



Università
Ca'Foscari
Venezia

PROJECT ACRONYM AND TITLE: PURA - PURism in Antiquity: Theories of Language in Greek Atticist Lexica and their Legacy

FUNDING PROGRAMME: H2020 Excellent Science

CALL: ERC-2019-Consolidator Grant

SCIENTIFIC FIELDS: Cultures and Cultural Production

HOST DEPARTMENT: DSU – Department of Humanities

SCIENTIFIC RESPONSIBLE: Olga TRIBULATO

FINANCIAL DATA:

Project total costs	Overall funding assigned to UNIVE
€ 1.303.437, 00	€ 1.303.437, 00

ABSTRACT:

Linguistic purism, the attempt to protect language against the 'threat' of multilingualism, change and outside contact, finds an antecedent in Greek Antiquity that remains mostly unknown outside Classics and has never been studied in a multidisciplinary perspective. PURA aims to overturn this state of affairs by producing the first global study of Greek purism, the texts which upheld it, and their legacy in later ages. The focus of this analysis are Atticist lexica: collections of features to be cultivated or avoided in correct Greek. These texts were compiled by scholars who lived in the multilingual Roman Empire and wished to counter the natural evolution of Greek by freezing it at an ideal stage of purity, identified with the extinct dialect of 5th-century Athens. PURA is characterized by a multidisciplinary methodology combining Classics, linguistics, textual philology, codicology and historical lexicography with an innovative digital tool which will tackle both the immaterial heritage of Atticist theories and their material history as books. Its objectives are: 1) to provide a global mapping of the purist theories expressed in the lexica and make them both accessible outside the traditional format of critical editions and approachable for non-experts in the form of a unique web-based searchable corpus; 2) to endow the corpus with an in-depth linguistic analysis that extends from Ancient to Modern Greek; 3) to bring textual transmission and book circulation into the picture by charting all the manuscripts and first printed editions of the lexica; 4) to produce the definitive study of Atticism and its legacy from a modern linguistic and philological perspective. PURA will go beyond the traditional standards of Classical studies by creating an unprecedented digital tool for the investigation of Ancient Greek lexicography and a model of textual, linguistic and philological analysis that can be extended to the study of purism in other languages and cultures.

Planned Start date	Planned End date
1 st January 2021	31 st December 2025

PARTNERSHIP:

1. UNIVERSITA'CA' FOSCARI VENEZIA	Italy	Beneficiary
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