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I am a Marie Curie Research Fellow in 'Latin Literature and Roman History' – both at the University of Cyprus (Primary affiliation) and at the University of Glasgow (Secondment affiliation) – within the framework of the «Onisilos» project which has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Grant Agreement No. 101034403. I am, actually, the Principal Investigator of the following project: «Literary Reflections on Geography, Politics, and Propaganda in Neronian and Flavian Poetry». My supervisors at the University of Cyprus are, respectively, Professor Spyridon Tzounakas (Primary supervisor) and Professor Theodoros Mavrogiannis (Co-supervisor); my supervisor at the University of Glasgow is Professor Costas Panayotakis (Secondment supervisor).

I am Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and "Doctor Europaeus" in Classics – «con Lode e dignità di stampa», that is, 'cum Laude' (top grade) and with the thesis adjudicated, unanimously, by the members of the examination committee 'worthy of publication' (Primary supervisor: Prof. Therese Fuhrer; Co-supervisor: Prof. Salvatore Monda). I studied at the University of Macerata in co-tutelle with the Ludwig Maximilian University (LMU) of Munich, where I was also a member of the PhD Program in 'Classical and Ancient Studies' coordinated by the «Münchner Zentrum für Antike Welten» (MZAW). I also studied at the University of Catania, Cologne, Vienna, Zurich (UZH), and St Andrews. Before my arrival in Cyprus, I was previously – for almost two years – Postdoctoral Researcher in 'Latin Language and Literature' at the University of Liège, where I have been involved, under the supervision of Professor Dominique Longrée, in a stimulating research project focussed on the afterlife of the Augustan poet Ovid in Late Antiquity.

The aim of my Marie Curie Onisilos research project is, instead, to change the scholarly understanding of how literature, society, political propaganda, and historical developments in the geography and landscape of the Roman Empire interacted with each other in the second half of the first century AD. This was a period of great military turmoil and political instability but also of rich literary, cultural, and artistic production. The Flavian dynasty seemed to restore political self-confidence, but also further accentuated the autocratic character of the Empire, promoting the figure of a sovereign who placed the army as the primary source of his power, and who was at the apex of a centralised military and political administration. The corpus to be examined comprises seminal works from the Imperial Latin poetry of the Neronian and Flavian periods which pose crucial questions about the Romans' relationship with their past, their physical environment, their neighbouring nations, and their identity as a nation: Lucan's sombre epic «Bellum ciuile» (or «Pharsalia»), the whole of the literary production (epic and encomiastic poetry) of Statius («Silvae», «Achilleis» and «Thebais»), and the epigrammatic corpus of Martial. I have chosen these works because they enable us to gain insight into how the (fictional and real) natural world which was represented in these texts was viewed by the poets and their readers in geographical, political, military, intertextual, and literary terms so as to express contemporary tensions and anxieties about the self and/in the Empire.

My objectives include precisely to offer a systematic view of the case studies in which in the above-mentioned works this interdependence between the description of landscapes and their historical-political connotation entails almost in parallel. Indeed, the further purpose is to realize not only the intrinsic functionality and the intellectual substance of the works examined, but also the topicality of the historical and social setting of the same works with respect to issues that have become the subject of constant debate in the contemporary world.