



A dinner in the heart of Rome: Rione Monti

The workshop dinner of tonight will take place in one of the most characteristic areas of Rome: Rione Monti. The name, (literally *mountains*) comes from the fact that the Esquiline, the Viminal and parts of the Quirinal and the Caelian Hills belonged to this district. Today Esquilino, Castro Pretorio and Celio do not belong to it anymore, but it has kept its name.

In ancient times, the district was densely populated because of the *Forum Romanum* and the so called *Suburra* (meaning 'suburbs' in Latin): this was the place where poor people lived, full of disreputable locals and brothels. In the Middle Ages the inhabitants of Monti developed a strong identity: their Roman dialect was different from that spoken in the other districts and their main enemies were the people from Trastevere. These two districts are still the most attractive for their night life and for having an impression of the old Rome.



A thematic journey into Rome: Ancient Appia and Catacombs



The (Ancient) Appia was one of the earliest and strategically most important Roman roads of the ancient republic. It connected Rome to Brindisi, in southeast Italy, the main harbour for Greece and the Orient. The road is named after Appius Claudius Caecus, the Roman censor who began and completed the first section as a military road to the south, in 312 BC. Indeed, the success of Roman

army depended on the use of bases, needed both for retreat and for housing many soldiers, waiting for battle. However, the bases had to be connected by good roads for easy access and supply from Rome. The road started from the city centre, passed through the Alban Hills, arrived on the coast, passed near Naples, in Beneventum, and finally reached Brindisi. It was around 700 km long and it is still used in our ages. Many parts of the original road have been preserved and some are also used by cars. Today, the Via Appia contains the longest stretch of straight road in Europe (62 km).

The road witnessed several historical events, from the crucifixion of Spartacus and his army to the battle of Anzio during WWII. The road has always been a trendy area, both for ancient and for modern Romans. For ancient, it was a way to show the richness of a family to people entering into Rome, through amazing Villas (a very beautiful one still survives: *Villa dei Quintili*, near to the city centre) and Tombs (the most famous one is *Cecilia Metella's*). The road is famous also for the important Catacombs located along its path (*San Sebastiano*, *Santa Domitilla*, *San Callisto*, ...). These were places for Christian burials and began in the II century AD, possibly to help persecuted Christians to bury their dead secretly. The soft volcanic tuff rock under Rome is highly suitable for tunnelling; thus, many catacombs have kilometres of tunnels. They are extremely important for the history of early Christian art, as they contain the great majority of examples from before 400 AD, both in fresco and in sculpture.

You can have a tour of this area by taking the *Archeobus*, a hop on/off bus leaving from Termini (Viale Einaudi).



Today's program:

Timetable:

- 9⁰⁰-11⁰⁰: workshops + tutorial 1
- 11⁰⁰-11³⁰: coffee break
- 11³⁰-12³⁰: workshops + tutorial 2
- 12³⁰-14⁰⁰: lunch
- 14⁰⁰-15³⁰: workshops + tutorial 2
- 15³⁰-16⁰⁰: coffee break
- 16⁰⁰-18⁰⁰: workshops + tutorial 3

Scientific Events:

- ACCAT*: room B2
- BX*: room F
- DICE*: room D
- HAS*: room G
- HotSpot*: room E
- MBT*: room B1
- MEALS*: room A2
- PINCETTE meeting*: reading room
- SR*: room C
- Tutorials*: room A1
 - 1. Kuster: E-voting
 - 2. Franzle: Cyber-Physical Syst.
 - 3. Mitchell: E-education

Social event:

- Workshop dinner

Weather forecast:

	9-13	13-17	17-22
Sun			
Mon			
Tue			



An interview with ETAPS Chair



This year the chair of ETAPS steering committee, Vladimiro Sassone, will finish its second 3-years appointment. We want to take the opportunity of discussing with him some hot issues of ETAPS and, more generally, of scientific research.

Vladimiro, you have lead ETAPS for 6 long years, in which ETAPS has grown a lot,

and you're now about to leave your role. You've given really a lot to ETAPS, but what has ETAPS given to you?

I suppose I have learnt to understand and appreciate the differences of approach between cognate research communities. It all makes perfect sense when you look at it closely. The need for more pages by ESOP, the diversification of submissions and the attention to tools by TACAS, the issues of size by CC and POST, the adoption of rebuttals by FOSSACS, the rejection of rebuttals by FASE, the preference for large PCs and dislike of external referees of some, the dislike of large PCs and preference for external referees of others. This makes for a large and delicate ship to steer: 6 conferences, 20+ workshops, 40+ SC members, hundreds of PC members, ... Itchy issues and conflicts of interest are always possible, but I don't remember real falling outs: by and large, we function as one. Some organisations manage to split even when they essentially think alike, we are united by a higher common cause despite our differences. I have been pushing in the past years for the establishment of steering groups for all the member conferences, to help the ETAPS steering committee never to overlook the needs of any of our components.

Which were the most delicate issues you had to face during these 6 years?

From the logistic point of view, Cyprus 2010 was really a tough edition to manage! The conference opened at the tragic news of the Robin Milner's passing, and closed with two keynote speakers having to cancel at the last minute, which triggered frenzy emergency activities. Robin meant so much to so many of us, that the conference mood was doomed. I remember Kohei Honda's distraught elegy at our banquet, and can't help reflecting on the fact that this week we celebrate Kohei.

Yet, from a higher viewpoint, managing the transition from ETAPS "the conference" to ETAPS "the association" is challenging. It is a necessary step that we still have to complete. A conference cares just about selecting the best, and it can be brutal in its selection. But an association must care about its community, plan the future, support the new generations, must inspire and lead, must foster and promote excellence rather than simply pick it. And to foster the community requires understanding, a distinct amount of foresight, some luck, and a lot of passion and care. I believe ETAPS feels a duty of care for its community, beyond the factual business of running a successful flagship conference. Borrowing somebody else's sentence, I'd say: "non siamo mica qui ad asciugar gli scogli!" ("we're not here to wipe away the cliffs", sentence by PierLuigi Bersani, June 2012)

Some leading conferences are now moving to open access publication. What's your position on this? Do you think that ETAPS can become a leading force in this direction?

ETAPS can and should. Mind you, this is really a can of worms and, to an extent, a red herring: there is so much more to fix than open access. I had the fortune to participate in the wonderful Dagstuhl Perspectives Workshop 12452 *Publication Culture in Computing Research* where some of the issues were discussed: the relative merits of conference vs journal publication, the role of learned societies as publishers, the sustainability of community-run outlets, the rotten mechanisms of bibliometrics, the culture of harsh refereeing. ETAPS has started engaging with these, I hope it will continue, and – why not? – consider the funding of a ETAPS open access journal.

In this edition, you'll pass your role to Joost-Pieter Katoen. What do you think are the challenges for ETAPS today?

Apart from the association and the publishing, I consider important for ETAPS to remain inclusive and open to new themes and conferences in a reasonably dynamic way. Of course coherence and quality are paramount, they should not be allowed it to drop. Yet, the main resistance here is that the sheer size of the event is at (if not beyond) the limit of an academic organiser's powers. (I will never stop thanking organisers, only pure generosity towards the research community can induce you to take on such a load!) So, in my view ETAPS should urgently work towards making the organiser's task easier. I also believe that we can improve our dissemination strategy towards society at large and industry in particular.

How to reach the workshop dinner

From the conference venue, take metro B from Policlinico to Colosseo (direction Laurentina). Then, you have a 500 m beautiful walk to Via Celimontana 7 (see the map), where you will find restaurant "La Naumachia".

Have your ticket with you!

