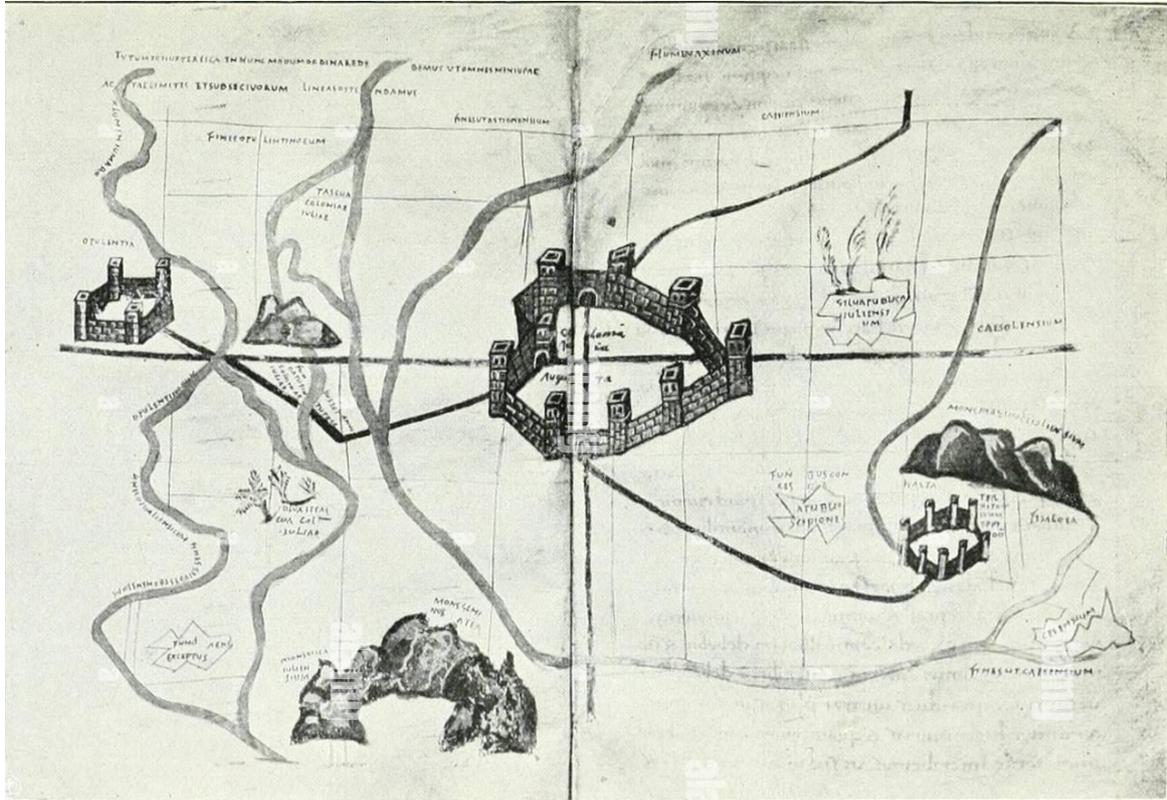


Call for Papers: WORKSHOP

Landscapes of Power

The Colonial Legacies of the *Corpus Agrimensorum Romanorum*



The *Corpus Agrimensorum Romanorum* is a selection of Roman texts on the topic of land surveying in colonial contexts. It contains specialist treatises, extracts from legal texts, and mathematical texts, varying chronologically from the late first century AD to the eighth century. Despite it being a well-known collection of texts, as one of very few Latin corpora which seems to have circulated without interruption, it has thus far been studied mainly **from a technical perspective and in its ancient context**. Our goal is to explore the uses of these texts beyond technical uses and beyond Antiquity.

- (1) First, we want to show that the original texts were already far more than just repositories of technical knowledge. They also offer an **ideology of land ownership and management** centered on the division and distribution of lands that had been taken from previous owners. They are concerned with re-establishing legal and social order after periods of upheaval. We ask in what ways the corpus was mobilized, interpreted, and adapted to meet shifting legal, political, and administrative needs?
- (2) Second, we want to demonstrate that these legal, administrative and political uses were **not restricted to the periods in which the corpus originated**, but that later generations used the corpus in similar ways, in contexts such as early medieval Italy, Reconquista Spain, and the seventeenth-century colonial enterprises of the Dutch Republic. Again, we ask how these contents were used to construct authority, enforce property regimes, or mediate territorial claims across centuries and cultural contexts?

This workshop builds on the foundations laid by an earlier conference panel. We now invite scholars to explore these questions with us through case studies, methodological reflections, or broader theoretical approaches, ultimately working towards a book proposal for an edited volume. We are particularly interested in contributions that trace the practical, institutional, or ideological uses of the *Corpus Agrimensorum* and its traditions, whether in manuscript transmission, legal application, educational settings, or colonial contexts. By bringing together scholars working across disciplines and periods, the workshop aims to develop a more dynamic and historically grounded framework for understanding how the texts of the *Corpus* functioned as active instruments of governance, negotiation, and knowledge-making.

This workshop is part of the project *Settler Colonial Paradigms: Classical Reception – Territoriality – Legality – Indigeneity*, a collaboration between the Department of Ancient History at the University of Groningen and the Royal Netherlands Institute in Rome.

The workshop will take place in **Groningen, and is scheduled for 5 June 2026**. We will apply for funding and hope to cover the costs of your stay for two nights. However, we cannot yet confirm that we will be able to reimburse transport as well.

If you are interested in joining us, **please send a title and abstract** of max. 250 words explaining what you would like to address in your talk, plus a short biographical note, to Dinah Wouters (dinah.wouters@rug.nl) and Anouk Vermeulen (a.e.vermeulen@vu.nl), by 15 January 2026.

The organisers

Anouk Vermeulen is Junior Lecturer in Roman Archaeology at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. She has worked and published on various aspects of Roman land division, including the *Corpus Agrimensorum Romanorum*, ever since her doctorate at the University of St Andrews (UK, 2016). Her current project focuses on the role land division played in imperial restorations of power and order after major internal crises under the Roman emperors. She uses interdisciplinary approaches to facilitate broader perspectives, including not only top-down but also bottom-up conceptualisations.

Dinah Wouters is an assistant professor in religious studies at Utrecht University, and also a postdoctoral researcher in the project *Settler Colonial Paradigms*. She is working on an edition and translation of an extensive commentary on the *Corpus Agrimensorum* by a seventeenth-century Dutch scholar. Her hypothesis is that this commentary was part of an effort to recruit the *Corpus* for practical purposes in Dutch colonialism.

