

Revista Épicas

**Call for papers for the fourteenth issue of the online *Revista Épicas* dedicated to
"Forms of the political message in epic discourse"**

Coordination of this issue:

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Thematic dossier: "Forms of the political message in epic discourse"

From its earliest manifestations, the epic genre has always maintained a close connexion with the political dimension of the society in which it was rooted. Thus, Homer's *Iliad* is set against the backdrop of the territorial and political conflict between the Achaeans and the Trojans. In Virgil's *Aeneid*, the political element of the epic is not only evident, but becomes fundamental to its meaning, shaping its design and stylistic resources (allegory, historical fable, genealogy and cosmogony) in the service of an important public figure. The epic is indeed unthinkable without a socio-political historical context, without being associated with the cause of a monarch or a benefactor. The epic also politicises spiritual and religious themes. For example, Torquato Tasso dedicated his *Jerusalem Delivered* (1581) to the Crusades, and Milton's allegorical *Paradise Lost* (1667) was inspired by an anthropological vision of the loss of Paradise in the conflicting political context of the Restoration. As the epic genre underwent profound changes in the Modern Era, its political appeal became a constant, reinforced by the rise of nationalist movements in the nineteenth century. At that time, it was the novel, as the contemporary representative of the epic narrative, which fulfilled the same task. Thus, from the Finnish epic *Kalevala* (1835) to *War and Peace* (1865), epic discourse changes its appearance without neglecting one of its most fundamental elements: its political commitment. Today, epic discourse and its association to politics sometimes return in the language of cinema and penetrate our daily lives in the storytelling of election campaigns.

This issue aims to bring together articles investigating the discursive and thematic elements of epic texts that reflect a political reality in a wide range of national literatures, from essential contributions such as Mircea Cărtărescu's *Levantul* (1990) to the Hispanic-American dimension with Néstor Perlongher's *Cadáveres* (1987), to topical texts such as Anne Weber's recent award-winning *Annette, ein Heldinnenepos* (2020).

The deadline for submission of articles (revistaepicas@gmail.com), in one of the CIMEEP languages, is 30 September 2023. The article should be between 10 and 25 pages long, including bibliography, and should be accompanied by an abstract in the language of the article as well as in English. Please follow the editorial guidelines, which can be found at www.revistaepicas.com . Authors will receive a response from the editorial board by 31 October 2023. Online publication of the articles is planned for December 2023.