

# River Valleys and Regional Economies: Introduction

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The topics of this panel discuss the regional economies of three river valleys in two different areas: Athens and Attica with the Ilissos River; and northeastern Italy with the rivers that flow in the areas of Verona and Parma, respectively.

The Ilissos valley has been one of the most interesting places of Athens and Attica, not only because it was connected with several myths and cults but also because the use of its riverbanks seems to change through time as shown in the extensive summary by D. Di Giulio Maria, which covers a wide chronological framework, from the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC to the 8<sup>th</sup> century AD.

The other two rivers flow south of the Italian Alps, in today's Emilia-Romagna region. The paper of A. Mosca examines the distribution of settlements in the upper section of the Adige Valley, north of Verona, with a focus on the Roman era. It becomes clear that River Adige, the second largest river of Italy (it originates on the Alps, in the border between Italy, Austria and Switzerland) had a strong impact on the organization of habitation areas and on the agro-silvo-pastoral production while it had also been used for the transport of goods from the Adriatic ports to the hinterland.

The last paper, by A. R. Marchi and I. Serchia, is based on the results of recent excavations in the urban area of the Roman city of Parma, just next to the Parma Creek, a large stream, which is one of the more than 140 tributaries of River Po, the largest river in Italy. The excavations revealed a series of floods that caused damages and restorations to several structures from the Republican era to the Late Antiquity, when a strong flood led the creek to move towards the town and caused the need of constructing new walls to bar the water. Later (12<sup>th</sup> century) another strong flood caused a further displacement of the watercourse into its modern bed.