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PhD Programme in  
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**SIAS**

STATE  
INSTITUTE  
FOR ART STUDIES

# Behind the Image Beyond the Image

III International Conference of PhD Students  
Venice, 22th - 24th September 2021

Organizing committee  
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"*Imago*" is the Latin word that our word "image" derives from. The Latin "imago" has a great number of different meanings that go from "portrait" to "ghost", from "idea" to "dream", from "memory" to "reflection". We most commonly associate the word "image" with a picture, but its etymology keeps reminding us of its infinite conceptual potential. An image is a metaphor, a model, a method, a representation, a tool for a new understanding of reality.

In the famous book "Behind the image: the art of reading paintings" Federico Zeri (whose centenary of birth we celebrate this year) argues that there are infinite ways to observe the work of art as an image. But since the image is something that goes beyond its mere material and physical form and refers to the categories of perception and thought, with the expression "beyond the image" we'd like to encourage new philosophical formulations related to this polyvalent concept.

The image, the imagination, the imaginable - these are the transversal categories that the conference aims to explore, using an open approach to the theme, which allows the participants to exploit its full conceptual potential.

We welcome proposals that combine multiple approaches dealing with theoretical and methodological issues, as well as with specific case study and that come from different fields of research. This could include the following:

- ★ Proposals for redefining the concept of an image and of its role in the past and present societies.
- ★ The relationship between image and power: political propaganda, religious proselytism, advertising, etc.
- ★ Imagination and creation: an image as an instrument of the artistic and philosophical process.
- ★ Image and thought, image and language.
- ★ Perception, hermeneutics, and influence of images.
- ★ The work of art as an image, mirror, and icon of its social and historical context.
- ★ The image as an artistic artifact: the history of its creation, critical reception, exhibitions etc.

★ New frontiers of production, distribution, and fruition of images.

### **How to participate**

The call is open to PhD students and candidates. Please send abstracts (300-400 words) in PDF format with a working title for a 20-minute talk in English and a brief biography (500 letters max.) to [infoveniceconference@gmail.com](mailto:infoveniceconference@gmail.com) no later than 23th of May 2021.

Successful applicants will be notified by 1st of June 2021. Contact details (Name, Surname, e-mail) and academic affiliation should be provided.

Further information about the program will be provided upon selection.

**The conference will take place online.**