivated by the conviction that the study of ancient Mediterranean societies particularly benefits from approaches that cross geographical, cultural and disciplinary boundaries. I would therefore bring to the Committee an interdisciplinary perspective grounded in archaeology, history of religions and anthropology, together with extensive experience in international research cooperation, project coordination, editorial activities, peer review and scientific networking. If elected, I would seek to strengthen dialogue among scholars, encourage comparative approaches and promote initiatives fostering collaboration and association. My aim would be to contribute to a genuinely interconnected understanding of the Mediterranean as a space of mobility, connectivity and cultural dynamism.