

PRIN 2015 - "PROTEUS. An interpretative database of the Greek and Roman mythical lore" -
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"PROTEUS. An interpretative database of the Greek and Roman mythical lore" is designed as a systematic online digital interpretative book of Greek and Roman mythical tales. PROTEUS takes its start from the project "Mythical lore. An anthropology of ancient myth", funded by the MIUR (PRIN 2010/11).

This project is methodologically rooted in the belief that myth is capable of conveying models of thinking and patterns of behaviour particularly important for the cultures that devised, elaborated and transformed it over time. The myths will be arranged into four thematic categories:

1. The individual
2. The community
3. The world
4. The gods

These categories will be composed of subcategories (all of them subdivided into the twin sections Greece / Rome): the first category will include the subcategories Birth, Life, Death, Name, Gender, Emotions, Character, Health and Illness; the second category will include the subcategories Kinship, Family, Towns and states, Political institutions and laws, Economy, War, Communication; the third category will include the subcategories Animals, Plants, Minerals, Space and Time; the fourth category will include the subcategories Theogony; Worship; Festivals; Divination; Sacrifice; Prayer; Magic; Purification; Oath; Dream; Underworld.

The expected results of PROTEUS encompass:

1. the diffusion of classical culture at every level, thanks to the creation of an open-access resource which will result in a user-friendly, free, innovatively organized, scientifically state-of-the-art, interactive and thought-stimulating online database of Greek and Roman mythical tales;
2. the promotion of the use of digital tools in a field of study where the role of online resources is still underestimated;
3. the consolidation of a network of scholars whose long lasting cooperation has given so far significant outcomes;
4. the possibility to fund the research activities of JRFs and Post-docs who already have developed an expertise, and revealed excellence, in the study of the ancient myths.

The Units will work under the leadership of M. Bettini, whose scientific production has long centred on the significance of myth for the comprehension of the ancient cultures and societies.

The Units of Palermo (led by Giusto Picone) and Torino (led by Giulio Guidorizzi) will deal with the second category (The community).