First Elected International Committee of Phoenician and Punic Studies

Candidate: Carolina López-Ruiz, University of Chicago clopezru@uchicago.edu

Professional position

My position is Professor of Ancient Mediterranean Religions and Mythologies in the Divinity School (see profile here), the Department of Classics (profile here), and the Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures at the University of Chicago. See Curriculum Vitae. Since 2022, I have co-directed excavations the University of Chicago at the Phoenician site of Cerro del Villar (Málaga) under the international project headed by José Suárez Padilla of the University of Málaga.

Geographical area

I would like to represent the **"Multiregional or non-geographically defined research."** This choice corresponds best with the broad span of my research, as well as the different disciplines that I engage with, from literature and mythology to historical-archaeological or cultural-historical studies.

For instance, in my first book ***When the Gods Were Born: Greek Cosmogonies and the Near East*** (Harvard University Press, 2010), and several other works, I feature Northwest Semitic sources and their intersections with Greek creation stories, and more broadly propose the Phoenicians as a main vector of transmission of Near Eastern (West Asian) traditions.

In turn, I have published articles and books that consolidate and advance Phoenician-Punic studies writ large. While some works focus on Iberia, others span the entire Mediterranean and integrate different areas of culture: I want to highlight ***Colonial Encounters in Ancient Iberia: Phoenician, Greek, and Indigenous Relations*** (The University of Chicago Press, 2009, with Michael Dietler); ***Tartessos and the Phoenicians in Iberia*** (Oxford University Press, 2016, with Sebastián Celestino); the ***Oxford Handbook of the Phoenician and Punic Mediterranean*** (2019, with Brian Doak), and the monograph ***Phoenicians and the Making of the Mediterranean*** (Harvard University Press, 2021). This monograph pushes back against the Hellenocentric framework of much ancient scholarship and places the Phoenicians' cultural agency front and center in the transformations that took place across Iron Age cultures, from Iberia to Cyprus and the Levant.

Motivations and aims of candidacy

Much of my work has been devoted to promoting Phoenician studies in the English-speaking world, building bridges between European and North American audiences, readerships, and institutions. By promoting Phoenician studies in and outside the heritage countries where Phoenician-Punic culture thrived, we also strengthen popular and institutional support for our field. I believe the evolving international committee and conference are a great medium to accomplish this. It is important to continue fostering collaboration among scholars from different regions as well as among those working in the same or adjacent areas or on similar questions but from different perspectives and

disciplines, be it archaeologists, historians, art-historians, religious and literary scholars, or others. If elected, I would be an experienced interlocutor for those pursuing these overarching goals.