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University of Florence

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Bonn, 03.05.2021

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to confirm the following activities I have done for the University of Florence for the period of 17/03/2021 - 30/04/2021, while I have been a Visiting Professor (working remotely during the pandemic from Bonn).

The primary focus of my activities has been the online course "Resettlement and Reuse in the Medieval Mediterranean". This was a series of ten (10), two-hour seminars offered as part of the MA courses associated with Storia e Archeologia degli insediamenti medievali/History and Archaeology of Medieval Settlement (L-ANT/08). It was offered in English. The topics of the seminars included the following:

- Settlement abandonment (process and typology of abandonment)
- Site reoccupation (patterns of and triggers for reoccupation, case studies, and regional comparisons)
- Reuse and reoccupation (the difference among reuse, repurposing, and recycling; decoding middens and the materiality of refuse disposal)
- Ruins and rubble (cultural attitudes towards ruins), and return migration (a sociology approach to the making of „homeland“)

The Florence-based students were joined by their counterparts at the University of Bonn (as visitors), which was a special opportunity for the Shobak and Hisban teams to do participate a seminar together. We averaged 17 or so attendees each session.

My second focus during this period was the MA thesis of Giacomo Ponticelli, for whom I acted a second supervisor. We had regular meetings during these weeks, and participated in his thesis defense on 30 April. I am now working with Mr. Ponticelli on preparing a doctoral project proposal to matriculate into our program in Islamic Archaeology in Bonn in the fall.

In the coming weeks, with Prof. Michele Nucciotti, I will be administering the exams for the MA students in my seminar. I have provided materials for the students to aid

in preparation. Part of their grades have already been calculated, on the basis of presentations they have already given.

It has been a real pleasure to work with the University of Florence students and staff in this manner.

With best wishes,



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visto e approvato: Prof. Michele Nucciotti

