THURSDAY, 23rd FEBRUARY

Session 2: Settlement and Architecture

- 15.00 - 15.30: V. Capozzoli (Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne), *Looking for the Necropolis of Athens in the 6th Century B.C.: New Remarks on the Pre-classical City*

The funerary record from Athens in the sixth century BC unlike earlier and later period is notoriously poor. This notwithstanding, scholars use such scant evidence in order to build paramount hypothesis on contemporary Athenian urbanism. The cemetery on the northwestern slopes of the Areopagus is such a case: subject to different interpretations, is often quoted as far as the problematic issue of the pre-Themistoclean walls is concerned.

Reviewing previous studies, I reconsider from a new perspective the archaic funerary materials reused in the later city walls, based on still unpublished data of my doctoral thesis on the Athenian fortifications, and exploiting up to date material known from recent excavations in the city (see the recent dissertation of I. Dimitriadou on the Athenian necropolis). Comparing the location of funerary areas and topological patterns of archaic funerary monuments reused within the later city walls (especially Themistoclean, but not only) I offer a more trustworthy picture of the urban development in the late archaic period. This is obtained by closer examination of two closely linked issues:

a) the inner logic of spatial organization of both the funerary areas and the road system and;

b) the “forma Urbis” of Athens known by literary and archaeological indicia concerning the pre-classical fortifications of the city of Athens.