FROM INVISIBLE TO VISIBLE:
NEW DATA AND METHODS FOR THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF INFANT AND CHILD BURIALS IN PRE-ROMAN ITALY

an international conference to be held at Trinity College Dublin on 25 April 2017

The Department of Classics, School of Histories and Humanities, at Trinity College Dublin is pleased to announce the international conference ‘From invisible to visible: new data and methods for the archaeology of infant and child burials in pre-Roman Italy’ to be held at Trinity College Dublin on 25 April 2017, with the support of the Trinity Long Room Hub, of the Italian Institute of Culture in Dublin and in collaboration with the Centre for Gender and Women's Studies. This conference is part of the research project “Childhood and the Deathly Hallows: Investigating Infant and Child Burials in Pre-Roman Italy (c. 1000-500BC)”, funded by the Irish Research Council and carried out by Dr. Jacopo Tabolli and Prof. Hazel Dodge.

This research project is designed as an interdisciplinary study, whose aim is the first comprehensive investigation of infant and child burials in the Italian peninsula and the islands from the Early Iron Age through the Archaic Period (c. 1000–500 BC). The archaeological record of infant (up to 2 years) and child (c. 2–11/12 years) burials remains elusive. In recent years the topic of infant and child burials in antiquity, and especially in the 2nd and 1st millennia BC, has been increasingly addressed in international conferences, monographs, collected volumes and journals, yet only very rarely is the complex and rich picture from pre-Roman Italy included in the analysis. Conversely, particularly in the last two decades, field archaeology in Italy has brought to light an impressive quantity of new data related to infant and child burials. This project aims to disseminate these new and important data while developing a robust methodology for the study of infant and child burials. In addition, it seeks to situate infant and child burials within the world of the adults, while at the same time grounding them within the special sphere of childhood.

On the basis that an infant and child tomb is itself an archaeological entity, whose analysis cuts across disciplines - mainly archaeology, bio-archaeology and anthropology, but also philology, ancient literature, gender studies, pedagogy, medical humanities and digital humanities - and in order to promote an interdisciplinary approach, the conference at Trinity College Dublin aims to involve scholars from international institutions, experienced in interdisciplinary methods, in order to create a network specifically focused on the analysis of childhood in ancient societies. The role of this network is to function as an interdisciplinary incubator, offering a platform for dialogue between disciplines centred on infant and child burials.

We invite all scholars working on the archaeology of Italy from the Early Iron Age through the Archaic Period (c. 1000–500 BC) to submit the results of their recent research on the topic of infant and child burials. In particular, we welcome inter-disciplinary papers dealing with:

1. New data. We encourage the presentation of the results from current field projects or from the restudy of unpublished material from past excavations.

2 New methodological approaches. We particularly welcome papers with a truly interdisciplinary approach for the study of infant and child burials, also in the general context of European scholarship.
We envision that this platform can be a model for other archaeological studies in the future as well as a model for developing a new methodological approach to the excavation of infant and child tombs, following best practices in archaeology.

Participation to the conference

In order to participate to the conference please send a provisional title/topic for your paper and a short abstract (maximum 300 words) by 15 December 2016 at tabollij@tcd.ie. Papers will be in English, 15 minutes in length.

With the purpose of establishing a real interdisciplinary network and to promote the discussion of the different topics, the number of papers will be limited. The programme with the accepted papers will be published in January 2017.

Unfortunately, at the moment, we can cover only partial travel expenses or accommodation.

Publication plan

The prestigious series of *Studies in Mediterranean Archaeology* (SIMA) has already agreed to publish the proceedings of the conference. Papers will be written in English (ensuring that each paper is read and corrected by a native speaker before submission). Papers must not exceed 10,000 words (including bibliographical references, tables and captions), 8 illustrations and will be accompanied by an abstract of about 200 words. All papers will be peer reviewed. Details for the publication of the conference will follow in due course.

All papers and illustrations will be submitted no later than 25 October 2017.

For further information please email Jacopo Tabolli (tabollij@tcd.ie) or Hazel Dodge (hdodge@tcd.ie).