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Title: Whistles, Applauses and politicians' welcoming of the Italic people: non-verbal expressions of the crowd in the Late Ancient Republic.

For nearly a century scholars questioned about the character of politics and the role of people in Late Ancient Republic. After so many years, has every way been inquired?

Whistles, applauses, general noise: the answer of the people to an unbalanced political situation. Through these *signa*, the crowd took part in public life: it answered in the political proposal and represented its "opinion", its "participation" in contemporary public life, in which it was not directly involved. This manifestation was not a crucial point of the abovementioned research and its awareness is still under discussion. This popular expression was a way to understand the willing of the crowd and the popularity of the politicians and of their decisions: the evaluation of Cicero – the author who better describes the power games at the Roman Republic end – was mostly linked to the situation: when the public manifestation agreed with his thought, it was considered a *bonum signum* of the people. Conversely, when the popular expression was unfavorable to him, it was just as a *ventus popularis* of a *multitudo imperitorum*.

To analyze all the expressions of the popular participation in the late Republic, is it interesting to inspect the reactions of italic communities in the presence of the main politicians. How conscious were the surrounding populations of the political situation in Rome? Which was their reaction when the politicians went across their territories? How much were them involved in that?

Italics were an important political strength after social wars and their relationship with roman politic was crucial for the politic itself. My work aim is to outline the non-verbal expression of the crowd and the "silent" participation of Italic people: it was expressed by a conscious involvement in the roman political life. E.g. Italics went to Rome to vote specifically for Cicero consular elections and when the political figures crossed through their territories, they knew them and welcomed them actively.