Epigraphic documents related to the religious sphere offer an essential starting point to investigate cult sites and understand the ritual practices of the ancient world. In fact, inscriptions may provide a privileged viewpoint to explore religious experiences through time and space, especially when combined with a range of other primary sources (literary, archaeological, topographical, numismatic, etc.) and when examined through different areas of expertise (historical, religious, anthropological, sociological, and linguistic).

The International Conference «Writing and Religious Traditions in the Ancient Western Mediterranean», which will take place at the Ca’ Foscari University of Venice from 23 to 25 November 2023, will feature up to 8 thematic posters. The posters will be on display for the entirety of 24 November 2023 and will be presented by the authors during a specific session (an online connection will be available for those who will not be in Venice).

Posters should be directed towards specific and innovative aspects of individual or collaborative research on religious sites and/or practices involving epigraphic sources from the regions of the Western Mediterranean and deriving from Roman and/or pre-Roman contexts.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to, the following:

- inscribed objects in sanctuaries: ‘religious’ and ‘lay’ functions (e.g., different teaching practices related to writing);
- the relationship between iconography and epigraphy in sanctuaries;
- upkeep of places of worship;
- ritual practices (prayers, sacrifices, votive offerings…);
- the role of metal, coins and economics in sanctuaries;
- individual and collective cults;
- processes of religious integration.
Submission and selection processes
Proposals for posters should be submitted with an abstract of 250 words (excluding bibliography) in Italian or in English. Each proposal must contain the name of the author(s), their affiliation(s) and email address(es). Proposals should be sent by email to the secretary of the Conference (sabrina.pesce@unive.it) by 31 August 2023.
Results of selection process will be communicated to all applicants by 15 September 2023. Guidelines for the design of posters will be sent at the same time. Posters will be printed at the expenses of the Conference organizers.

Publication
Posters presented at the Conference may be further developed into an article and subjected to double-blind peer review for potential publication in an edited volume related to the scientific topics of the Conference.

Information
For any further information, please contact the main conference organizer Prof. Lorenzo Calvelli (lorenzoc@unive.it).

Patronages
The Conference will take place under the patronages of AIEGL - Association Internationale d'Épigraphie Grecque et Latine and Terra Italia ONLUS - Associazione per lo sviluppo e la diffusione degli studi sull'Italia romana.