

JÁNOS NAGYILLÉS

## **Sapiens ubique civis – Preface**

Our volume publishes nine of the presentations given at the *Sapiens Ubique Civis VII* conference – an event that took place in 2019 and was the seventh in a series of conferences organised for doctoral and post-doctoral students by the Department for Classical and Neo-Latin Studies of the University of Szeged. As the spectrum of the current selection will also reveal, it is traditional for the academic forum of this conference not to be organised around a certain topic but, rather, to provide visibility to the studies conducted by the doctoral students. This way we can assure that all participants present the materials that they have been the most invested in.

At the conference, presentations are followed by lively and productive discussions that often enrich the perspectives offered by the presenter. During the three-day event presentations were given by a total of 47 young researchers coming from 9 countries and various doctoral programmes. This great number of almost half a hundred participants shows that there is still interest in the academic research of classical studies, of ancient languages and especially of Latin and its use as a mediator language; and that the next generation of scholars is currently in the making at various doctoral programmes.

There is good reason to feel optimistic: researches in antiquity are persisting despite the decline of humanities classes. This can also be attributed to the fact that, next to presentations about ancient culture, the conference also featured talks about late antiquity, the medieval period, and early modern history, what is more, the influence of classical texts lent itself to analysis up until contemporary history. The organisers of the conference would like to express their gratitude to the Faculty of

Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Szeged for sponsoring the academic event and to the Eötvös József Collegium of ELTE and its director, László Horváth, for publishing this volume as part of the institute's acclaimed scientific series.

Our intention is to find new channels to organise and implement the conference regardless of the pandemic, and in 2021 to resume the tradition that has been temporarily discontinued due to uncertainties surrounding the global health situation.

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