



Short Bio

Laura Soffiantini is a PhD student at KU Leuven (Belgium). After earning a BA degree in Classics at the University of Pisa, she specialized in Ancient History with a particular interest in the self-representation of Hellenistic Greek cities. Her current project ('Greek Spaces in Roman Times') aims to investigate the geographic representation of Greece in Pliny the Elder's *Naturalis Historia* with the purpose of investigating the spatial knowledge

and spatial experience embedded in Pliny's encyclopedia. To do this, the project applies various NLP technologies (Named Entity Recognition, pattern extraction, relation extraction, formalized knowledge representation) to the Latin textual narrative in combination with the use of semantic annotation and digital mapping.

Research Stay at TALOS

During my research stay at TALOS, I will lead a presentation of my project discussing specific case studies in order to show which kind of spatial data can be extracted from ancient spatial narratives and how can it be analyzed. Moreover, I will collaborate with the TALOS team with the scope of exploring the application of (semi-)automated techniques of textual analysis for the semantic annotation task.