

# THE LANGUAGE OF MAGIC

## Call for papers

Pescara: 22th-24th May 2019

The Department of *Lingue, Letterature e Culture moderne*, University of Chieti-Pescara (Italy) is proud to host the 12th international interdisciplinary conference organized by the ISFNR committee on **CHARMS, CHARMERS AND CHARMING**.

The conference aims at a cross—disciplinary approach to the study of charms from antiquity to the present day. We therefore welcome proposals from different disciplines, including: literature, folklore, anthropology, linguistics, philology, history, religious studies, history of medicine, etc.

The focus of the conference is on **language**, we would appreciate papers in the following topics:

- Charms as texts: meaning, analysis, editions, methods, translations;
- Multilingual charms: the interplay in the same texts or manuscripts between Latin (or other high languages, such as Greek, Hebrew, Arabic, etc.) and vernacular languages;
- How to do magic with words: the narrating power of the *historiola*, performative language, charm instructions, the power of the spoken word, speech acts;
- Oral and written transmission of charms: textual tradition in a written environment, writing surfaces, the power of the written word, orality, memory, variation;
- Charms as verbal remedies: interaction with medical and religious texts;
- The rhetoric of charms: argumentational techniques, belief narratives;
- What the charms do not say: taboo words, gibberish language, censorship;
- The alphabets of magic from the antiquity to present age.

Language of the conference: English

Papers should be 20 minutes long with a 10 minute period for questions.

Abstracts due: **1st December 2018**.

Send proposals, including a title, an abstract of 200-300 words, and brief biodata to Eleonora Cianci: [e.cianci@unich.it](mailto:e.cianci@unich.it)

No registration fee will be required for the conference. A tour on 25th May will be chargeable.