

Women of Roman archaeology: In search for equity in the Roman archaeology scholarship

Tatiana Ivleva – Newcastle University

Rebecca Jones

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Female scholars have played a key role in the fields of Roman archaeology and heritage, but their contributions have often not been given due recognition. Inspired by EAA 2023 session on (In)visible women in history of archaeology and 2021 TRAJ paper by Zena Kamash, this session wishes to look at the roles of women in shaping the archaeological and heritage discourses of the Roman world through discussing the following questions:

- Why are some early and 20th century female archaeologists recognised today, while others forgotten? What roles did they play in the early days of Roman archaeology as well as more recently?
- What methods, sources and archives can be used to illuminate the works of female scholars and what can Digital Humanities do to help to intensify the visibility of female archaeologists' research and interpretations of the past without falling in the loophole of 'tokenism'?
- Why is it relevant to study the history of female archaeologists in the 21st century?

The papers will discuss individual biographies and overviews and comparisons of women and their work in Roman archaeology. Methods and approaches to research the history of women in Roman archaeology and heritage, and best-practice examples of communicating women's work to the public will also be discussed.

Thursday 11th (PM)		Room 1 - Elvin Hall
13:30	Introduction (<i>Tatiana Ivleva & Anna Walas</i>)	
13:40	Jocelyn Toynbee: a Cambridge Pioneer (<i>Rebecca Jones</i>)	
13:50	Women archaeologists in twentieth-century Italy: The pioneering cases of Tina Campanile and Alda Levi (<i>Anna Ceresa Mori, Myriam Pilutti Namer & Sofia Piacentin</i>)	
14:10	Dorothy Crowfoot Hodgkin: Archaeologist, Artist, Nobel Prize-winning Chemist (<i>Lisa R. Brody</i>)	
14:30	Tracing female Roman archaeologists – (In)visible women in the history of the Römisch-Germanische Kommission (RGK) (<i>Gabriele Rasbach & Kerstin P. Hofmann</i>)	
14:50	"You don't have to change the world, nevertheless, with a bit of luck it is not impossible" – Female archaeologists in Aquincum (<i>Orsolya Láng</i>)	
15:10	BREAK	
15:40	Being Ana Premk, woman archaeologist in Serbia (<i>Jasmina Davidović</i>)	
16:00	Women in Romanian archaeology at the turning point of 1945 (<i>Rada Varga & Izabella Pázsint</i>)	
16:20	Rosanina, Maria and I – female perspectives on female identities (<i>Sarah Scoppie</i>)	
16:30	Discussion	

Jocelyn Toynbee: a Cambridge pioneer

Rebecca Jones

A photograph from the 1949 Pilgrimage of Hadrian's Wall, which acted as a precursor to the first International Congress of Roman Frontier Studies depicts 38 people of whom nine are women. Despite the Congress being male dominated (especially in its early years), the women identified are all significant in their own right and deserve to be better known. One of these women, Jocelyn Toynbee, became Laurence Professor of Classical Archaeology in 1951 – the first (and only) female to hold this prestigious post. A student at Newnham College, Cambridge, she finished her degree at a time when women couldn't graduate, but when the status of female scholars was politicised. Her research, in Roman art, was pioneering, helping to bring it out of the shadow of the more popular art of Greece; she was awarded her DPhil at Oxford in 1930 (only a decade after they allowed women to graduate). As a classical art historian and archaeologist of that era she encountered plenty of prejudice against Romanists, but found some support in the British School at Rome and the influence of Eugenie Sellers Strong. Toynbee's research stretched from Roman Britain to Tripolitania and included the art from the Temple of Mithras in London and the catalogue for a major exhibition on Roman Art in Britain to mark the Roman Society's 50th anniversary. Toynbee is a member of a pioneering group of early to mid-20th century Cambridge researchers and archaeological scholars who were married to academic research. This paper will explore some of her influences and impacts.

Women archaeologists in twentieth-century Italy: The pioneering cases of Tina Campanile and Alda Levi

Anna Ceresa Mori

Myriam Pilutti Namer – Università Ca' Foscari

Sofia Piacentini – Università di Verona

The role of women archaeologists in twentieth century-Italy is a rather neglected topic. Despite a few works dedicated to their works based on archive materials, the history of Italian women archaeologists has not received attention until recently. The paper explores the role of two pioneering women archaeologists in Italy: Tina Campanile (1884-1928), the first woman to be admitted at the Italian Archaeological School in Athens, and Alda Levi (1890-1950), the first woman to be appointed to the Royal Soprintendenza. Through the analysis of these two case studies, the paper aims to shed light on their lives and works achievements, questioning (i) the reasons behind the lack of their work recognition, (ii) what were the challenges they both faced in their jobs, and (iii) to what extent the historical and cultural context of Italy influenced their careers. The final aim of this paper would be to encourage the discussion on the best ways to approach a full-scale survey of female archaeologists in twentieth-century Italy, a work that still needs to be done, which may reveal further stories of scholars' achievements that, until now, have been forgotten.

Dorothy Crowfoot Hodgkin: Archaeologist, Artist, Nobel Prize-winning Chemist

Lisa R. Brody – Yale University

Dorothy Crowfoot Hodgkin is best known today for her pioneering research in X-ray crystallography. Her work on understanding the structure of penicillin led to the development of antibiotics, and her modeling of the more complicated molecules that make up vitamin B-12 led to her becoming the third woman in history to be awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1964. She also, however, played an important role in the archaeological excavation of ancient Gerasa (Jordan). In 1928, prior to enrolling at Oxford's Somerville College, eighteen-year-old Dorothy spent three months working at Gerasa, where her father, John Crowfoot, was serving as field director. Dorothy's mother, Grace Mary Crowfoot, was also part of the excavation team. Dorothy's primary task was to document the extraordinary floor mosaics being uncovered, creating watercolor drawings that show her keen analytical

observation, meticulous attention to detail, and artistic skill. She completed the two most important drawings at Oxford during her first two years at college; she also conducted analysis on glass tesserae from the excavation. Dorothy's drawings, now at the Yale University Art Gallery, are instrumental in understanding the Gerasa mosaics. They also demonstrate the fascination with color and pattern that marked her subsequent trailblazing scientific career.

Tracing female Roman archaeologists – (In)visible women in the history of the Römisch-Germanische Kommission (RGK)

Gabriele Rasbach – Deutsches Archäologisches Institut

Kerstin P. Hofmann – Deutsches Archäologisches Institut

The archives of the RGK contain numerous traces of female archaeologists and women involved in Roman archaeology. They appear as former employees, travel fellows, correspondence partners, leaders or collaborators of research projects but also as illustrators and organizers supporting the institute's research. They appear in letters, manuscripts, administration forms and photographs of events and excavations. The diverse range of documents makes the RGK archives a valuable resource for tracing both the visible women in archaeological research and committees as well as those that remained invisible. The biographical information system Propylaeum-VITAE (https://sempub.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/propylaeum_vitae/de) provides a tool to make these women, their associated archival records and other sources like publications more visible. It makes it possible to display scattered holdings and reconstruct the various networks and impact of these women on research of Roman archaeology. On the basis of exemplary selected female researchers for whom files are available in our archives, we will highlight and explain the different ways in which women are (in)visible in Roman archaeological research.

“You don't have to change the world, nevertheless, with a bit of luck it is not impossible” – Female archaeologists in Aquincum

Orsolya Láng – Aquincumi Múzeum

The settlement complex of Aquincum has been the subject of archaeological research for more than 130 years. Several female archaeologists participated in this huge work – some even carried out pioneering work in studying the Roman provincial capital. The first complex topographical studies, those dedicated to the settlement structure of the civilian town, as well as that of the military town, and the very detailed cemetery analyses or the complex research of Roman jewellery of Aquincum were all carried out by our former female colleagues such as Klára Póczy, Melinda Kaba, Annamária Facsády and Paula Zsidi. Apart from the scientific work, some of the most important directors of the museum and the archaeological part of Aquincum were women, whose work contributed enormously to the development of the site: conservation of the remains of the civil town, iconic exhibitions on Aquincum and modern, visitor-friendly and exemplary developments of the part were all invented and conducted by female directors of the museum. The paper will take closer look at the life and work of these brave and determined women who dedicated their entire life to Aquincum.

Being Ana Premk, woman archaeologist in Serbia

Jasmina Davidović

One of the most remarkable figures in Serbian archeology was Ana Premk (1937-2022), a pottery expert but also an expert on other small finds, a researcher of many important archeological sites in Serbia (Sirmium, Mediana, Viminacium, Timacum Minus), and a technical editor and secretary to many very important archeological journals

such as 'Starinar' and 'Sirmium'. She made a new system of typology for the Roman pottery of Sirmium with all necessary documentation which was later used in almost all Roman archeological sites in Serbia. All her working time she spent in the Archeological Institute Belgrade and after retiring she continued working, especially in Sirmium on the pottery material educating new generations of pottery experts. Her master's degree, obtained in 1978 with the topic on closed contexts of the 4th century was never published but used in a typed version by all Serbian archeologists in dealing with Roman pottery. At the same time, she was very much loved by everyone because her kind character as the person who helps everyone was noticed and highly appreciated. Mainly working on numerous excavations across Serbia, having a special role as a drawing expert for archeological material, she did not manage to publish many articles, but few published ones left a lasting impression on people dealing with Roman pottery and sculpture.

Women in Romanian archaeology at the turning point of 1945

Rada Varga – Universitatea Babeş-Bolyai

Annamária-Izabella Pázsint – Universitatea Babeş-Bolyai

After World War II, in 1945, the communist regime was installed in Romania and significant changes were in toll for the intellectual elite of the country. One of the main requirements for any professional, and especially for anyone working within academia, was to have 'healthy', working-class roots. As it was, Romanian academia and especially the archaeological field were highly masculine and one can easily imagine that the few women who activated in the field were part of the inter-war intellectual elite, coming from aristocratic or at least upper-class families. Thus, the regime shift came as one more challenge for women who wanted to work as ancient historians and archaeologists. Our paper will focus on the women who were working in archaeology during the dramatic regime transition and to what degree they managed to adapt and remain active in the field. All of them faced a difficult path, which eventually led to reintegration in many steps, exile or approaching the profession from a different angle. The presented case studies will not only underline the realities faced by the generations we focus on, but also how the presence of women in the field of archaeology was affected for the coming years.

Rosanina, Maria and I – female perspectives on female identities

Sarah Scoppie

Roman archaeology has been a story of invisible women – their traces left at Roman military sites overlooked, their pathways fought in academia ignored. Feminist archaeology has helped to shift the spotlight onto women and their role in shaping the Roman Empire. However, do we – (feminist) archaeologists of the 21st century – see those female colleagues, who have collated the data and provided the background for our research into female identities? My research has focussed on shared identities during the period of "Romanisation" in northwest Italy. In addition to "invisible men", I encountered high status women and have raised questions of female networks – from spindle whorls to funerary beds. Based entirely on published excavation reports (mainly from the 1970s to 1990s) and papers, the names of researchers and authors became constant companions of my studies. Rarely did I find the time to try and read up on them, find out about their pathway in academia and continued work. Almost all of them were women. I shall take RAC 2024 as an incentive to return to my PhD and acknowledge the contribution of female archaeologists to the study of latest Iron Age – early Roman northwest Italy. In doing so, I also aim to pick up on a loose thread from my research and further investigate how female perspectives shape our female perception of female identities – from the power of spinning to the stage set during a funeral.

Investigating Public Spaces with Digital Tools

Alexander Braun – Universität zu Köln

Kamil Kopij – Uniwersytet Jagielloński

Public spaces played a pivotal role in the operation of ancient Roman society, functioning as vital hubs for commerce, administration, and religious activities. They served as central meeting places and were integral to the social fabric of daily life, acting as primary avenues of communication both within and without. Moreover, these spaces, in tandem with their built environment, served as the primary venues for representation.

Examining the design of these spaces and considering the desired experiences they sought to create allows for a deeper comprehension of the Roman society itself. The rapid progress in digital tools and computational methods provides exciting prospects to explore and analyze these spaces, along with their functions and interactions with both individuals and their surroundings. These advancements enable the development of new synergies and methodologies for conducting comprehensive investigations into these spaces. The purpose of this session is to discuss and assess various approaches to studying open public spaces and their societal significance through the utilization of digital tools and computational methods. The subjects encompass methods for examining visibility and audibility, reconstruction techniques, network analysis, social interactions, representative culture, environmental studies, as well as the opportunities, challenges, and limitations associated with these approaches.

Thursday 11th (PM)		Room 2 - Drama Studio
13:30	Introduction	
13:40	Space, speaker and audience - acoustic reconstructions of oratorical events in Roman Asia Minor (<i>Peter Scholz, Daniel Kah & Verena Stappmanns</i>)	
14:00	Can you see me? Can you hear me? Investigating speech audibility and speaker visibility during Roman public assemblies (<i>Kamil Kopij, Adam Pilch, Monika Drab, Szymon Poplawski & Kaja Glomb</i>)	
14:20	Visual Communications on the Roman Forum: The Public Spaces explored with 3D vector visibility analyses (<i>Alexander Braun</i>)	
14:40	BREAK	
15:10	Sense more than senses: new approaches to place using new sensorially informed frameworks and digital technology at Falerii Novi (<i>Nathen Fair</i>)	
15:30	Roman Administrative Space from Middle Republic to Late Antiquity Through Activity Space Research (<i>Juhana Heikonen</i>)	

Space, speaker and audience – acoustic reconstructions of oratorical events in Roman Asia Minor

Peter Scholz – Universität Stuttgart

Daniel Kah – Universität Stuttgart

Verena Stappmanns – Universität Stuttgart

Public speeches were an essential element of political decision-making in Graeco-Roman antiquity. Traditionally, these performative acts of communication have been analysed using written sources such as speeches published by ancient orators, accounts of oratorical events, or reflections on rhetorical techniques and vocal training. On the other hand, numerous buildings in Greek and Roman cities were created for oratorical events and associated with political bodies: especially theatres and *comitia* for the assemblies of the citizenry or *bouleuteria*, *odeia*, and *curiae* for urban councils. Until now, written sources and archaeological findings have mostly been treated separately from each other, and a comprehensive study relating space and speaker has yet to be conducted. The research project at the Department of Ancient History at the University of Stuttgart in cooperation with the Fraunhofer Institute of Acoustics aims to add a new perspective on political decision-making in Classical antiquity. A new important tool is provided by acoustic simulations (auralisation) of virtually reconstructed public spaces, providing not only quantifiable data such as, speech intelligibility or reverberation time, but also audio samples for a more immersive approach. In our contribution, we would like to present and discuss the methods and first results of our research, which is currently focused on buildings with political and oratorical functions in Hellenistic and Roman Asia Minor.

Can you see me? Can you hear me? Investigating speech audibility and speaker visibility during Roman public assemblies

Kamil Kopij – Uniwersytet Jagielloński

Adam Pilch – Akademia Górniczo-Hutnicza

Monika Drab – Politechnika Wroclawska

Szymon Popławski – Politechnika Wroclawska

Kaja Głomb – Uniwersytet Jagielloński

For centuries, the Forum Romanum played a pivotal role in shaping the Mediterranean world. During the Republican times, it hosted official elections, popular assemblies for law enactment, and discussions on new legislation. Additionally, it served as the backdrop for eulogies in the funerals of Roman elites and crucial judicial speeches. These events all revolved around the art of rhetoric, encompassing not only spoken words but also the accompanying gestures and facial expressions of speakers. This paper presents findings from an analysis of speech audibility and speaker's visibility across different speaking platforms located on the Forum Romanum during the Late Roman Republic and Early Empire. Custom 3D virtual reconstructions and acoustic simulations were conducted, considering various background noise levels. The results, represented through Speech Transmission Index (STI) maps, enabled estimates of intelligible audience size using modern crowd behavior observations. Visibility of rhetorical gestures was assessed based on an experiment determining the maximum distance for different-sized gestures. Facial expression visibility analysis drew from the classic Hager and Ekman experiment. The study explores how these findings verify hypotheses concerning changes in the Forum's rhetorical landscape over time, including the impact of spatial geometry on crowd distribution and speaker control.

Visual Communications on the Roman Fora: The Public Spaces explored with 3D vector visibility analyses

Alexander Braun – Universität zu Köln

The Forum was the central communication nexus of the ancient city: meeting place, centre of administration, public cults, mercantile strife, justice, imperial demonstrations of power, and stage for the elites to compete amongst themselves. In short, it was the place to be and to interact with everyone. The actors responsible for the build environment of a Forum had thus a lot of messages to communicate visually to visitors. The wish and need to

communicate and balance these messages of so many different interests created and developed different strategies and semantics on how to achieve that. Computational workflows allow us to investigate these methods by investigating the prominence of different parts inside the complexes and the planned ensemble of buildings and statues. These computational results must in a next step, be interpreted with the help of the knowledge of the build environment and which messages different parts were meant to communicate. This is a way to understand how Roman society, with the intent to communicate certain messages visually, developed their strategies, as well as to approach the question of what they wanted to communicate like that.

Sense more than senses: new approaches to place using new sensorially informed frameworks and digital technology at Falerii Novi

Nathen Fair – Universiteit Gent

The turn toward human-centred archaeology of landscape and place has raised deep questions about how humans experience place and the role of the senses in experience. These areas of inquiry have been brought into further relief by the emerging and popularisation of new technologies, such as computer visualisation, virtual and extended reality, and remote sensing, as they have been adopted by the field. Research projects which have utilised digital technologies, especially visualisations, have traditionally seen them as additive – either for the dissemination of the research to a wider non-expert audience or as adding value to an already designed research question – rather developing analytical and research methods which place them at their heart. Those projects which have done this have suffered from the problem of the continued dominance of the Aristotelian five senses model, deeply embedded in the Western tradition. This paper responds to these concerns, elaborating an alternative theoretical framework which allows for the rigorous application of digital technology to the archaeology of place through a sensorially informed methodology integrating strands from anthropology, phenomenology, neurology, and physics. This paper then explores how this framework is being applied in an early-stage case study on the Romano-Faliscan site at Falerii Novi.

Roman Administrative Space from Middle Republic to Late Antiquity Through Activity Space Research

Juhana Heikonen – Helsingin yliopisto

The main objective of this paper is to shed light on the Roman administration's spatial dimensions and qualities through Activity Space research (AS). This paper studies some spatial aspects of the Roman administration via architectural, epigraphic, and literary evidence through one branch of AS-research, which partially derives from urban planning research, and has later been applied in everything possible from transportation to segregation research. AS is a concept used to measure spatial behavior of individuals in space and time. In this AS-research the individuals are Roman senators. The later evolution of the republican administration and governance goes hand in hand with the expanding nature of Roman urban space. However, even though open space was increased by several new monumental public fora, literary evidence suggests diminishing public administrative activity during the Imperial era, disappearing to Palatium (?). These places of activity are mapped from a wide array of sources by the Spacelaw-project and presented as GIS-maps and radar charts of Rome. The Roman ruling classes built their new power bases from the 2nd century onwards in the outskirts of the city. Spatially the Imperial administration and the new suburban ruling classes had little use of the Imperial, or the Republican fora. Their significance was seemingly restricted into a place of tradition and occasional pomp.

Tracking the hunt in the Roman world
Julia Koch – Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen
John Pearce – King’s College London

Diverse evidence, including isotopic traces of game introduction, testamentary listings of gear for the chase, animal offerings, hunting lodges, hints at a sophisticated and resource-intensive Roman hunting culture. Yet hunting of wild animals in the Roman world has been a marginal subject. It tends to be viewed as a representational strategy, an artistic shorthand for the ‘good life’, rather than as a practice in an ecological and socio-cultural context. In this session we seek to restore hunting to Roman landscapes. Our focus lies more on hunting for game than on arena animals, but we are open to exploring connections between the two. We invite contributions on the following areas:

- How far can we reconstruct hunting practice, its tools and techniques, participants and victims, calendar and scale, using archaeological, scientific, epigraphic and visual evidence?
 - How should we situate engagement in the hunt in relation to status, gender, culture and so on?
- What are the economic and environmental implications of hunting, within the wider context of Roman human-animal interaction?

We explicitly invite a comparative approach, in particular exploiting characterisations of the hunt in other imperial settings, especially the expanding literature on European colonial hunting, to illuminate Roman practice.

Thursday 11th (PM)		Room 3 - Nunn Hall
13:30	Introduction	
13:40	Exploring the Hunt in Roman Imperial Attica (<i>Anna Kouremenos</i>)	
14:00	Hunting with Cerialis on Roman frontiers (<i>John Pearce</i>)	
14:20	Sociocultural characterization and practice of the lion-hunt in the Roman Imperial and Early 20th century colonial hunting literature (<i>Miika Remahl</i>)	
14:40	The Character of Ancient Wild Boar Hunts (<i>Johannes Nollé</i>)	
15:00	BREAK	
15:30	Hunting in the East: A Comparative Perspective on Hatra and Dura-Europos in 2nd-3rd century CE (<i>Ilaria Bucci</i>)	
15:50	Chasing the Seasons: Socioeconomic Variation in the Roman Hunting Calendar (<i>Caleb Hammond</i>)	
16:10	Hunting - the evidence from pottery, especially handmade pottery (<i>Ian Longhurst</i>)	
16:30	Tracking the hunt and fishing in the Roman Pojejena (<i>Călin Timoc and Ștefana Cristea</i>)	
16:50	Summary	

Exploring the Hunt in Roman Imperial Attica

Anna Kouremenos – Western Connecticut State University

Hunting holds a significant place in the historical and cultural tapestry of Attica in the Roman period, particularly within the southern Attic *deme* of Besa in the second century CE. In *Questiones Convivales* 657f. 3.10, Plutarch notes that he attended a reception hosted by Euthydemus of Sounion which included a very large wild boar, presumably hunted in south Attica. The abundance of various types of wild game in this forested region of Greece attracted several important Romans, including emperors. Roman imperial hunting was more than a mere pursuit of sport; it was a multifaceted activity that showcased the emperor's prowess, consolidated his authority, and maintained a symbiotic relationship with local communities. Besa, nestled in the picturesque landscapes of south Attica, became a focal point for such hunts under the patronage of Hadrian. Hunting expeditions not only reflected the emperor's appreciation for the region's natural beauty and history but also underscored his ability to wield power. In antiquity, a diverse range of formidable wildlife inhabited south Attica, ranging from wild boars to bears. Literary sources and faunal remains provide evidence for the former, while faunal remains validate the presence of the latter. Hadrian, a Roman with Athenian citizenship registered in the *deme* of Besa, strategically utilized hunting as a means of engaging with local elites and reinforcing the bonds of loyalty. Hadrian's persona as a "hunter-king" drew inspiration from mythological and historical archetypes, evoking the image of a benevolent ruler who mirrored the legendary heroes of Greek myth and history. Bringing in new material from the Besa Project, this paper will illuminate the Graeco-Roman hunting tradition, focusing on the *deme* of Besa during the second century CE, to exemplify the intricate interplay between political authority, cultural assimilation, and commemorative practices.

Hunting with Cerialis on Roman frontiers

John Pearce – King's College London

Hunting has sometimes been considered a diversion for Roman soldiers from the demands of frontier policing or as an opportunity to enrich themselves or find favour with imperial authority by furnishing animals for the arena. Drawing on comparisons with recent work on hunting and colonialism, this paper argues that its significance has been under-estimated in the symbolic and practical exercise of power in Roman frontier landscapes. Taking evidence for materials and practice from northern England as a case study, it seeks to re-integrate hunting with its frontier setting. The Vindolanda writing tablets, including documents linked to the household of the prefect Cerialis offer an opportunity to discuss the logistics of hunting, and its cultural and social as well as institutional contexts, considered in tandem with other epigraphic and archaeological evidence. For example altars linked to success in the chase indicate the landscape in which hunting was practised and embody its performative context. As a pious acknowledgement of deities under whose auspices the chase successfully unfolded, they instantiated one of the virtues and qualities paraded in the hunt; others include command of human and animal auxiliaries and the 'wild' setting in which they were deployed, optimal for hunting virtue, and generosity expressed in consumption of the fruits of the hunt with friends and peers.

Sociocultural characterization and practice of the lion-hunt in the Roman Imperial and Early 20th century colonial hunting literature

Miika Remahl – Helsingin yliopisto

By the early imperial era, Romans had accustomed to numerous sociocultural activities that involved the hunting of lions. Some motives i.e., a safeguard for agriculture and livestock, were a result of the rural way of life of the common people. Others, such as the Hellenistic influences (c.3rd century B.C.) for hunting in a grand manner, were culturally implemented. Lions in the staged hunting spectacles (*venationes*) marked the growth of Roman wealth and

the importance of public games. The sociocultural landscapes of the lion-hunt were vast and vivid in Roman literature. Authors i.e., Oppian (*Cynegetica*), Pliny the Elder (*Naturalis Historia*) and Statius (*Silvae* and *Thebaid*) illuminate the ideas of virtuous engagement, excitement and mindset of both hunter and lion in various hunting situations. Similar characterizations of the lion-hunt are present in later European colonial hunting literature of the early 20th century, most prominently in Sir Alfred Pease's *The Book of the Lion* (1913). Although the practices had differences, the late colonial African lion-hunt shared many similarities with the Roman literal landscape. This comparative paper analyzes the similarities in practice and motives of the lion hunt in the imperial settings of Romans and colonial Europeans of the early 20th century.

The Character of Ancient Wild Boar Hunts

Johannes Nollé – Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

After I wrote a small booklet in 2001 dealing with wild boar hunting, especially in archaic and classical Lycia, a discussion arose as to how these hunts should be evaluated. Were they hunts that served the aristocratic pleasure and therefore took place at least partly in hunting enclosures (*paradeisoi*), or were they protective hunts in which the aristocrats wanted to protect the fields, vineyards, and orchards of their territory from destruction by wild boar? By caring for a particular territory, were they not also staking their claims to rule over it? With this question in mind, it is worthwhile to take a look at our tradition of wild boar hunts in the Roman Empire. There are a number of literary, but also epigraphic, numismatic and monumental testimonies. Coins associate Roman emperors, such as Hadrian and Caracalla, with wild boar hunting. Is it hunting for pleasure, is it a passion for the hunt, is it a demonstration of imperial virtue or is it caring for the peasants afflicted by wild boars? Inscriptions attest to such wild boar hunts among Roman soldiers. Even if the objectives of hunting activities may be very different, it is still possible to identify focal points of hunting activities that can in turn shed more light on the circumstances of hunting in the Pre-imperial, Archaic, and Classical Periods of Antiquity.

Hunting in the East: A Comparative Perspective on Hatra and Dura-Europos in 2nd-3rd century CE

Ilaria Bucci – Birkbeck

In the context of the Roman Eastern provinces, hunting is often perceived as an activity with distinct 'oriental' characteristics, primarily due to the standardisation of many pictorial depictions. Models of royal hunts were widespread in the area of the Near East since at least the 1st millennium BCE, becoming vastly popular in the Hellenistic and Parthian periods. Hunt was a powerful means to express status and remained an important activity at the Arsacid court, as also confirmed by Classical sources. Representations dating to the 2nd-3rd century CE, however, are relatively few in number and even fewer are the published archaeological remains that help us reconstruct hunting practices and contextualise them within their ecological environment. Taking an interdisciplinary approach, this paper aims to provide a more comprehensive understanding of hunting practices in Hatra (Iraq) and Dura-Europos (Syria) and their surrounding regions. It will examine visual (especially graffiti and paintings), textual, and faunal evidence to explore the socio-economic and environmental implications of such activities. This comparative perspective will not only facilitate the identification of differences and similarities in hunting cultures within the Parthian and Roman spheres but also help elucidate the intricate interplay between environmental, technical, and symbolic elements in pictorial representations.

Chasing the Seasons: Socioeconomic Variation in the Roman Hunting Calendar

Caleb Hammond – University of Arizona

Since C. M. C. Green affirmatively answered the question, Did the Romans hunt? — arguing that hunting was widespread both temporally and socioeconomically in Roman society — a clearer understanding of the Roman relationship to the practice has emerged. While elite Roman men engaged in the hunt as a favorite pastime, subsistence-level Romans relied on wild game to supplement their diets when agricultural activity was limited. In addition, farmers and herders engaged wild animals in their efforts to safeguard their crops and livestock. This paper considers how the landscape received and accommodated Roman hunters at different times of the year depending upon their socioeconomic background in its reconstruction of the Roman hunting calendar. It argues that social and economic status affected the timing of hunting activity and that the seasons differently shaped the experience of the hunt, particularly related to risk, availability, visibility, and preservability. This argument is supported by iconographic representations, literary sources, ethnographic studies, and seasonal animal behavior. This contribution broadens our understanding of the intersection between socioeconomic conditions and the human relationship with the environment.

Hunting - the evidence from pottery, especially handmade pottery

Ian Longhurst

This paper explains an embarrassing discrepancy between the artistic and literary evidence for the importance of hunting for the Roman elite and the comparative lack of game bones on archaeological sites (Cool 2006; 111-8). Archaeologists are wrong to expect many game animal bones at archaeological sites because hunted animals undergo rapid rigor mortis and putrefy rapidly (Jensen, 1954; 165). Hunting to exhaustion depletes the glycogen reserves in the muscle, reducing the acidification in the meat, making the meat more vulnerable to bacteria (Paulsen 2011; 279). Hunted animal meat was preserved more usually by cooking rather than the techniques used for the meat of domestic animals. The archaeological evidence for the consumption of hunted animals largely comes in the form of cooking wares especially hand-made cooking pots rather than in animal bones. Bone marrow is much more conducive to the rapid growth of spoilage bacteria than muscle itself so commonly game was preserved as boneless cooked meat preserved under fat. Bones were more likely to be found where the meat was processed, often in more remote sites. Locating the pottery production sites usually predicts the type of game hunted, suggesting Roman predation on migrating waders, salmon and quail was of some scale.

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Tracking the hunt and fishing in the Roman Pojejena

Călin Timoc – Muzeul Național al Banatului

Ștefana Cristea – Muzeul Național al Banatului

Roman Pojejena was a fortified settlement on the Danube border between Dacia and Moesia Superior. The archaeological site, aggregating an auxiliary fort and a military vicus / civilian settlement, and an important port, provides information on its long existence due to its strategic position. Here, the banks of the river have always been forested, the areas suitable for living from Neolithic until modern times being close to the river. Therefore, the military and civilian population had conditions both for tending domestic animals and for fishing and hunting. Since

the archaeological excavations at Pojejena were focused on the military fort, most of the data used in this study came from there. G. El-Susi uses in her study from 1996 the faunal material from older archaeological excavations and establishes a predominance of domestic mammal bones in which bovine bones occupy the largest percentage (38.7%). Among the wild animals, most bones belong to the deer, boar, bear, aurochs, and marten. El-Susi observes a predisposition towards hunting mature animals and the preservation of a small number of fish bones (carp, catfish, pike). Last year, part of the civilian settlement was excavated for the first time, the bones discovered here confirming the analysis carried out for the fort. A significant discovery was made in square A: a fireplace with a layer about 10 cm thick of bones and fish scales and ash (carp, pike?), associated with the Pecheneg cauldrons.



Going theoretical: Roman archaeology in South-Eastern Europe

Ewan Shanks Coopey – Macquarie University

Thomas J. Derrick – Macquarie University

Jere Drpić – Institut za arheologiju

Kaja Stemberger Flegar – PJP d.o.o. Arheološko podjetje

The traditionally well-trodden geographical contexts for novel approaches and theoretical Roman archaeologies of the provinces usually centre around North-western Europe (particularly Britain) and a few other areas of the Mediterranean littoral like Egypt, Syria, North Africa, and Iberia. Roman South-eastern Europe is somewhat understudied in comparison, and rarely a region of interest to non-local archaeologists. The Roman scholarship of this region has generally been more concerned with the traditional foundation elements of archaeology, like typologies and other supposedly atheoretical approaches, accompanying a heavy focus on epigraphy, military movements, and Imperial activities. Our understanding of this region in Antiquity has accordingly suffered, despite its great archaeological potential.

A new wave of local and internationally produced research (often in collaboration) is embracing theory and applying frameworks. Building theoretical and archaeological capacities in the next generations of scholars in this region is crucial to future success. We invite papers with the aim of furthering this trend in areas of research including (but not limited to):

- Local languages and interaction with theory
- Application of new methodologies and theoretical approaches to the region
 - Nationalism and politics between modern and ancient identities

Thursday 11th (PM)		Room 4 - Clarke Hall
13:30	Introduction	
13:40	Do you feel theoretical? - Factors of (non)participation at TRAC from SE European Institutions (<i>Dragos Mitrofan & Ozren Domiter</i>)	
14:00	Raised by a vixen? The deterioration of Classical knowledge and the disappearance of the Romans from the public discourse in Romania (2010-2023) (<i>Paul Vadineanu & Dragos Mitrofan</i>)	
14:20	Grave concerns: The theoretical aspects of Roman funerary archaeology in Slovenia (<i>Kaja Stemberger Flegar, Brina Zagorc & Iza Jamar Anderle</i>)	
14:40		BREAK
15:10	A Pannonian rural landscape in theory and practice: Economy, society and rural life in the hinterland of Aquincum (Óbuda, Hungary) (<i>Bence Simon</i>)	
15:30	'Becoming-Military-Community' in Dalmatia: The Epigraphic Dimension of the Communal Emergence of Legio VII (<i>Ewan Shanks Coopey</i>)	
15:50	The Issue of Stone-paved Roads in Northwestern Croatia (<i>Jere Drpić</i>)	

Do you feel theoretical? – Factors of (non)participation at TRAC from SE European institutions

Dragos Mitrofan – University of Exeter

Ozren Domiter – Arheološki muzej u Zagrebu

Recent empirical data suggests that participation from South Eastern European countries to TRAC has only marginally improved in the last conference renditions (Split 2022, Exeter 2023). This paper presents the results of a brief investigation into the perception and challenges faced by scholars affiliated to SE European institutions when engaging with theoretical Roman archaeologies, highlighting the practical limits that theoretical archaeologies have in aiding interpretation in SE Europe. The qualitative analysis relies on responses to a short questionnaire addressed to colleagues affiliated with SE European institutions, irrespective of their participation at the last two TRAC conferences. The questions were formulated to detect the degree of economic and social causes, as well as the true impacts of language barriers and traditionalism present in national scholarly research. Lastly, this paper concludes with several proposed cost-effective strategies to enhance the involvement of SE European scholars both at TRAC and other theory-oriented conferences. This study ought to serve as a methodological and strategic framework which, in an amended form, could be applied to other regions in the near future.

Raised by a vixen? The deterioration of Classical knowledge and the disappearance of the Romans from the public discourse in Romania (2010-2023)

Paul Vadineanu – Universität zu Köln

Dragos Mitrofan – University of Exeter

In 2014, when challenged about inaccuracies in schoolbooks, the Minister of Education revealed to the country that he was wholly unaware of the foundational myth of the Roman Empire, boldly claiming that Romulus and Remus were found in a forest by a fox. Adding to the recent crisis of a drastically decaying educational system, with unreliable textbooks and uninvolved political leadership, is a revamped ‘turbo-Dacian’ discourse, largely reliant today on conspiracy-adjacent political posts on social media. The prevailing Eastern European archaeological discourse is still shaped by the ghosts of authoritarian state-controlled narratives which have frequently overshadowed the more dynamic and reactive elements of cultural identity formation. Through empirical analysis and critical examination of (non-)traditional media, we aim to explore these shifts in the evolving cultural landscape of Eastern Europe and how Romania’s classical archaeological heritage has been selectively co-opted by various stakeholders. With new fringe elements gradually filling the voids in national identity discourses and public interest being inextricably linked with state and private funding, a drift towards un-scientific narratives threatens education, conservation efforts and research. A warning emerges: engage with archaeologies as agency products of today, or face irrelevance as the ancient Romans gradually lose their public appeal.

Grave concerns: The theoretical aspects of Roman funerary archaeology in Slovenia

Kaja Stemberger Flegar – PJP d.o.o. Arheološko podjetje

Brina Zagorc – Universität Wien

Iza Jamar Anderle – Pre-Construct Archaeology

This paper addresses the Roman funerary archaeology of Slovenia in terms of the different theoretical approaches utilised by Slovenian researchers. Already by examining the topics of studies that went beyond the scope of *Fundberichte*, certain patterns of preferred research are discernible. Usually the topics are closely tied to material culture, through which the authors seek to interpret the social standing and “ethnicity” of the deceased, in the latter case invoking phenomena such as “Romanisation”. In the first decade of the 21st century, there was a more explicit turn towards theoretical considerations, mainly by applying Western archaeological theories to case studies from

Slovenia. However, “homegrown” theoretical approaches remain underdeveloped. We will focus on the questions of why and how certain aspects of interpretation were influenced by the historical events that shaped Slovenia, and how the Slovenian language has aided, impeded, or even misled the interpretations. Furthermore, we will explore the potential for the future development of different theoretical approaches in the sphere of funerary archaeology in Slovenia, taking into consideration also the growing body of insights derived from bioarchaeological methodologies concerning topics such as sex, age, and ethnicity.

A Pannonian rural landscape in theory and practice: Economy, society and rural life in the hinterland of Aquincum (Óbuda, Hungary)

Bence Simon – Eötvös Loránd Tudományegyetem

The Roman rural landscapes of the Pannonias are mostly understudied, especially when one examines how they came to be and developed as complex economic and social systems. In my paper I summarize the theoretical framework behind the development of the hinterland of Aquincum (Óbuda, Hungary) in the 1st-4th century CE, concentrating on the assumed interactions between the urban and the rural sphere and the transitions from an indigenous Celtic settlement network to a vicus landscape and then to a presumed villa landscape in late Antiquity. I will argue that, although after the Roman occupation the rural settlement network somewhat changed, the geography of power, the population and main drivers of interactions prevailed, resulting in an indigenous influence on settlement types, settlement network, and in burial practices to a certain extent. However, the paper will stress, that social and economic integration was encouraged by the closeness and administrative authority of Aquincum, the military presence in the region, and exactly by the same indigenous elite and roads of native origin. The paper concludes with a case study on the north- and south-western hinterland, explicitly addressing the archaeologically attested differences and similarities between these regions and examine the problem of late Roman transformation.

‘Becoming-Military-Community’ in Dalmatia: The Epigraphic Dimension of the Communal Emergence of *Legio VII*

Ewan Shanks Coopey – Macquarie University

Studies of Roman military communities are often theoretically informed and assertive of the social power of individuals. However, they tend to be symbolically and representationally focused and informed by concepts of agency and practice. Reconstructions therefore typically underplay, or rather underexplore, the impactful place of the non-human—such as epigraphic material—in the social fabric of being. Drawing upon assemblage thinking and relational community studies, I offer a new materialist interpretation of Roman military communities, seeing them as vibrant assemblages of objects and humans coming together at several scales. These communities are constantly in motion, emerging differently across the provinces. Working within this framework, I explore how tombstones and other inscribed materials could ‘become-communal’ and were complicit in the (re)construction of military communities using a case study from 1st century CE Dalmatia: the monuments of *Legio VII*. The senses of communion felt amongst the soldiers and extended community members were evidently complex and emerged because of several human–non-human and combatant–non-combatant relations. This case study also highlights the breadth of material available in the southeastern European regions of the Roman Empire, and the value of future engagements with it.

The Issue of Stone-paved Roads in Northwestern Croatia

Jere Drpić – Institut za arheologiju

Roman stone-paved roads, an image that is most often served in popular culture, influence not only the formation of the image of Roman roads among “ordinary” people but also in some cases among scholars. The area in focus for this study, is the area of the southwestern part of Roman Pannonia, today situated in northwestern Croatia, which is not at all different in this regard. Moreover, for some roads built with stone, the adjective Roman has already been used in the scientific literature, without any solid evidence being offered. The aim of this study is therefore to present and offer the theoretical framework and approach applied for the first time in the research of Roman roads within this study area. Special emphasis will be on the stone-paved roads in the Kalnik Mountains, as an illustration of this issue. This approach, I believe, could lead to a shift in a “way of thinking” and to a deeper understanding, of not just stone-paved roads, but also of Roman roads in general considering the study area, as a “groundwork for the road” along which the research of Roman roads in northwestern Croatia could go in future.



Invasive Species – the impact of the Roman military on local agricultural and ecological systems

Tanja Romankiewicz – The University of Edinburgh

Gillian Taylor – Teesside University

Richard Madgwick – Cardiff University

The impact of the advancing Roman army on local systems remains a hotly debated topic. Social and political impacts have been traced through changes in settlement patterns or by investigating strategies of control over conquered communities. Studies on production, consumption and exchange consider Rome's economic impact, including goods but also agricultural resources. All this leaves not only an imprint on the conquered people, but also the conquered environment.

This session would like to hear of new research analysing this impact on local agricultural and ecological systems. We particularly welcome presentations on new scientific methods to answer how, for example, the need of feeding a field army and stationed garrisons with grain, meat and dairy changed local agricultural practices and ultimately landscape use and exploitation? How have the building projects using stone, timber and turf to create the military infrastructure affected woodland cover, pastures and quarry sites? Has increased metalworking and other industries not only consumed raw materials but also polluted local environments, including soils and watercourses? Was this impact simply exploitative or actively managed, and by whom? To what extent did local agency come to play in this? And can we see changes in Rome's invasive impact over time?

Thursday 11th (PM)		Room 5 - C3.09
13:30	Introduction	
13:40	Landscapes Beyond Walls: Exploring societies on the Roman Empire's northern frontier through palaeoenvironmental reconstruction (<i>Sophie McDonald, Derek Hamilton, Ian Hardwick, Dave Cowley & Manuel Fernández-Götz</i>)	
14:00	Reconstructing Microbial Communities Within Roman Turf Ramparts (<i>Caroline H. Orr, Gillian Taylor, Ben Russell, Tom Gardner, Andrew Birley & Tanja Romankiewicz</i>)	
14:20	Conquering the Fields of Yorkshire: Crops, Weeds, and Romans (<i>Neal Payne</i>)	
14:40	Exploring consumption patterns during the Roman period in Harelbeke, Belgium via sedaDNA analysis (<i>Kadir Toykan Özdoğan, Kevin Nota, Roy van Mousch, Arjen de Groot & Gertjan Plets</i>)	
15:00	BREAK	
15:30	The subsistence perspectives on Roman military presence at the barbarian territories of the Middle Danube during the Marcomannic wars (<i>Balázs Komoróczy & Marek Vlach</i>)	
15:50	Feeding the Roman Army in Britain: A Multi-Proxy Investigation into Animal Management, Supply Networks and the Impact on Local Agricultural Systems (<i>Richard Madgwick, Leia Mion, Hongjiao Ma, Angela Lamb & Peter Guest</i>)	
16:10	The Camp at Pooh Corner. Or, Ancient Environmental Warfare (<i>Mike Dobson</i>)	

Landscapes Beyond Walls: Exploring societies on the Roman Empire's northern frontier through palaeoenvironmental reconstruction

Sophie McDonald – University of Glasgow

Derek Hamilton – University of Glasgow

Ian Hardwick – The University of Edinburgh

Dave Cowley – Historic Environment Scotland

Manuel Fernández-Götz – The University of Edinburgh

The Beyond Walls project aims to explore the impact of Roman occupation in Northern Britain, analysing settlement and land use in the area between and around Hadrian's Wall and the Antonine Wall. The project is looking at trends and changes over the long-term – c.500 BC-AD 500 – in a study area extending from northern England to the southernmost part of the Scottish Highlands, adopting a multi-scalar, interdisciplinary approach. This includes reviewing published survey and excavation data and grey literature; incorporating remote-sensing data; producing new radiocarbon dates from excavated sites; and collating and producing palaeoenvironmental datasets. This paper will focus on the project's palaeoenvironmental strand, looking at spatial and temporal variation in any impacts of the Roman presence on vegetation in our study area, and linking this to economic and social factors. Although the region is well-served in terms of legacy palaeoenvironmental records, for many of these datasets there are relatively few scientific dates, limiting their interpretation. This paper will outline the methodology of the palaeoenvironmental strand of the project, which, alongside creating new datasets from previously unstudied sites, involves revisiting sites with published palynological records where improved chronological resolution could refine existing narratives.

Reconstructing Microbial Communities Within Roman Turf Ramparts

Caroline H. Orr – Teesside University

Gillian Taylor – Teesside University

Ben Russell – The University of Edinburgh

Tom Gardner – Historic Environment Scotland

Andrew Birley – Vindolanda Trust

Tanja Romankiewicz – The University of Edinburgh

The Grassroots project used microbial and geochemical methods to study turf blocks taken from preserved turf ramparts at the Roman fort of Vindolanda, UK. The turf blocks used to build these ramparts presented visually intact sequences of prehistoric and Roman vegetation covers as well as topsoil and subsoil layers. Our aim was to develop a proof-of-concept methodology for reconstructing ancient environmental conditions and studying land use. For this study a range of samples were taken:

1. Bulk grab samples across two vertical profiles taken at systematic intervals in the field,
2. Boxed field samples, sub-sampled in the lab targeting different soil horizons and layers characterised by micromorphology,
3. Samples from resinated box samples from which thin section slides had been prepared already.

This presentation presents results of the bacterial and fungal communities identified within the samples specifically focusing on linking the microbial communities to the identified soil horizons within the turf. It is thought that preservation of the environmental conditions within turf at Vindolanda stabilises the microbial community and is indicative of soil conditions at the time. It is hoped that studying these communities further allows a more detailed understanding of microbially mediated processes such as nutrient cycling at the time and provide an insight into agricultural practices for the production of turf.

Conquering the Fields of Yorkshire: Crops, Weeds, and Romans

Neal Payne – University of Cambridge

My presentation explores the extent to which Roman annexation stimulated change in the crops and weeds of Yorkshire's arable fields. I take a vertical perspective, contextualizing these Roman period changes through the incorporation of data from the Iron Age to differentiate Roman plant introductions and the proliferation of pre-existing introductions. My research synthesizes both published and unpublished archaeobotanical reports, collating

and standardizing data from 6500 contexts originating from 550 archaeological sites throughout Yorkshire to situate Roman period changes within their broader chronological context. I will discuss the macrobotanical and palynological evidence for new cereal crops and weed species introduced across the Pre-Roman Iron Age and the Roman period, and the role of conquest in their wider proliferation. Additionally, the incorporation of weed ecology modelling allows contextualization of the composition of agriculture fields and their temporal evolution. Together, this approach explores the trajectories of cereal cultivation prior to the Roman annexation, the influence of Roman rule, and the impact of the decline of Roman centralized institutions on these arable practices.

Exploring consumption patterns during the Roman period in Harelbeke, Belgium via sedaDNA analysis

Kadir Toykan Özdoğan – Universiteit Utrecht

Kevin Nota – Max-Planck-Institut für evolutionäre Anthropologie

Roy van Mousch – BAAC: Archeologie Bouwhistorie

Arjen de Groot – Wagenigen Environmental Research

Gertjan Plets – Universiteit Utrecht

Recent studies show that sedaDNA methods could provide information about the biodiversity of past environments. This study explores the use of sedaDNA methods to investigate past consumption habits and their implications on the northwestern border zones of the Roman Empire (The Lower Germanic *Limes*). We were able to obtain ancient DNA from latrine contents that gave an insight into the biodiversity of the past environment of the region and consumption patterns, with a focus on domestic animal and plant taxa. While our findings were mostly supported by previous archaeozoological and archaeobotanical research they also demonstrated the complementary nature of sedaDNA studies with other archaeological methods for investigating historical periods. Therefore, this study highlights the potential of sedaDNA methods for improving our knowledge of the past and contributes to our understanding of ancient societies and their interactions with the environment. Furthermore, the future sedaDNA research in the *Limes* area has the potential to provide a more comprehensive understanding of consumption habits and trade routes in the borderlands of the Roman Empire.

The subsistence perspectives on Roman military presence at the barbarian territories of the Middle Danube during the Marcomannic wars

Balázs Komoróczy – Akademie věd České republiky

Marek Vlach – Akademie věd České republiky

The Middle Danube region during the Roman Period has become a specific scene of multifaceted Roman-Germanic interactions. The periods of economic and diplomatic activities were occasionally interrupted by military confrontations. The large-scale military conflict of the Marcomannic wars impacted significantly not only the Middle Danube region's borderland but also deep into the Germanic and Roman worlds. The number of direct and indirect evidence of the Roman military operations and their spatial distribution throughout the Germanic territories allows for assumptions about strategic and tactical concepts of the Roman military leadership. The questions about the Roman army's subsistence and logistics are firmly embedded within the topic. The size of the military operation region of the Marcomannic settlement zone testifies to considerable provisioning requirements. The evidence for reconstruction and understanding of its various aspects through the archaeobotanical record originates in the Roman military installations or the local Germanic context. Apart from qualitative aspects, various quantitative ones are explored through digital modelling and simulation (agent-based modelling) as a complementary part of the research. Based on the existing data, various estimates and proxies (archaeology, Roman historiography, geomorphology, etc.), the model is aimed to test assumptions about the Roman army's logistic requirements of the presence in the enemy territory and use the featuring transportation means.

Feeding the Roman Army in Britain: A Multi-Proxy Investigation into Animal Management, Supply Networks and the Impact on Local Agricultural Systems

Richard Madgwick – Cardiff University

Leia Mion – Cardiff University

Hongjiao Ma – Cardiff University

Angela Lamb – British Geological Survey

Peter Guest – Vianova Archaeology and Heritage Services

The effective supply of the army on the frontiers was key to the success of Roman imperialism, yet we know very little of the strategies employed on Britannia's frontiers. The impact of garrisons on the surrounding landscapes and their populations is also very poorly understood. It is possible that long distance networks of supply meant that the impact on surrounding landscapes and the local agricultural economy was limited. However, it may be that the presence of the legions and auxiliary units necessitated major reorganisation of the agricultural economy with new approaches to animal and landscape management to enhance productivity and meet the army's needs. Feeding the Roman Army in Britain (FRAB) is a Leverhulme Trust-funded project that is exploring these longstanding issues. The project involves a programme of multi-isotope analysis, combining strontium, carbon, nitrogen and sulphur isotopes, integrated with historical, archaeological and zooarchaeological evidence in three frontier zones - Hadrian's Wall, the Antonine Wall, and south Wales. The research is providing, for the first time, a sophisticated understanding of how Roman soldiers were provisioned, and what impact this had on local landscapes, the populace and the agricultural economy.

The Camp at Pooh Corner. Or, Ancient Environmental Warfare

Mike Dobson – University of Exeter

Environmental concerns are a recent matter, and especially for campaigning armies of the past, conserving the landscape can hardly have been a concern. Ancient armies were 'eco-warriors', but in the sense of against the ecosystem, not for it. An army's success may result from marching on its stomach, but what came out of those could also conduct environmental warfare. However, little has been published about soldiers' daily bodily waste – urine and faeces – or the environmental impact of where ancient campaign armies encamped.

An army encamping for any length of time would cause rapid local and increasingly extending environmental change and devastation. Like locusts, forestation would be steadily consumed, water security was a constant concern, and disease from pollution a threat. Food would be sucked into the camps from nearby and from increasingly further afield. As for the growing smell from the camp, the enemy's noses would have been more than adequate to find the Romans. Using the example of Roman armies in the succession of camps related to the 2nd century BC campaigns against the Celtiberian city of Numantia, some eye-watering sewage statistics emerge for when an army encamped, and its general environmental impact.



New Perspectives on Roman York

Martin Millett – University of Cambridge

Thomas Matthews Boehmer – University of Cambridge

In the last few years there has been a new wave of research on Roman York, including an AHRC-funded project (“Beneath the Streets of Roman York”) which has sought to provide a new synthesis based on the extensive past excavations and antiquarian studies combined with new GPR surveys within the city. As this project draws to an end, the results will be shared here for the first time. Other research has included major new excavations by York Archaeology and studies of finds assemblages from past excavations and museum collections. Amongst the latter, impressive results have been provided by digital scanning of plaster burials excavated in the 19th century. This session will discuss results of this innovative and novel work and contribute to a re-thinking of the place of York within the Roman Empire. It will also contextualise Roman York as an important frontier zone fortress-city whilst thinking about the issue of urbanism in such spaces.

Thursday 11th (PM)		Room 6 - C3.11
13:30	Introduction	
13:40	Roman York Beneath the Streets (<i>Martin Millett</i>)	
14:00	Seeing through Medieval York to the city beneath (<i>John Creighton</i>)	
14:20	York’s colonia: facts and factoids (<i>Thomas Matthew Boehmer</i>)	
14:40	BREAK	
15:10	Micklegate and Guildhall: the results from two recent excavations (<i>Paul Flintoft</i>)	
15:30	“Seeing” the Dead. New Research on Roman Gypsum Burials in York (<i>Maureen Carroll</i>)	

Roman York Beneath the Streets

Martin Millett – University of Cambridge

This paper will outline the approach followed in the recently completed *Roman York Beneath the Streets* Project (funded by the AHRC). The project combined a synthesis of all previous archaeological work on the city with the use of GPR survey, seeking to provide new perspective on a key Roman city. The paper first highlights the potential of this approach (that may be helpful in the study of other major centres) and second illustrates some of the outcomes of the study with an emphasis on viewing York as a single but complex whole which can be studied through diverse strands of evidence.

Seeing through Medieval York to the city beneath

John Creighton – University of Reading

This paper focuses on the Legionary Fortress side of the River Ouse, overlain by the fabric of the medieval and modern city, and where excavations has been heavily restricted in the name of preservation. One of the aims of the *RYBS Project* was to examine all the known excavations, evaluations, and watching briefs; but alongside this collation and critical review we also wanted to conduct some new analysis and fieldwork to try to contextualise all of this information. The first approach was to investigate the ancient topography by enhancing the deposit model of the city (in a project led by Kristina Krawiec, York Archaeology). While the second approach was to experiment with ground penetrating radar, using both commercial services and work with Lieven Verdonk (University of Ghent/Cambridge) in the open areas of the city: primarily around the Minster and directly under the streets, to join up the gaps between excavations and boreholes. The paper will focus on what worked, what didn't, and the potential of such approaches to investigate this and other cityscapes.

York's *colonia*: facts and factoids

Thomas Matthews Boehmer – University of Cambridge

York's civil settlement was designated as a *colonia* in the early 3rd century. Usually believed to underlie the area to the south-west of the River Ouse, its remains were long known to include baths, houses, and shrines. The exhaustive analysis of this area by the *RYBS Project* illustrates that its history is more variegated than previously realised. By drawing together a variety of different sources, as well as comparanda from other fortress-cities in the Roman Empire, this talk will ask whether this area was ever truly 'urbanised', and in so doing probe the suggestive evidence for a sanctuary complex, and the different developmental pathways of particular zones.

Micklegate and Guildhall: the results from two recent excavations

Paul Flintoft – York Archaeology

Two recently completed large excavations in York have provided significant insight into the 2nd-to-4th-century occupation of York. Sites at Micklegate and Guildhall (fieldwork completed in spring 2023 and autumn 2020, respectively) have provided evidence of social and economic change within both extra-mural settlement north-east of the river and the *Colonia* from the 2nd century. Growth within these districts can be characterised as domestic in nature, with a change in emphasis towards civic requirements. Adjustments to land use on the fringes of the fortress in the 3rd century could reflect a re-emergence of military priorities linked to refurbishment in the period leading up

to Imperial presence in the early 3rd century. Settlement within the *Colonia* reflects refurbishment and prosperity in the 3rd century, with a shift toward small-scale craft production in the 4th century.

"Seeing" the Dead. New Research on Roman Gypsum Burials in York

Maureen Carroll – University of York

This paper presents a project on the funerary custom in York in the 3rd/4th c. CE of pouring liquid gypsum over the shrouded bodies of individuals in stone or lead coffins before burial. The gypsum casings preserve body contours and precious textile imprints that we can bring to life through 3D-imaging. We aim to understand the context of this practice and the motivation for the encasing of the dead. Why and for whom was this funerary custom chosen? What do the shrouds and clothing reveal about status and social identity? And what cultural and biological reasons might have determined this particular ritual?



Britannia et Germania: a comparative and collaborative approach

Isabel Annal – University College London

Despite the obvious similarities between the Roman provinces of Britannia and Germania – most notably their complex frontier systems, and regular and ongoing imperial interactions with Barbaricum – surprisingly few collaborative and comparative archaeological studies have been published. There is evidence showing that movement between Britannia and Germania, both of objects and people, was commonplace, but today few scholars appear to be working on material from both provinces.

This session welcomes papers covering a range of data sets from Britannia, Germania Superior and Germania Inferior, as well as papers comparing approaches to the archaeology of these provinces. The aim of the session is to investigate the similarities and differences between the Roman provinces of Britannia and Germania, to encourage greater connectivity in our research, and to highlight how archaeological approaches to one province may inform investigation of another.

Thursday 11th (PM)		Room 7 - C3.15
13:30	Introduction (<i>Isabel Annal</i>)	
13:40	Postmarked Not Published: How Correspondence between Britain and Germany Shaped Roman Frontier Research (<i>Catherine Teitz</i>)	
14:00	Infant burials in frontier provinces: romanised practices or native traditions? (<i>Isabel Annal</i>)	
14:20	Comparison and analysis of coin data: Britannia, Noricum and Germania Inferior, a single economic zone or disparate provinces? (<i>Mathias Johansen</i>)	
14:50	BREAK	
15:20	The RomAniDat network, a zooarchaeological Big Data initiative. A comparative analysis of data from eastern Britannia and north-western Germania (<i>Anthony King</i>)	
15:40	Lead in the Late Antique world and the end of the Romano-British trade (<i>Julia Becker, read by Eckhard Deschler-Erb</i>)	

Postmarked Not Published: How Correspondence between Britain and Germany Shaped Roman Frontier Research

Catherine Teitz – Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz

Eric Birley was one of the most influential British scholars of Roman frontier studies in the twentieth century. His work was shaped by his time in and connections to Germany, beginning as a student in the 1920s. Although he spent World War II in British Military Intelligence assessing the strength of German forces, he quickly re-established links post-war with German scholars, as demonstrated at the first Congress of Roman Frontier Studies in 1949. Birley emphasized an international and collaborative approach to *Limesforschung*, which has become a hallmark of the field. This paper draws on correspondence from archives including the Vindolanda Trust and the Römisch-Germanische Kommission to trace the scope of Birley's intellectual network in Germany. It examines the frequency of communication, content, and tone of exchanges with Ernst Fabricius, Kurt Stade, Gerhard Bersu, Wilhelm Schleiermacher, and others. In particular, it assesses whether and how Birley's connections change after the war, in light of the broader German academic and institutional reorganization. The correspondence illuminates not only the extent and depth of this international network, but also how the participation in this community shaped both sides' interpretations of their respective frontiers.

Infant burials in frontier provinces: romanised practices or native traditions?

Isabel Annal – University College London

A comparison of infant burials from Roman Britannia and Germania Superior shows a surprising consistency of practices, but some noticeable differences. This paper summarises these practices, and looks to explain why some are so consistent while others differ. Infant burials found on villa sites from the two provinces appear to follow the same general rituals, particularly in terms of where the babies have been deposited. Is this similarity simply the result of villa owners (i.e., wealthy citizens) readily adopting Roman beliefs and burial customs? In contrast, the few differences seen between infant burials within formal cemeteries – for example, the regular occurrence of multiple grave goods in Germania, compared to relatively few furnished graves in Britannia – implies that a different set of customs may have been in operation across the two provinces. If the consistency seen on villa sites is a result of Roman practices being adopted, can the differences seen in cemeteries be ascribed to a continuation of native traditions? If so, is this indicative of different reactions to Roman rule from the lower and upper classes?

Comparison and analysis of coin data: Britannia, Noricum and Germania Inferior, a single economic zone or disparate provinces?

Mathias Johansen

This preliminary study seeks to investigate the economic interconnectivity, or lack thereof, in a broader region of the Roman Empire. Namely, the provinces of Britannia, Noricum and Germania Inferior, by making use of quantitative data to measure and compare the spread and circulation of coins in the provinces along the North-Western border of the Empire. Broadly comparable, with a significant military presence and without access to the Mediterranean Sea, these provinces offer a compelling case study of economic patterns in a more distant part of the Roman Empire. Comparing the large volume of available coin data, we are able to make broad, but relevant, comparisons of coin patterns and circulation speed, and thereby measure broad trends and patterns in provincial economies as a whole. This can help shed light on how uniform the border provinces were in an economic sense. Was trade and coin circulation similar along much of the border, or did the provinces differ from each other, indicating that there was significant disparity in economic patterns along the border zone?

The RomAniDat network, a zooarchaeological Big Data initiative. A comparative analysis of data from eastern Britannia and north-western Germania

Anthony King – University of Winchester

This paper outlines the RomAniDat initiative, a collaborative network amassing zooarchaeological data pertaining to the ancient Roman world. It consists of an organized network of independent databases, assembled according to spatial parameters and dedicated to accumulating data relating to faunal abundance. Data, synthesized from the different databases, is disseminated via the Pandora data platform, which also supports methods for data visualization, summarization, and analysis. The first publication of the RomAniDat initiative featured faunal data from Italy, covering the period from 500 BCE to 500 CE (Schmidtová et al. 2023). Since then, the RomAniDat network has broadened its scope to include additional databases focused on Roman Netherlands and Great Britain. This presentation aims to provide a comparative overview of the rich zooarchaeological datasets from eastern Britannia and north-western Germania, highlighting their current status and illustrating their research potential through modelling case studies.

Lead in the Late Antique world and the end of the Romano-British trade

Julia Becker – Universität zu Köln

How connected was the Roman world in Late Antiquity? Where did the raw material lead come from and on which routes was it transported? Is the withdrawal of the troops at the beginning of the 5th century really the end of the Roman presence in Britain? In order to answer these questions, this project envisages an interdisciplinary investigation. Lead is an ideal case study in this context considering that Roman's society enormous demand, paired with relatively few lucrative lead ore deposits, resulted in transregional trade contacts and long transport routes. In historical research, a widespread collapse of long-distance trade is assumed for Late Antiquity. The finds of Roman lead ingots from Derbyshire on the Rhine and Danube, as well as the shipwreck of Ploumanac'h with its lead cargo point in a different direction – at least in peacetime phases trade between Britannia and the north-western provinces on the mainland seems to have been revived. One focus of the project are lead isotope analyses on selected lead finds. This will make it possible to determine where the lead originated. The results will be evaluated and visualized using network studies and digital cartography. The aim of the work is to shed light on an otherwise often neglected era and its entanglement in a transregional network.



Roman Britain

Peter Guest – Vianova Archaeology & Heritage Services

Since its inception, the Roman Archaeology Conference has included an open session dedicated to the archaeology of Roman Britain. RAC2024 is no exception, but this time the session will focus on the contribution of commercial and independent organisations to the study of Roman Britain.

Speakers will be invited to present the results of archaeological projects, including excavations, initiated or led by commercial contractors, independent archaeological organisations, and local societies or communities (including multi-partner collaborative projects). Presentations can be on any project, large or small, but proposals will be encouraged to explore how their results have contributed, or could contribute, to the study of Roman Britain, including RAC2024's main research themes such as new scientific applications in Roman archaeology, decentering and decolonizing Roman archaeology, globalization and materiality, and archaeological ethics.

Friday 12th (AM)		Room 1 - Elvin Hall
09:30	Introduction (<i>Peter Guest</i>)	
09:40	Re-investigating Richborough: correcting the narrative (<i>Philip Smither</i>)	
10:00	Trouble up north: reassessing the evidence from Ambleside Fort (<i>John Reid & Manuel Fernández-Götz</i>)	
10:20	Two richly furnished early 2nd-century cremation burials from Carlisle and their continental parallels (<i>Matthew S. Hobson</i>)	
10:40	Challenging the 'received wisdom' at Caistor Roman Town (<i>Natasha Harlow</i>)	
11:00	BREAK	
11:30	Urbanism in Roman Wales: a new look at Roman Carmarthen (<i>Siân Thomas</i>)	
11:50	The Roman villa at Llanwern: new perspectives on the Gwent Levels (<i>Andrew Pearson</i>)	
12:10	Dolaucothi - applications of digital technology to investigate ancient technology (<i>Edward Taylor</i>)	
12:30	The Teynham Triton: the sculpture and excavations of a mausoleum and cemetery (<i>Richard Helm, Richard Hobbs & Robert Masefield</i>)	

Re-investigating Richborough: correcting the narrative

Philip Smither – Portable Antiquities Scheme, West Berkshire Museum

Richborough, a Roman site on the east coast of Kent, has been studied academically since the 16th century. In the 1920s and 30s, excavations took place under the auspices of the Society of Antiquaries and the directorship of J.P. Bushe-Fox. For almost 100 years the Richborough archive has been left understudied and the tome that is Richborough V has been the sole source on which to base the conclusions of subsequent studies. This paper re-examines these conclusions focusing on Richborough from AD 43 to the mid-second century. In this time Richborough changed from an invasion harbour to a bustling port town, but not in the way described in the literature, and places Richborough in its wider archaeological and historical context. This re-examination has been achieved by using up to date analytical and digital techniques, including mapping the site in GIS, to modernise the site archive. This study also highlights why it is important we revisit and digitise antiquarian archives before they become further removed in time from their context. The digitisation of the archive makes it more accessible for future study which has not been possible until now.

Trouble up north: reassessing the evidence from Ambleside Fort

John Reid – Trimontium Trust

Manuel Fernández-Götz – The University of Edinburgh

This paper presents the results of ongoing research at Ambleside Roman Fort (Lake District, NW England). Throughout the years, a number of lead sling bullets have been found around the fort, showing a distribution pattern that seems to suggest a conflict scenario rather than storage or accidental loss. In addition, the discovery of a tombstone inscription in the 1960s, naming two soldiers killed by the enemy within the fort, records an attack on the fort by an outside force. Since 2021 we have been carrying out a systematic programme of conflict archaeology research at Ambleside, including a reassessment of previous evidence, isotope analysis of existing sling bullets, and targeted fieldwork including surveys and excavations. This work has been carried out thanks to the help of numerous volunteers from the Trimontium Trust, as well as the support of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society. Our results have substantially increased the number of confirmed and possible sling bullets, significantly strengthening the hypothesis of at least one external attack on the fort, with the garrison defending itself by shooting from the ramparts. The results are exceptional since they represent one of the very few archaeologically documented cases of an attack on a Roman fort identified throughout the Empire.

Two richly furnished early 2nd-century cremation burials from Carlisle and their continental parallels

Matthew S. Hobson – Wardell Armstrong

Excavations in 2015 on Botchergate in Carlisle revealed part of a Roman cremation cemetery containing two exceptionally richly furnished burials. There are no parallels in the north of Britain for the suites of ceramic accessory vessels contained in the burials, and nothing particularly similar has been excavated in the funerary record of the south-east either. The closest parallels in fact are known from the region of the France/Belgium border in the territories of the *Nervii*, *Atrebates*, *Morini* and *Menapii*. Large excavations of cemeteries, such as at Bavay and Blicquy, demonstrate the emergence of a distinctive burial tradition in this region in the late 1st c. AD, becoming more widespread during the 2nd century. Suites of miniature vessels interred with the cremated remains mimicked the form of bronze vessels of the period. The locally made miniature vessels in the Carlisle burials reproduce similar forms and in a similar fabric. This area of the Nord and Pas de Calais departments in France and adjacent areas in Belgium (Hainaut and western Flanders) was a major source of auxiliary recruits. Many Nervian cohorts, for example, appear to have come to Britain as early as the AD 70s, and this would explain the observed phenomenon.

Challenging the ‘received wisdom’ at Caistor Roman Town

Natasha Harlow – Caistor Roman Project

The *civitas* capital of Venta Icenorum at Caistor St Edmund near Norwich was long thought to be a military emplacement, imposed upon the rebellious Iceni in the aftermath of the Boudican uprising of 61 CE. Excavations in the 1930s reinforced this narrative, with interpretations which attempted to fit the archaeology into the ‘received wisdom’ of Tacitus and Cassius Dio’s accounts. Since 2009, the Caistor Roman Project has reassessed the origins and development of the town and its hinterland, with an ongoing programme of excavation, survey and archive work. Caistor Roman Project is a community-led charitable organisation which currently has over one hundred members and a dedicated team of active trustees and volunteers who perform everything from fundraising to finds processing. In this paper, recent discoveries by Caistor Roman Project at the extra-mural temple complex and in the ‘industrial suburb’ to the east of the walled town will be presented. New evidence for an early focus of activity in these areas has upturned previous theories about the *civitas* capital’s origins. This hints at a very different sequence of events which diverges from the Classical literature and its battles between colonised and coloniser in which Rome was inevitably victorious and the Britons inevitably subjugated and assimilated.

Urbanism in Roman Wales: a new look at Roman Carmarthen

Siân Thomas – Archaeology Wales Ltd

Moridunum, which lies under modern Carmarthen, is one of only two Roman towns known in Wales, the other being Caerwent. Excavations undertaken by Archaeology Wales in 2018 afforded a rare opportunity to excavate within the Roman town and add to our knowledge of Roman urbanism in Wales. The results of the excavations combined with previous evidence have shown that it is likely that the origins of Moridunum lie in the Trajanic period, earlier than previously thought. The town then developed organically, with little evidence of a planned settlement until the middle of the 2nd century. Occupation across the site continued into the 4th century, with the remains of a number of buildings and street surfaces being recorded. Although located close to the western edge of the Empire, the evidence suggests Moridunum was little different to other Romano-British towns. Products from across the Empire were bought and sold, new styles of dress were adopted along with new ways of eating. As part of this new food products were introduced, including beet and fennel, a first for Roman Wales. This paper will explore the results of the excavation and put them into their wider context.

The Roman villa at Llanwern: new perspectives on the Gwent Levels

Andrew Pearson – Cotswold Archaeology

The Gwent Levels, an extensive reclaimed intertidal landscape alongside the River Severn in South Wales, have long been recognized as having an association with the Roman occupation of the region. A significant number of modest settlements have been discovered here which leave no doubt about the fact of Roman settlement, and exploitation, of the Gwent Levels. There is also a longstanding theory that they were a creation of the Second Legion and formed part of an imperial *territorium*. The recent identification of a Roman site at Llanwern, situated just on the dryland margin, is a significant new discovery. Its high status marks it out as distinct from the utilitarian settlements on the adjacent levels, while the finds assemblage includes certain items which point to a military connection. Furthermore, the original stone building with mosaic floors and decorated plaster walls, interpreted as a villa, existed alongside (or was perhaps replaced by) an apsidal building that could have been a shrine or temple. The modern excavation of a villa in South-East Wales is rare, investigations of other high-status Roman complexes in the region having been classic examples of late 19th and early 20th-century archaeology. The site opens up an opportunity for

contextualising within a regional framework – revisiting, for example, the evidence from other known and proposed ‘villa’ sites in the Caerleon-Caerwent hinterland, for perceptions of settlement distribution, character and density, soldier/civilian interactions, and for our understanding of how the Gwent Levels were administered and managed.

Dolaucothi – applications of digital technology to investigate ancient technology

Edward Taylor – The National Trust

The goldmining landscape at Dolaucothi is of international significance and is designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Interlinked pits, spoil heaps, trenches, channels, leats, adits, mine entrances, shafts, galleries, tracks, tramways, cover approximately one square kilometre. Thought to have been mined during the Roman occupation of Wales (contemporary references can be found in Tacitus: *Agricola*, XII :“*Britain produces gold ...*” and Ptolemy: *Geography*, XI 2,13 : *LUENTINUM*) recent research suggests that the site could be pre Roman in origin. Unique in Britain the complexity and density of the archaeology indicates a potential for enhancing our understanding of prehistoric and Roman industrial technology employed at Dolaucothi and elsewhere in Europe such as at Tresminas, Portugal and Las Meduals, Spain. Application of remote sensing and digital technologies (laser scanning) have unlocked new information about the extent and relationships of the underground and above ground mine workings, this paper presents the results of that recent survey and discusses opportunities to enhance our understanding of Roman mining technology through the application of digital technology.

The Teynham Triton: the sculpture and excavations of a mausoleum and cemetery

Richard Helm – Canterbury Archaeological Trust

Richard Hobbs – British Museum

Robert Masefield – RPS Consulting

In August 2023, archaeologists from the Canterbury Archaeological Trust excavated a remarkable statue of the demi-god Triton in a clay lined water tank at Teynham, Kent, just beside Watling Street, in advance of a new housing development. This paper will discuss the significance of the statue, which likely dates to the 1st to 2nd century AD, for our understanding of provincial art and the importance of marine imagery to the culture and society of early Roman Britain. It will also look at the site in its wider context; the sculpture was found in a water tank with evidence that it was placed there in a ritualised manner. The tank was located outside of a walled and ditched enclosure, inside of which was found a square structure believed to be a mausoleum. The latter structure appears to have been demolished in the early fourth century, the period during which it is thought that the statue was deposited. Several Roman and probably later burials were found within and immediately adjacent to these enclosures, some of which contained grave goods. The paper will reflect on the possible links between the mausoleum and other Roman remains nearby, including that of a Roman villa located at Bax Hill Farm, and the wider context of funerary architecture in Roman Britain and beyond.



For a Feminist, Postcolonial, Roman Archaeology

Mauro Puddu – Università Ca' Foscari Venezia

To what extent have feminist theories been integrated as a fundamental component of Roman archaeology? While the question of gender studies within the field has been discussed since TRAC's inception by Eleanor Scott in 1993, and its aims reinforced by Louise Revell in 2010 and Amy Russell in 2016, feminist theories are still only sporadically applied to the broader understanding of the Roman world, often limited to specific contexts. Our objective is to bring feminist inquiries to the forefront of our understanding of the past. In this session, we seek to reflect on the extent to which postcolonial archaeologies have effectively interacted with, incorporated - or embodied - feminist theories, thus shedding new light on the Roman world.

We intend to challenge the assumption that the histories of women in antiquity are burdened by three layers of subalternity. These layers include 1) the subordination of women to men; 2) the marginalisation of women from subaltern communities (such as farmers) whose stories have been (and continue to be) silenced by the dominant narratives of elites; 3) the disproportionate focus on elite women (such as emperors' mothers and wives, noblewomen) while neglecting the experiences of the majority of women.

Our speakers are encouraged to engage particularly - but not exclusively - with the matter of data biases (e.g. the exclusive representation of white men in a simple web search for Roman Empire images). Additionally, we invite engagement with body theory (i.e. Judith Butler's body in assemblage), postcolonialism (i.e. the role of women in Antonio Gramsci's 25th prison notebook, on subalterns), and posthumanism in order to further enrich the discussions. By critically examining the integration of feminist theories and exploring alternative perspectives, this session aims to challenge existing biases, uncover silenced narratives, and contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the Roman world.

Friday 12th (AM)		Room 2 - Drama Studio
09:30	Introduction (<i>Mauro Puddu</i>)	
09:40	Black Feminisms in Roman Archaeology (<i>Lylaah Bhalerao</i>)	
10:00	Rewriting the Narrative of Mime-Actresses through Epitaphs: A Feminist Perspective (<i>Muditha Dharmasiri</i>)	
10:20	Visualising women in history: How new technologies can help us go from atomised stories to actual women integration (<i>Ludovica Xavier de Silva</i>)	
10:40	BREAK	
11:10	Provincial coins with women on the obverse: the Roman Empire's "Hi Barbie." (<i>Raffaella Bucolo & Julia Lenaghan</i>)	
11:30	Women and Money in Ancient Rome (<i>Josy Luginbühl</i>)	

Black Feminisms in Roman Archaeology?

Lylaah Bhalerao – New York University

30 years ago, Shelley Haley asked if there is a role for Black feminist thought in Classics. She argued that “through Black feminist thought, classics can be radically transformed from a discipline into a multiracial, multicultural, multivalent field which better reflects the ancient world it studies” (Haley 1993, 38). Now I ask: to what extent, and how effectively, has Black feminist thought been integrated into the study of Roman Archaeology? Whilst feminist thought has gained traction in the field, can the same be said of Black feminist thought, which faces further marginalization and subalternity because of its existence at the intersection of race and gender? Furthermore, how can Black feminist thought help us to tackle the underrepresentation of non-white women in the Roman material record and to better understand their presence? Evaluating a range of evidence from Pompeiian wall-paintings to tombstones in Roman Britain, I will engage with the works of Saidiya Hartman, Sylvia Wynter, Zakiyyah Iman Jackson, and others, to demonstrate the value of integrating Black feminist thought into the study of Roman material culture—it will enable us, in the words of Haley, “to re-member, to re-claim, to re-empower” ancient non-white women.

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Rewriting the Narrative of Mime-Actresses through Epitaphs: A Feminist Perspective

Muditha Dharmasiri – Maynooth University

In an era where the re-evaluation of history through feminist lenses is gaining prominence, it is vital to explore the significance of feminist inquiries and alternative perspectives in reshaping our understanding of *mimae*. The marginalisation of the female performer in Rome from the dominant narratives of the elites erased the narrative of the talented performer. The Roman perspective on them, illuminated how legal constraints and societal perceptions relegated them to the lowest strata of society, often equating them with prostitutes. However, in their epitaphs, the dedicators honored and acknowledged the profession of the deceased woman as a significant part of her identity when remembering her. They were addressed with terms such as *docta*, *erodita*, and even with titles like *archimima*. They are presented differently, but why are they presented differently? Butler states how gender performativity and body politics emphasize the constructed nature of gender identity and the impact of societal norms on women’s experiences and bodies. Thus a study of their epitaphs helps to a certain extent to uncover this unwritten history in the dominant literary culture. This framework sheds light on how the male gaze and objectification hindered the accurate portrayal of these performers, underscoring the necessity of feminist inquiries and alternative perspectives.

Visualising women in history: How new technologies can help us go from atomised stories to actual women integration

Ludovica Xavier de Silva – Università degli Studi di Macerata

The traditional male gaze of historians and archaeologists – still predominant, especially in exhibitions and dissemination content – together with a consistent discrepancy in the amount of data available for Roman men compared to women, have led us to the visualisation, both in research and in dissemination – from documentaries to

museum exhibitions – of environments with few to no women. Especially when producing dissemination content, the impression is that we can safely assume men were everywhere. Still, if we want to represent a woman in a specific context or engaged in a productive activity – other than cooking or retouching makeup – we should be able to defend that choice with solid data. In other words, plausibility is not a choice when talking about ancient women. Starting from the case of a Virtual Reality experience developed for the Republican ceramic kilns at Pollentia-Urbs Salvia (Italy), this paper will try to address the possibility that new technologies, such as AR and VR applications, also combined with experimental archaeology, could serve as starting point to embrace a new perspective on historical reconstructions. Especially when concerned with artisanal activities, this new perspective, forced to overcome the limit of data, could more easily adopt a feminist, postcolonial approach.

Provincial coins with women on the obverse: the Roman Empire’s “Hi Barbie.”

Raffaella Bucolo – Università degli Studi di Verona

Julia Lenaghan – Università degli Studi di Verona

This paper examines the obverses showing women, imperial family members, on the provincial coins of the Roman Empire (now readily available on-line in the RPC database). Cities, throughout the Empire, especially in the Greek East, created such coins with greater variety than the imperial mints and with increasing regularity from the first to the third century. These coins were of low denominations but of frequent use, thus systematically disseminating an image of a woman to every level of the city’s population. The elite body of men responsible for the conception of the coins, viewed the role of women as essential in the political power structure and fundamental to society. From the period of Augustus to Septimius Severus, the coin portraits demonstrate both a set of highly desirable female roles which were inextricably linked to male roles, and that the individuality of the woman represented was of little relevance within the provincial city. Oftentimes the portraits of the different women are distinguished only by legends and they assume the physiognomies of their husbands. Yet, the high visibility of the portraits testifies to inclusivity and indicates that women handled coins, especially small monies, routinely. Society depended on these female roles and men were not complete without them.

Women and Money in Ancient Rome

Josy Luginbühl – Universität Bern

Christian Weiss – Universität Bern

Roman coinage has been studied for hundreds of years. While for a long time the coinage itself was at the centre of numismatic research, in recent decades attention has increasingly been paid to coin use: How great was the monetization of everyday life? Were coin images used as a means of communication for imperial propaganda? Do we have to see hoarding as a ritual as much as a financial activity? At the same time, since the seventies of the last century, feminist approaches have increasingly become prominent in classical studies. What was the purpose of the life and work of Roman women? Where did they appear as an independent agent, where were they restricted in their activities by their gender? In our paper, these two topics are combined by exploring the question of money in the life of women in ancient Rome: by analysing the contemporary written sources, we are able to define areas and situations in which Roman women had money on their own (and to what degree). The combination of the written sources with the corresponding archaeological record leads to new perceptions of Roman coin hoards and coin finds in general.



Riddles of the Sands: Untangling the Roman Glass Industry

Sally Cottam – The Association for the History of Glass

David Marsh – The Association for the History of Glass

Ian Freestone – University College London

The Romans used more glass than any previous society, introducing glass vessels and windows to parts of the world where these had previously been scarce or absent. The Roman glass industry depended upon a complex, multi-stage production chain, from the sourcing of raw materials through to final vessel creation and decoration. Innovations in scientific compositional analysis, information from recent excavations and assemblage research have transformed our understanding of these connections. Raw and recycled glass as well as finished vessels were often transported over long distances, whilst emerging local production centres reveal a simultaneous de-centralisation of the industry.

The intricacies of glass production are a fruitful resource in understanding the relationships between the various elements of the Roman economy with potential insights relevant to other material groups. This session will feature new and established researchers from the UK and overseas.

Friday 12th (AM)		Room 3 - Nunn Hall
09:30	Introduction	
09:40	“You can have any colour you like, as long as it’s blue/green”. The transformation in the appearance of glass vessels c.40-100 CE (<i>Sally Cottam</i>)	
10:00	Variations in colourant technology of fused mosaic glass from the early Roman period (<i>Liam Richards, Ian Freestone & Lucia Burgio</i>)	
10:20	The (un)swept workshop floor: Making sense of a fragmentary glass chaîne opératoire (<i>Thomas J. Derrick</i>)	
10:40	BREAK	
11:10	Glass trade across centuries: A first archaeometric study of glass from the island of Malta (<i>Matthew Grima, Simone Cagno & Daniel Vella</i>)	
11:30	Rivers of Glass (<i>Victoria Sainsbury</i>)	
11:50	Revealing Roman Britain Through Glass: Insights from an Archaeological Database (<i>David Marsh</i>)	

“You can have any colour you like, as long as it’s blue/green”. The transformation in the appearance of glass vessels c.40-100 CE

Sally Cottam – The Association for the History of Glass

The mid to late 1st century CE has long been identified as a period of considerable development in the production of ancient glass, with profound changes in the appearance of glass vessels across the Roman world. Several commentators have recognized this phenomenon, in particular the significant decline in the production of strongly coloured and polychrome glass and the surge in production of blue/green glass. However, no comprehensive typological and chronological analysis of these trends had previously been undertaken. This paper summarises the results of my doctoral thesis, presenting a more refined chronological sequence for these developments as they occur in the western provinces. I will propose a number of possible explanations as to why glass changes so noticeably during this period. The discussion covers topics such as the impact of an increased demand for glass, changes in taste, the role of glass in vessel manufacture and in construction, and the extended chain of production from the raw glass furnaces of the eastern Mediterranean to the secondary artisans of the western empire.

Variations in colourant technology of fused mosaic glass from the early Roman period

Liam Richards – University College London

Ian Freestone – University College London

Lucia Burgio – Victoria and Albert Museum

Fused mosaic glass in the form of inlays and vessels are a signature of the early Imperial Roman period. They were products of an expanding Roman glass industry using techniques developed from the preceding Hellenistic times. The vessels are found mostly in Italy and the western Roman Empire, whereas the inlays are found in Egypt. This study compares the different techniques, materials, and recipes used to produce the various colours found in these objects. 106 objects from the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology have been analysed for 58 major, minor, and trace elements using LA-ICP-MS, and non-invasive Raman Spectroscopy was used to identify opacifiers. Egyptian and Levantine primary glasses were identified on the basis of trace element composition. Opacification was generally due to compounds of antimony and metallic copper but in several cases high concentrations of tin are present. There appear to be different recipes and techniques used to produce the opaque yellow, opaque red, and opaque white glass for the inlays and vessels. The overall results suggest that two different traditions for producing coloured glass were prevalent during this period, one likely based in Egypt, and one in the western Roman Empire.

The (un)swept workshop floor: Making sense of a fragmentary glass *chaîne opératoire*

Thomas J. Derrick – Macquarie University

This paper examines archaeological remains of Roman glassworking activities which might be considered ‘incomplete’ – with significant evidenced gaps in the site’s potential *chaîne opératoire*. Roman glassworking furnaces often leave a much smaller trace than, for example, pottery kilns. In the archaeological record, in many cases furnaces have likely long been dismantled, and they may have been put up temporarily to glaze buildings during major building projects. Accordingly, we frequently find glassworking remains without their furnaces, and even sometimes furnaces without their glassworking remains (depending on degrees of ‘tidiness’). This paper takes two main case studies as its jumping off point: a workshop from Tuscany with furnaces and cullet glass (but no working remains) and a large collection of working waste and some dismantled furnace chunks (with no workshops) from Kosovo. In the grander landscape of excavation publishing, the presence of Roman glassworking on a site is sometimes equated to perceived technological adeptness or the settlement’s cosmopolitan nature but is otherwise not remarked much upon. This paper aims to broaden what we can say about glassworking at Roman sites beyond a

simple presence/absence of the behaviour, into considering inter-site connectivity and their place in the ever-shifting 'glass-scape' of the Mediterranean world.

Glass trade across centuries: A first archaeometric study of glass from the island of Malta

Matthew Grima – L-Università ta' Malta

Simone Cagno – Norges miljø- og biovitenskapelige universitet

Daniel Vella – L-Università ta' Malta

From the earliest settlements to modern day, the Maltese archipelago has benefited greatly from a strong marine trade route that supplied the islanders with the necessities for daily life. Locals have had to rely heavily on Eastern and Western Mediterranean trade routes, as well as their links with Sicily and the north of Africa, directly impacting society and its standing. Glass, which developed from commodity to utility, is thought to have been traded into Malta, as no glass manufacturing furnace has ever been discovered on the island. In this study, a segment of the local Phoenician, Punic and Roman glass population was examined to establish information on their trade origin. 77 glass items from these periods were selected for analysis. Non-destructive surface analysis was prioritised given the unique nature of the objects. SEM-EDS, SXRF and PIXE-PIGE analyses served to preliminarily group the objects and fragments. Representative glass items were further investigated via LA-ICP-MS to determine origin and site context dating. For the very first time, sites have been dated via material culture analysis. This, together with glass groupings has shown that Malta was not left behind in the glass trade industry, with glass typology development seen across the centuries.

Rivers of Glass

Victoria Sainsbury – University of Oxford

Roman glass is an ideal material to consider, not provenance, but movement, particularly at the edges of the western Empire. The imperial economy is one of unprecedentedly large-scale and long-distance sourcing, but with these massive flows are the smaller brooks, backwashes, and areas of brackish water. There is much value in understanding which 'river systems' flows of material belong, where great waters meet, and where don't. Glass can elucidate such connections through its trade and chemistry due to its sole dependence on long-distance trade and its almost endlessly recyclability. Comparing the patterns in glass typology and chemistry across five centuries in Britain, connections and disconnections are illuminated. This paper presents two cases-studies: York and its environs, and a 'southwestern pattern'. In Yorkshire, site-character accounts for most variation we see, but there are several notable exceptions. Then, farmsteads and small towns across West Oxford, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire show an exclusive pattern from the rest of the South which lasts for several centuries. Considering the Severn and character of Hispanic glass shows that, like the Mediterranean Sea itself, water is not barrier but conduit: for people, ideas, and the materials that created and sustained the Roman economy.

Revealing Roman Britain Through Glass: Insights from an Archaeological Database

David Marsh – The Association for the History of Glass

The presentation is based on the analysis of a comprehensive database of Roman dated glass finds collected from selected excavation sites across Britain. The research compares site glass profiles defined by patterns of glass associated with types of sites, including cities, rural settlements, industrial centres, and military bases. The findings from the characteristics of glass types provide insights into the material cultures and socio-economic dynamics of

Roman settlements. The research reveals the correlation between the diversity of glass types and the economic significance of a site. Large cities and military fortresses exhibited wide-ranging glass types and forms emphasising their pivotal roles to the Romano-British economy. The analysis reveals differences in the composition of sites' glass types, reflecting distinct material cultures. The proximity of industrial settlements and rural farming sites to large cities highlights the influence of regional trade networks. These findings enhance our understanding of the diversity and interconnectedness of Roman communities in Britain with fresh insights presented of the trade and transport routes within Roman Britain. The distribution patterns of glass across the region provide a unique lens through which we can explore the dynamics of commerce and cultures during this remarkable period in history.



Inclusion and Exclusion: Ritual Practice in the Roman World and Beyond

Alessandra Esposito – King’s Digital Lab

Jason Lundock – Full Sail University

Kaja Stemberger Flegar – PJP d.o.o. Arheološko podjetje

David Walsh – Newcastle University

This session is interested in looking at ritual practices attested in and around the border regions of the Roman Empire meant as lived experiences of individuals and groups characterised by inclusive and exclusive behaviours. Particular attention will be paid to studies involving the *limes*, both as an area of physical space where ritual behaviour was practised and as a social phenomenon within which peoples were grouped and their identities constructed.

It welcomes theoretical approaches that highlight the experience of ‘others’ within the same ritual spaces, seen either as different/antagonist or as aspirational of representing cultural affiliations through the materiality of ritual practices. The aim is to collect innovative perspectives which would allow us to appreciate a greater degree of variation between codified centralised ritual practices and localised ones.

For this purpose, we welcome papers based on, but not limited to, network analysis (particularly through the consideration of the ‘web of associations’), gender and queer theory, and inter-disciplinary culture studies applied to ritual behaviours and practices.

Friday 12th (AM)		Room 4 - Clarke Hall
09:30	Introduction	
09:40	How sub-elite people created inclusive and diverse cults in the Roman frontier regions (<i>Ralph Häussler</i>)	
10:00	Aqua Hispaniae: The cult of water in Roman Iberia (<i>Víctor García-Martínez</i>)	
10:20	Religion, Magic and Power on Hadrian’s Wall (<i>Stuart McKie</i>)	
10:40	BREAK	
11:10	Living on a prayer: Stone altars in the north east of Britannia (<i>Maxime Ratcliffe</i>)	
11:30	Ritual as a means of bridging cultural differences: Romans in Hellenistic Athens (<i>Margarita Sardak</i>)	
11:50	Keeping the ritual alive? Christian reappropriation of pagan temple sites in the cities of the late antique Levant (4th-6th century) (<i>Jacopo Dolci</i>)	

How sub-elite people created inclusive and diverse cults in the Roman frontier regions

Ralph Häussler – University of Winchester

For some, ancient religions merely serve to achieve social cohesion. But in the globalising Roman Empire – notably along the empire's *limites* – the 'cosmopolitan' inhabitants of diverse status and origin created an unprecedented range of religious practices. 10,000 votive inscriptions in Latin alone allow us to establish biographies of many social agents who shaped and transformed local practices. Belonging to professional, military and/or ethnic networks, the individual's diverse experiences motivated her/him to add new rituals, deities, offerings, etc., thus triggering change in the long run. Inclusivity made such innovations possible, with sub-elites providing new incentives. Many did not use epigraphy, but archaeological remains (animal bones, iconography, figurines, votive offerings, etc.) allow us to identify some of their ritual activities. The aim therefore is to examine case studies from different frontier regions that allow us to identify the activities of individuals of various origin, gender and status, and to explore the level of inclusivity in any given cult place. Comparative case studies from other modern-day polytheistic religions will be used to re-think the possibilities of how different social/ethnic, male/female groups shape the religious activities. We also need to go beyond glocalisation to understand the real complexities of cult activities along Rome's frontiers.

Aqua Hispaniae: The cult of water in Roman Iberia

Víctor García-Martínez – University of Wales Trinity Saint David

Ever since the first known sources – were they literary, archaeological, or epigraphical – the Iberian Peninsula, and more specifically its inhabitants, have always denoted bodies of water such as rivers, springs, or lakes, with a special kind of power reserved to religious affairs. Different rituals and cultic practices took place around these aquatic locales, and throughout Antiquity the indigenous inhabitants of the Peninsula had to adapt their practices to exogenous forces such as the Phoenicians, the Greeks, the Carthaginians, and finally, the Romans. Even if Iberia was one of the first regions to be conquered by Rome, an abundance of local rites and cults survived throughout the centuries due to its strong local identity. It is my intention to analyse some of the religious activity surrounding bodies of water in Roman Hispania, observing its characteristics and its adaptation from its indigenous form to the imperial language and coding, as well as indicating how they would fit into the Roman framework.

Religion, Magic and Power on Hadrian's Wall

Stuart McKie – The Open University

This paper explores power dynamics in Roman Britain, particularly along Hadrian's Wall, within the context of religion. Drawing from posthumanist theories, specifically "New Materialism," it considers the role of non-human elements in shaping agency. It emphasises that religion is not solely a product of human intention but also stems from embodied interactions with the material world. The paper acknowledges that while these theories elevate non-human entities, they might overlook the inherent inequalities of ancient society. To address this, the paper centres its analysis on the concept of power, defined as the ability of one entity to influence the agency of another. It seeks to understand how people respond to power exertion, cope with life's unfairness, and uncover the mechanisms behind creating and sustaining such disparities. Religion serves as a lens to answer these questions, as it can either reinforce the status of powerful individuals or empower the marginalised, depending on the context. Using Hadrian's Wall as a case study, the paper examines individual religious experiences and connects them to broader imperial power networks. It argues that non-human elements, like priestly regalia and sacrificial animals, played a crucial role in wielding power, similar to how tools and clothing were instrumental in subjugating enslaved individuals. In sum, this research aims to provide a nuanced perspective on power dynamics in Roman Britain, bridging the gap between human and non-human agency.

Living on a prayer: Stone altars in the north east of Britannia

Maxime Ratcliffe – Durham University

Stone altars are some of the most distinctive evidence of ritual practice in the Roman Empire and provide potential insights into the identities of dedicators at that time. This paper would focus on stone altars discovered along the northern frontier of Roman Britain, especially in forts/towns clustered on the Dere Street and Stanegate roads. The 'military' community was originally believed to be a closed off one which distanced itself from the inhabitants of Britannia. However, recent discoveries have shown a broader spectrum of occupants within this community, including women and children as seen through discoveries such as at Vindolanda. The analysis would centre around the deities chosen, the materials used to create the altars and the identities of the dedicators as well as where they were discovered. This could be in the forts themselves or in the vicus communities, showing a blurring of the lines between inclusion and exclusion of practitioners, allowing an analysis of the communities in these regions through religious practices.

Ritual as a means of bridging cultural differences: Romans in Hellenistic Athens

Margarita Sardak – Universität zu Köln

The Greek polis of Athens was not located in the area of the Roman *Limes*. Originally an actual ally of Rome and later increasingly an integrative part of the Roman Empire, it remained officially a *civitas libera et foederata*, accordingly the borders of Attica were de jure borders of the Roman state. This paper will present results of a comprehensive study of the changes in Athenian religious life since the emergence of Roman influence in the region. It will be shown how, from the 2nd century BC onwards, the oldest and most important cults and rituals of the polis as well as newly founded sanctuaries and festivals were instrumentalised to familiarise the Athenians with the Roman people, to express the loyalty and gratitude of the Athenian people towards Rome and, finally, in the period of the late Republic and the rise of imperial power, to establish, maintain, intensify or improve diplomatic relations between the *polis* and the Roman elite. Particular attention will be paid to Attic rituals in which Romans directly participated and which fulfilled the task of bridging the gap between the two cultures, creating a common background for counterparts, and making them to a certain extent "Athenians".

Keeping the ritual alive? Christian reappropriation of pagan temple sites in the cities of the late antique Levant (4th-6th century)

Jacopo Dolci – University of Nottingham

The fourth century was a crucial moment for the Roman Empire as Christianity progressively took hold. The Levant (modern Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine, Israel) was particularly affected by this religious transition due to the presence of Jerusalem and the places of Jesus Christ's life. Its cities continued to prosper throughout Late Antiquity, however, undergoing major urban transformations, among which the progressive closure, abandonment, and dismantlement of pagan temples and the erection of several churches. Some pagan sanctuaries were reappropriated by the Christian rule for constructing churches between the fourth and the sixth centuries (e.g. Caesarea, Gerasa, Scythopolis). The phenomenon, present everywhere throughout the Roman Empire although never particularly widespread, in the Levant is usually characterised by a considerable variety in its application. This paper analyses the phenomenon from a topographical and archaeological point of view. It aims to speculate on the motivations behind the Christian reappropriation of formerly pagan areas, evaluating whether it was driven by ideological or practical reasons, and exploring differences and common factors in the process. It will thus shed light on the religious life of the Levant by correlating the ideology-vs-practicality debate with the topics of civic aesthetics and preservation of urban monumentality.

Port Cities in the Roman Provinces: places and peoples

Michael J Curtis – University of Leicester

Lena Larsson Lovén – Göteborgs universitet

Madelaine Miller – Göteborgs universitet

In Antiquity, port settlements of different sizes were located along rivers and the Mediterranean coastlines, where the port and its connection to water(ways) was the base for the city, its economy and civic life. Port cities worked as local, regional and/or international hubs for maritime trade and cultural connections of which some have left us a rich archaeological record which mirrors aspects of urban structures, trade, economy, daily life and more. Research and investigation into provincial ports and harbours of the Roman world continues to broaden our knowledge and understanding of maritime activities, the development of trading networks and cultural influences throughout the Empire.

This panel aims to look more closely into the daily operation of provincial ports/harbours, and we especially welcome contributions on: what we can learn from port/harbour layouts and the surviving structural evidence around, and in the vicinity of the quaysides/waterfrontage; examining how goods may have been stored ready for shipment and imported goods processed within the port/harbour complexes ready for dispatching onwards to their next stage destinations; evidence of people and occupational groups involved in the work related to the harbour and maritime trade; aspects of similarities and dissimilarities between the materiality of Roman provincial port cities.

Friday 12th (AM)		Room 5 - C3.09
09:30	Introduction	
09:40	Making Provincial Roman harbours more human (<i>Michael J Curtis</i>)	
10:00	The local and the global: Patterns of commemoration in Roman port cities (<i>Lynne Bennett</i>)	
10:20	Emporium and anchorage: The case of Khavania (Crete) (<i>Jane E. Francis</i>)	
10:40	Waterfrontage infrastructures for river navigation in Roman Pisa (<i>Fabio Fabiani, Stefano Genovesi & Alberto Caroti</i>)	
11:00	BREAK	
11:30	Every island is a port: Performing Late-Republican seascapes in the Elba island (<i>Filippo Barthélemy & Edoardo Vanni</i>)	
11:50	The port and the land: exploring past mobilities and connectivities in the coasts of Roman Beatica (<i>Maria del Carmen Moreno Escobar</i>)	
12:10	Roman dominance of Oceanus Britannicus and the Saxon shore - new discoveries on Romney Marsh (<i>Kate Pendergast</i>)	

Making Provincial Roman harbours more human

Michael J Curtis – University of Leicester

This paper embraces the spirit of this conference session and seeks to open a broader discussion about the missing 'real life' component in harbour studies. Ancient Roman ports and harbours stand as monumental testaments to the ingenuity and engineering prowess of the times. However, amid the grandeur of these maritime hubs, which most certainly draws our attention, the opportunity to re-imagine and recreate these spaces in real time is often overlooked. Ancient Roman ports and harbours across the Empire were vibrant economic hubs, and each year increases our knowledge and understanding of how they operated and the many types of installations that existed. However, our approach to Roman Provincial harbours can, at times, be quite narrow and wanting. Frequently little, or no consideration is given to the human element, without whom the ports and harbours could not have functioned. This paper seeks to look more closely at what can be gained from taking a broader research approach, examining how seeking opportunities to delve into the everyday life and material culture of the surrounding communities can change and enhance our interpretation, helping to portray the Provincial ports and harbours in a different light.

The local and the global: Patterns of commemoration in Roman port cities

Lynne Bennett

Port cities have always been characterised as having an ethnically diverse and mobile population connected by shared interests in trade and commerce. This is particularly true of the Roman world where the inscriptions from the Piazzale delle Corporazioni in Ostia attest to the existence of merchants from North Africa, Gaul and Sardinia. However, how does this impact how people are commemorated on tombstones? This paper will consider how Roman ports created an epigraphic profile distinct from other cities in the region where they were located. For example, by comparing epigraphic signatures, this paper will show how ports such as Narbo included formulae common in Italy but rare in the rest of Gallia Narbonensis. It will also demonstrate how epitaphs in many ports included a lower percentage of abbreviated formulae, possibly as a result of a mobile population that did not have the skills to be able to understand the message in its abbreviated form. However, although these distinctive patterns apply to most ports, Ostia developed an epigraphic signature almost identical to that of Rome rather than developing a pattern that differed from the immediate region. This could suggest that, despite having an ethnically mixed population, Rome's influence here was stronger than that of a mobile population.

Emporium and anchorage: The case of Khavania (Crete)

Jane E. Francis – Concordia University

Khavania, a small, hilly knob on the northeast coast of Crete, is the subject of a small-scale archaeological survey under the auspices of the Canadian Institute in Greece. Fieldwork was undertaken in 2020 and 2021 when the topography and surface features were intensively surveyed, and preliminary finds were studied in 2022. This work remains in its early phase and successive fieldwork seasons are planned. Even at this early stage, the evidence from the Roman period, notably the pottery, allow us to assess this coastal site in the broader context of northeast Cretan trade. Khavania's coastline seems auspicious for a harbour and there may be now-submerged, off-shore manmade features. This site is particularly important due to the general lack of knowledge about the Roman economy and harbours in eastern Crete, and its proximity to the known urban centres of Lato pros Kamara and Olous, and not far from near the fertile Isthmis to the southern city of Hierapytna. This paper presents the case for Khavania as a harbour facility, based on an analysis of the Roman pottery, the coastal topography, and the resources of the neighbouring sites. It investigates whether ceramic remains and a topography conducive to anchorage should lead to an interpretation of a harbour.

Waterfrontage infrastructures for river navigation in Roman Pisa

Fabio Fabiani – Università di Pisa

Stefano Genovesi – Università di Pisa

Alberto Caroti – Sapienza Università di Roma

Recent archaeological investigations related to the 'Pisa Progetto Suburbio' (University of Pisa) is providing a new image of the forma *urbis* of the Roman city, hitherto elusive due to environmental changes and the monumentality of the medieval city. The Roman age Pisa was stretched between the Arno and the Auserrivers. The latter, no longer present in the urban landscape, played a prominent role in its urban development. Within the harbour system of the city, hinged on the Portus Pisanus and other maritime ports, the waterway played an important role in redistribution trade, as testified by the well-known wrecks from the San Rossore's site. In fact, along its entire course, traces of a widespread system of landing places, mainly dating back to the late Republican and early Imperial age, are coming on light: it is possible to recognise concrete structures for the protection of the banks, landing points for loading and unloading goods and civil *navalia* for the hauling and maintenance of boats. Far from being just a workplace, these structures were the place where social relationships of a wide variety of people, such as sailors, merchants, craftsmen, and the urban population itself, intertwined.

Every island is a port: Performing Late-Republican seascapes in the Elba island

Filippo Barthélemy – Aix-Marseille Université

Edoardo Vanni – Università per Stranieri di Siena

This paper aims to provide an overview of the maritime trading activities of the gens Valeria, a renowned senatorial family, who owned the villa rustica of San Marco located in the Elba island, at the end of the Republican age. Through the historical data relating to the Valerii and the archaeological data coming from the Villa San Marco, it's been possible to reconstruct the maritime commercial activities conducted by the villa domini. The only harbor detected as of today places connected directly with the villa of San Marco and it suggests a strong economic activity in the amphora trade promoted by the Valerii, using Elba island as a commercial Mediterranean hub; this indeed, in addition to having a quayside function to protect the villa, allowed the interchange of goods produced in loco and those of the ships that anchored in the Rada of Portoferraio. Typological studies and mineralogical-petrographic analyses carried out on the amphorae related to the late-Republican stratigraphy of San Marco have enabled to identify their provenance, which testify some commercial routes between western Italy, southern Spain and France from the second half of the 1st century B.C. onwards. Moreover, the presence of stamps linked to the name of the gens Valeria on the necks of various amphorae made it possible to confirm their role in long-distance trade from the end of the late republican period and the beginning of the imperial age.

The port and the land: exploring past mobilities and connectivities in the coasts of Roman Beatica

Maria del Carmen Moreno Escobar – Lunds universitet

Over the last decades, research focussing on the study of ancient ports is experiencing a remarkable expansion that is enhancing our understanding of their organisation and daily functioning. However, whilst these studies are developing numerous (and diverse) lines of research, ranging from the study of port appearance and urban planning to the creation and transformation of port systems, further emphasis should also be placed on their study at wider geographical scales to foster better understandings of the impact their creation, development and (also) abandonment had in transforming territories and regional systems in Antiquity. It is in this context that "Beyond ports: Movement and Connectivity in the Roman Mediterranean" (financed by The Swedish Research Council) develops, focussing on exploring the connections between ports and their regional contexts as means for a better

understanding of the role of ports in the integration of regions within the Roman Empire. Relying on an integrated approach that combines geoarchaeological and archaeological data within a GIS environment, this paper will present and discuss the theoretical and methodological approaches at the core of "Beyond Ports" and the preliminary results of their application to the case of the province of Hispania Ulterior Baetica during the Roman Empire. In doing so, this contribution seeks to highlight how the application of integrated and regional approaches may generate new perspectives and interpretations into the understanding of Roman ports and their role in enhancing the connections between ancient communities in the Mediterranean.

Roman dominance of Oceanus Britannicus and the Saxon shore – new discoveries on Romney Marsh

Kate Pendergast

It has long been established that the Romans built and maintained a naval garrison at Portus Lemanis, overlooking the Royal Military Canal (formerly the river Limen or Rother), where it meets the sea at Hythe in Kent. The garrison – known locally as Stutfall Castle – has been excavated several times since the nineteenth century, and it is established that Lemanis was one of the ports used by the *Classis Britannica* – the imperial Roman naval fleet that operated in British waters. Further evidence for the Roman occupation in Romney Marsh is relatively sparse and currently we have an incomplete and somewhat speculative view of how the wider area was inhabited and exploited. This paper focuses on the excavations currently underway at Smallhythe to the north and west of Portus Lemanis, where the river once encircled the Isle of Oxney and now forms the border between Kent and Sussex. The excavations, undertaken on behalf of the National Trust over three seasons (2021-3), have discovered a significant Roman presence at Smallhythe, extending the database of finds inland towards the source of the Rother in the Kent/Sussex Weald. This paper will explore the emergence of a fuller picture of the Roman presence on Romney Marsh, and its potential implications for our understanding of Roman dominance of the English Channel until the retreat of the formal Empire by the end of the fourth century AD.



From the Desert to the Sea - Pottery, Connectivity, and the Economy of Roman Southern Egypt

Jerzy M. Oleksiak – Uniwersytet Warszawski

Roderick C.A. Geerts – Universiteit Leiden

This session aims to bring together researchers who focus on pottery, connectivity, and the economy of sites located in southern Egypt dating between the 1st century BCE and 7th century CE. This area was one of the crucial hubs of the Roman Empire's long-distance trade with the Indian Ocean basin as well as a well-integrated zone for regional exchange and ceramic production. While maritime trade has been one of the primary interests for researchers, understanding the interactions between coastal and inland sites is pivotal for contextualizing the broader economic landscape and southern Egypt's relationship with the heart of the Empire.

Ceramics are crucial for this wider perspective on the region. They are widely available and valuable tools for both dating and reconstructing trade networks. The goals of this session are to initiate a discussion on the changing character of the regional movement of people and commodities between coastal sites and the hinterland from the Early Roman to Late Antique period, to enhance the scholarly discussion of ceramic and economic studies in the region, and, in a broader sense, to interrogate the consumption and trade patterns at one edge of the Empire, where many worlds and influences met.

Friday 12th (AM)		Room 6 - C3.11
09:30	Introduction	
09:40	Symbol of life and fertility, fortune, resurrection, and magic - the Egyptian "Frog" lamps across ages: unresolved issues concerning type evolution, chronology and usage (<i>Iwona Zych & Laurent Chrzanowski</i>)	
10:00	Sail South to Reach the East - Results of comparative study over transport ware material from Berenike (Eastern Desert, Egypt) and Paphos (Western Cyprus) (<i>Jerzy M. Oleksiak</i>)	
10:20	Abu Al-Draj "Lost Roman station" Recent Discoveries on the western coast of the Red Sea (<i>Rabab Hamdi Ali Al-Sayed</i>)	
10:40	BREAK	
11:10	Sherds in the sand. Results of the survey at Gali (Eastern Desert, Egypt) (<i>Roderick C. A. Geerts</i>)	
11:30	Cluedo in the Eastern Desert: Who, or What, Killed Berenice and Myos Hormos? (<i>Haggai Olshanestky & Lev Cosijns</i>)	

Symbol of life and fertility, fortune, resurrection, and magic - the Egyptian “Frog” lamps across ages: unresolved issues concerning type evolution, chronology and usage

Iwona Zych – Uniwersytet Warszawski

Laurent Chrzanovski – Universitatea “Lucian Blaga” din Sibiu

Lighting devices are a mainstay of the Roman Imperial period (and not only) throughout the Roman Empire, an element of material culture that is as ubiquitous as pottery vessels and iron nails. Egypt is no different. Like many other regions, it has its specificities, the most interesting of these—iconographically and iconologically—being the so-called “Frog” oil lamps made of clay. At its most picturesquely quaint, the “Frog” lamp has a molded depiction of a frog: head, body, rump and legs, often touched up individually on its top—as a festive devotional, it is found in all of the 5th-century temples in Berenike on the Red Sea coast. At its most, it becomes a series of crude lines recalling the animal’s legs, yet instantly recognizable as a “frog” lamp. A specific variant, with twin embryos replacing the amphibian’s body, encapsulates the religious theme of resurrection (connected with the goddess Hekate) that stands behind the unbridled success of this lamp type for the better part of 800 years. Even so, or perhaps because of this, “Frog” lamps remain fairly elusive in terms of evolutionary paths of the different variants, their dating and coincidence, the background of their cultic use. In-depth investigation of contextually well-dated finds from stratified sites in the Nile Valley, Eastern and Western Deserts and Red Sea coast may address some of the unsolved issues concerning this type of lamps.

Sail South to Reach the East - Results of comparative study over transport ware material from Berenike (Eastern Desert, Egypt) and Paphos (Western Cyprus)

Jerzy M. Oleksiak – Uniwersytet Warszawski

The aim of this paper is to present the results of a comparative study of two prominent emporia during the 4th to 6th centuries AD, using ceramic analysis as our primary tool. It allows us to explore a unique collection of transport ware pottery, derived from recent excavations at two major Late Antique harbors: Berenike, a port of long-distance trade located on the Red Sea coast, and Nea Paphos, the capital city and a pivotal trading hub in Byzantine Cyprus. This investigation offers a profound understanding of the interconnectedness between these two distinct markets. By getting the deeper insight into the trade relationships between the Eastern Desert and the Eastern Mediterranean coasts, we can draw decisive conclusions regarding the political dependencies of regions under the rule of the Blemmyes during the 4th to 6th centuries AD, as well as the integration of Berenike into the Byzantine sphere of economic influence. Lastly, our study aims to highlight the similarities and differences between these two sites and translate these characteristics into a broader discussion on the economic history of both regions during that time.

Abu Al-Draj “Lost Roman station” Recent discoveries on the western coast of the Red Sea

Rabab Hamdi Ali Al-Sayed – Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, Egypt

Abu Al-Daraj area is located on the far north-eastern side of the Eastern Desert, directly overlooking the Red Sea coast. The site known as Abu Al-Darj is named after Saint John Al-Darji. The site was known as one of the stations located on the old commercial road linking the Eastern Desert and the Nile Valley. It was recently used as a military barracks due to the presence of the remains of stacked bricks for two rooms, in addition to the presence of bricks built on top of a high peak as a watchtower. The IFAO mission in 2003 was the only mission that worked on the site, and its primary goal was to record and document the castles located at the top of the mountain. Due to the location of the site in the investment and tourism construction area, it was subjected to backfilling and demolition works until

the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities annexed the site to public antiquities, and some cleaning work was carried out and the rubble was lifted in preparation for establishing the first organized excavations on the site. By studying the archaeological evidence and pottery fragments found, one of the stations located on the ancient trade route linking the Eastern Desert and the Nile was discovered, which dates back to the Roman era at the very least.

Sherds in the sand. Results of the survey at Gali (Eastern Desert, Egypt)

Roderick C. A. Geerts – Universiteit Leiden

The intensive survey of two sites at Gali and a third at Kab Marfu'a East have yielded interesting results regarding sites in the Eastern Desert and the road and trade networks. Especially at the sites at Gali there was a lot of pottery scattered on the surface. These sherds provide valuable insight into the sites in the Eastern Desert. First of all it provides a tentative date for the sites. Secondly the production areas of the pottery and their contents give insight into the trade and supply routes in the Desert. Thirdly it points, for one of the sites, towards a special purpose site with a limited spectrum of pottery on the site. All these together make us understand the processes and usage of the arid landscape of the Eastern Desert and how these sites relate to the trading activities at Berenike and in the Indian Ocean networks. A few fragments point to an origin in the Red Sea and Indian Ocean basins and could be evidence of commodities or traders coming further inland.

Cluedo in the Eastern Desert: Who, or What, Killed Berenice and Myos Hormos?

Haggai Olshanestky – Uniwersytet Warszawski

Lev Cosijns – University of Oxford

Throughout history, trade brought prosperity and wealth, founding cities in its wake. The cities of the Eastern Desert of Egypt, Berenice and Myos Hormos, were not unique in this and the Indo-Roman trade was essential in their ability to flourish. However, this trade through Egypt declined during the 2nd century and almost ceased to exist in the 3rd century CE and with it, the cities, towns, and ports of the Eastern Desert suffered and died. Yet, a reversal of fortune in the 4th century CE brought a resurgence of trade and a revival of the urban communities of the area. Accordingly, this lecture will examine and compare the rise and fall of the Indo-Roman trade network travelling through Egypt and understand its role in the prosperity and in the lifecycle of the Eastern Desert, and Egypt as a whole. It will be highlighted, unlike current research, that due to an amended timing of the decline of the Eastern desert ports and in the trade travelling through them, climate and plague did not play a significant role in their demise. Rather, anthropogenic causes and competing trade routes were the main factors determining the volume of trade travelling through Berenice and Myos Hormos.



Hilltop settlements in their landscape-topographical context: Diachronic development of the settlement landscape of the Long Late Antiquity (3rd – 9th century AD)

Annina Wyss Schildknecht – Universität Bern

Andy Seaman – Cardiff University

Marcus Zagermann – Bayerische Akademie der Wissenschaften

The Long Late Antiquity, i.e. the end of the *imperium romanum* and the emergence of new forms of rule in the Middle Ages (ca. 300–800 AD), is characterised by profound transformation processes. An important aspect are the numerous hilltop settlements, which were regularly (re)settled in the 3rd/4th century and subsequently became the most important feature of the settlement landscape and dominated it in the following centuries. These sites are encountered across much of Europe, and investigating not only the hilltop settlements themselves but also their surrounding landscape and its diachronic development is key to understanding processes of transformation. Therefore vision, visibility, accessibility, control of the surrounding territory, position/dominance in the landscape and the interdependence with other settlements over time are important aspects for understanding this settlement type and the landscape as a whole. This session seeks to bring together new research on hilltop sites including diachronic landscape analyses in the Long Late Antiquity.

Friday 12th (AM)		Room 7 - C3.15
09:30	Introduction	
09:35	Frontier Interactions; Hilltop Communities and Ethnogenesis in northern Britain c.300-600 AD (<i>Gordon Noble & James O'Driscoll</i>)	
10:00	Les Refuges Romains: Visibility and positioning of Late Antique Höhensiedlungen in Wallonia (<i>James Dodd</i>)	
10:25	Defences in transition? Fortified hilltop settlements in the Dioecesis Daciae (<i>Samira Fischer</i>)	
10:50	BREAK	
11:20	Strange places to settle: Late Antique settlements in unusual locations (<i>Vesna Tratnik & Nejc Dolinar</i>)	
11:45	Hilltop settlements on the border of Pannonia and Dalmatia (<i>Ivana Ožanić Roguljić & Hrvoje Kalafatić</i>)	
12:10	A Sense of Place (and Space)? A spatio-sociological analysis of the Alpine Rhine Valley in the Long Late Antiquity (3rd-8th century) (<i>Annina Wyss Schildknecht</i>)	
12:35	Hilltop Settlements and their Landscape Contexts in Late Antique Western Britain (<i>Andy Seaman</i>)	

Frontier Interactions; Hilltop Communities and Ethnogenesis in northern Britain c.300-600 AD

Gordon Noble – University of Aberdeen

James O’Driscoll – University of Aberdeen

Across Europe an important aspect of the social and political changes of Late Antiquity was transformations of the settlement pattern with hilltop settlements becoming a major feature of the settlement hierarchy in many regions. In northern Britain Late Antiquity has been seen as a period of social and settlement collapse mirroring collapse models that have been an important (if debated) interpretation of social change of the Roman to early medieval period in southern Britain. Settlement in northern Britain from around the 3rd century onwards becomes much harder to identify and hilltop settlement was largely unknown from the Roman Iron Age with a second generation of hillforts thought to be largely a phenomenon of the 6th-7th century or later. Work over the last ten years has begun to revolutionise our knowledge of late Antique settlement in northern Britain identifying ephemeral architectural traces in previously undocumented contexts, and begun to reveal hitherto unknown hilltop settlements of both the late Roman period and examples from the 5th century onwards. These developments can cast new light on the collapse/centralisation models of this time period and region. Moreover, considering the timings, tempos and landscape context of these newly identified sites can begin to contextualise Roman:Iron Age relations and post-Roman trajectories in new ways.

Les Refuges Romains: Visibility and positioning of Late Antique Höhsiedlungen in Wallonia

James Dodd – Université Catholique de Louvain

The hilltop sites of Southern Belgium form an important belt of defended installations between the late 3rd and c.mid 5th centuries. These sites were not occupied simultaneously and there is significant morphological variation between different installations: some, such as Château-Renaud, demonstrate well-constructed stone walls and ‘militarising’ architecture whilst others appear to be short-term constructions. Despite decades of work into these *Höhsiedlungen*, there has been little appreciation of the siting and visibility in the landscape. Building on the initial syntheses of Raymond Brulet (1990; 2008), this paper addresses the visibility profiles and siting decisions of these hilltop sites, beginning with a total visibility model. It will demonstrate a height methodology for assessing binary visibility within the landscape over time. Finally, it will examine intervisibility between these installations and make an assessment on the integration of these sites with each other, and the larger Late Roman defensive milieu.

Defences in transition? Fortified hilltop settlements in the Dioecesis Daciae

Samira Fischer – Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz; Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg

In the 6th century, a change in the settlement pattern can be observed in the late Roman administrative unit Dioecesis Daciae (Serbia, Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro, Bulgaria, Northern Macedonia). Newly founded settlements are now located in the mountains (up to 1800 m). These new fortified hilltop settlements are attributed to the building activity of Emperor Justinian I. The complexes are characterised by enclosing walls, defence towers and ramparts, and at least one church in the most prominent place within the defensive area. The change in the settlement pattern and the “retreat” to the mountains is generally attributed to the so-called barbarian invasions - Avars and Slavs - in the 6th century. A closer look reveals that some fortifications existed as early as the 4th century and were expanded in the 6th century, while other fortifications appear to have existed only in the 6th century. Who initiated the construction of the complexes? Were they part of a supra-regional defence line or fortified villages of the local population? This paper deals with the transformation of the settlement landscape in the hinterland of the Danube *Limes* from the 4th to the early 7th century.

Strange places to settle: Late Antique settlements in unusual locations

Vesna Tratnik – Narodni Muzej Slovenije

Nejc Dolinar – Zavod za varstvo kulturne dediščine

Slovenia is a land of passage between Pannonian Plain and Italy that witnessed radical changes in the settlement pattern from the late 4th to the early 6th century AD. Life in the lowland cities and villages gradually came to an end and the inhabitants retreated either westwards toward Italy or to fortified settlements in remote and elevated locations, primarily on hilltops. The study of hilltop settlements often emphasises their location on naturally protected hilltops and mountains that enabled control over the communications in the lowland. The location of some Late Antique settlements, however, deviates from this interpretation. Two such examples are the settlements on Zidani Gaber and Gradec pri Strmici, from which it is not possible to monitor the surrounding area and communications. They are small fortified settlements with visible remains of stone-built architecture that include houses, a water cistern and an Early Christian church, which were inhabited only in the Late Antiquity. By comparing the layout and location of the settlements, and implementing the visibility and accessibility studies, we aim to verify the relationship between the different function of the settlement and its location in the landscape and thereby to complement our understanding of the settlement patterns in Late Antiquity.

Hilltop settlements on the border of Pannonia and Dalmatia

Ivana Ožanić Roguljić – Institut za arheologiju

Hrvoje Kalafatić – Institut za arheologiju

The development of any Roman city is conditioned, among other things, by a good connection with natural sources of raw materials. Siscia, which is located in Pannonia (today Croatia), obtained its raw materials (iron) from the area of the inner Roman province of Dalmatia (today Bosnia and Herzegovina). The border line between the Dalmatia and Pannonia in this region is approximately parallel to the river Sava, across the estuary of the river Sana into the river Una. But drawing the exact line between the two provinces on a microscale is always the cause of much debate. On this occasion, we present a case study along the mountain Zrinska Gora, which is flanked by hilltop settlements. The excavations of one of those sites (Osječenica) yielded a large amount of pottery material, some bronze and iron objects dating from the 1st to the 4th century (with the accent on 4th CE). The stone *ara* found in the 19th CE on the site indicates that the site was a border. In this paper, we will examine the region using diachronic landscape analyses.

A Sense of Place (and Space)? A spatio-sociological analysis of the Alpine Rhine Valley in the Long Late Antiquity (3rd – 8th century)

Annina Wyss Schildknecht – Universität Bern

The Alpine Rhine Valley, with its numerous archaeological sites from the 3rd to 8th centuries, offers a comprehensive source base for an analysis of the diachronic development of an archaeological landscape. The archaeological landscape reveals far-reaching changes that allow conclusions to be drawn about the actions, reactions and organisation of the people. From the 4th century onwards, estate complexes/*villae* were abandoned and urban centres were considerably reduced. The hilltop settlements, which were now used more intensively, can be identified as a local form of settlement anchored in the communal memory of the population due to their continuous use. The shift to inhumation burials and away from the designated burial grounds of the 3rd/4th century to very diverse burial

sites in the following centuries as well as the emergence of the first stonebuilt churches in the (5th)6th century are evidence of a changing society towards smaller organisational units. Subsequently, new "centres of power" and prosperous social units developed. These may or may not have an archaeologically verifiable connection to the now growing Christianity.

Hill-Top Settlements and their Landscape Contexts in Late Antique Western Britain

Andy Seaman – Cardiff University

In this presentation I will explore the landscape (and seascape) context of several Late Antique hill-top settlements in western Britain. Whilst several Late Antique hill-top settlements have been excavated and are comparatively well dated, there have been comparatively few studies of their landscape contexts. Through a series of micro case studies, including Tintagel, Dinas Powys, Glastonbury Tor, and Chun Castle, I will explore themes of core and periphery, liminality, visibility, and control. In western Britain these sites are generally interpreted as 'elite residences', but I aim to demonstrate that exploration of landscape context allows us to develop more nuanced interpretations.



Contextualising 50 years of the Vindolanda Writing Tablets - the ultimate small finds from Roman Britain?

Richard Hobbs – British Museum

Andrew Birley – Vindolanda Trust

Since their discovery on a cold March morning in 1973, the Vindolanda writing tablets have illuminated Roman Britain's lighter and darker sides and provided a very visceral insight into life, particularly the army's, in Rome's most northerly province. From the tablets discovered in 1973 to those still being discovered in 2023, each tablet has the potential to challenge or re-shape our appreciation of life on the frontier of the Roman Empire. To introduce us to a character who would otherwise be forever forgotten or reacquaint us with another who we would like to know more about. Although the texts are individually impressive, what is less understood is that each is an artefact in its own right, one which is far better contextualised by the spaces and surrounding materials in which it was found. This session will welcome contributions from a broad range of researchers who are currently working on materials or artefacts and spaces which are connected to the archaeology of the Vindolanda Writing tablets, as well as the tablet texts themselves. The session will also explore the state of the preservation environments in which these discoveries have been made and assess the impact of climate change on the potential for future discoveries or writing tablets at sites like Vindolanda.

Friday 12th (PM)		Room 1 - Elvin Hall
14:00	Introduction	
14:10	Writing materials and literacy in their physical and social context (<i>Alan Bowman</i>)	
14:30	Text, Tablets and Technology: New evidence for slavery at Vindolanda (<i>Alexander Meyer, Alex Mullen & Roger Tomlin</i>)	
14:50	An object-based approach to the Vindolanda stylus tablets (<i>Anna Willi</i>)	
15:10	The only thing that gets better with age: Understanding the economy of leather from the Vindolanda tablets (<i>Beth Greene</i>)	
15:30	BREAK	
16:00	Contextualising the adjective corticeus - a functional woollen textile dye in the Roman provincial wardrobes (<i>Judit Pásztókai-Szeőke & Ivan Radman-Livaja</i>)	
16:20	Making History: a scientific insight into the writing of the Vindolanda tablets (<i>Caroline Cartwright, Richard Hobbs & Giovanna Vasco</i>)	
16:40	The uncomfortable truth: The impact of climate change on the preservation landscape of the Vindolanda Tablets (<i>Andrew Birley & Gillian Taylor</i>)	

Writing materials and literacy in their physical and social context

Alan Bowman – University of Oxford

This paper emphasises the unique contribution made by the small finds at Vindolanda to our knowledge of writing materials, documentary practices and literacy in the first century AD. The harvest of masses of ink-written texts on thin wooden leaves, locally manufactured, opens a new perspective on everyday writing both at Vindolanda itself and the places from which letters were sent to Vindolanda. The writing practices demonstrate the flexibility with which the materials were used for documents and letters. The content and the variety of identifiable individual hands, the range of subject-matter and the linguistic features of the texts afford a unique insight into the character and extent of literacy in the resident community of soldiers and civilians in the *praetorium* and barracks of the fort and its environs in the period between about AD 90 and 130 and also have a very much wider impact on our appreciation of the literate environment in the Roman empire as a whole. This will be illustrated by a handful of individual examples which attest new and, in some cases, very surprising phenomena.

Text, Tablets and Technology: New evidence for slavery at Vindolanda

Alexander Meyer – Western University

Alex Mullen – University of Nottingham

Roger Tomlin – University of Oxford

In addition to the famous ink tablets from Vindolanda, approximately 350 stylus tablets have been discovered. Yet, while nearly 900 ink tablets have been published, only a handful of stylus tablets have been treated in detail. This paper will present the first results of a new effort to publish the stylus tablets from Vindolanda, which are being read assisted by a range of developing digital techniques. The tablet presented here is a fragmentary text of a bill-of-sale for an enslaved person. Much of the text can be restored based on comparable material, most notably a similar document discovered in excavations at 1 Poultry in London (Tomlin 2003). The significance of the Vindolanda text is further examined in the broader archaeological context of Vindolanda and of other writing tablets. The text of the tablet and its context highlight the importance of recognizing and understanding the diverse circumstances of enslaved people in the military communities of the northern frontier.

An object-based approach to the Vindolanda stylus tablets

Anna Willi – University of Nottingham

In addition to the famous leaf tablets, over 340 stylus tablets have been found at Vindolanda to this date. Stylus tablets are more commonly found than leaf tablets, with hundreds of finds known from other contexts with favourable soil conditions, for example from London, Vindonissa, or Cologne. Research has traditionally focused on the deciphering of the stylus inscriptions preserved on such tablets, while less attention has been given to the tablets as everyday objects, meaning that we do not yet have a good general understanding of how this versatile medium was used. The paper will take an object-based approach to the stylus tablets from Vindolanda, focusing on their morphology. By considering the tablets' design, the practicalities involved in using and reusing them, and the purposes they served, it will explore what they can tell us about the options available to and the choices made, and habits displayed by those who used this medium in their everyday lives at Vindolanda. By contextualizing this 'tabula-habit' with other sites in the north-western provinces, including non-military contexts, the paper will further explore the factors that may have shaped the use of stylus tablets on the northern frontier and how the tablets from Vindolanda can contribute to our general understanding of this medium, providing new insights into the significance of the site for research on Roman everyday writing.

The only thing that gets better with age: Understanding the economy of leather from the Vindolanda tablets

Beth Greene – Western University

Leather is the material of the ancient world. Most things that today are manufactured with polyester, plastics, gortex, and cotton, relied upon leather in antiquity. It was critical to keep warm as clothing and as shelter, it was used to transport goods, was a regular part of military equipment, and it was the very thing that protected one's feet through long marches and cold winters. The site of Vindolanda has played a major role in our understanding of leather objects in the Roman period. Because it is one of the few sites where we can investigate the very objects themselves, they have naturally become the focus of most work. However, the Vindolanda writing tablets are also a rich source of information for understanding the economy of leather and footwear in a Roman fort. This paper illuminates the rich source of information found in the tablets to enhance our understanding of the leather objects themselves and the economy of leather production at the fort. Using both the direct information provided and the inferences possible from the texts, the tablets offer another rare glimpse of a part of life in antiquity otherwise erased on most archaeological sites.

Contextualising the adjective *corticeus* – a functional woollen textile dye in the Roman provincial wardrobes

Judit Pásztókai-Szeőke

Ivan Radman-Livaja – Arheološki muzej u Zagrebu

Vindolanda Writing Tablets and Pannonian commercial lead tags (e.g. from Siscia, Savaria and Carnuntum) are very unique in their own right: both are textual evidence found in archaeological context providing us with valuable insight into the local life. While the texts on those tags indicate their use as ID-tags in cloth refurbishing workshops, this interpretation is further corroborated by other archaeological finds in Siscia and Savaria. This paper explores the valuable insight into the local provincial wardrobe on the frontier of the Empire provided both by the tablets and the tags. In this case, the connection between the British and the Pannonian textual evidence is the adjective *corticus/corticeus*, first seen on the tablets and later well-attested also on several Pannonian tags. A range of interpretations understanding the meaning of this adjective has been suggested: as made from tree-bark; (leather) tanned by bark or more recently as bark-coloured (garment). The present paper would suggest another possibility: *corticeus* might not only refer to a certain brown hue, but might designate as well a functional, protective or even prophylactic textile dye for outdoor garments.

Making History: a scientific insight into the writing of the Vindolanda tablets

Caroline Cartwright – British Museum

Richard Hobbs – British Museum

Giovanna Vasco – British Museum

After the discovery of the first writing tablets in 1973, the focus of research naturally turned to the contents of the letters, developing methods of photography which allowed the ink writing to be deciphered. Little attention in the intervening decades has been paid to how the tablets were actually made, a question which the 'Making History' project, based at the British Museum and supported by Augmentum, addresses. What types of wood were used to make the tablets? Were they native species or species exclusive to other parts of the Roman Empire? If the latter, how did they get to Vindolanda? Were there differences in the selection of woods used for ink writing tablets compared with stylus tablets? Were any tablets made from recycled woods, originally used to make other objects, e.g. storage barrels, or was pristine wood usually preferred? The inks used on the writing tablets are also being studied, focusing particularly on the possible differentiation of the ink sources. Thanks to the application of complementary scientific techniques, it has been possible to develop an analytical methodology that not only allows

the documentation of the ink writing from the palaeographic and conservation points of view, but also ways of characterising their manufacture. Undoubtedly, the main achievement is the possibility of differentiating the sources of carbon-based inks. The paper will demonstrate possible connections between individual scribes and specific raw materials and consider the social role of the scribe and the possible materials available to them at Vindolanda.

The uncomfortable truth: The impact of climate change on the preservation landscape of the Vindolanda Tablets

Andrew Birley – Vindolanda Trust

Gillian Taylor – Teeside University

The writing tablets discovered at Vindolanda provide a unique window and perspective into a life and time which cannot be gained from any other source. The discoveries have come from a fragile and finite resource of anaerobically preserved deposits which have remained stable for almost two millennia. Unfortunately, over the past five years the archaeologists at Vindolanda have started to witness rapid changes taking place within the buried preservation environments which questions the future survival of the anaerobic layers at the site and potential for the recovery of many more letters. The most recent excavations have uncovered the rapid decaying remains of the last timber forts, with shrinking posts, the loss of textiles, insects, and the degradation in the condition of leather artefacts like shoes and tent leather. Each of these are warning signs that the resilience of the anaerobic layers at the site have reached or exceeded their limits in coping with climatic changes. The Vindolanda Trusts response has been to commission a series of deep probes which in now uses to constantly monitor the health of the buried archaeology. They measure pH, the Oxygen Reducing Potential, temperature, and soil moisture and link those measurements to data obtained from a site weather station to establish how strongly the changing climate and the rapid loss of anaerobic layers may be bonded. The data from the probes has revealed a deeply uncomfortable truth. The climate above the site is having a direct impact on the preservation landscape below the ground and what was once considered safe is no-longer the case. This makes the historic recovery of ink and stylus tablets from Vindolanda, and the host of other environmentally preserved artefacts, even more important than before as a preserved site archive. Because in the coming decades there can no-longer be a guarantee that such artefacts will continue to survive to be found.



The Body of the (Roman) Archaeologist (or, against 'Fast-Archaeology')

Mauro Puddu – Università Ca' Foscari Venezia

Absent. Silenced. Or, if present, striking an artificial pose on a tidy archaeological site. The body of the archaeologist is often overlooked or presented in the popular press in a superficial manner, either completely static or highly cosmeticised. However, those who work daily on archaeological sites are aware of the physical labour required to prepare the site for study and documentation. This embellished portrayal creates a distorted image, a 'fast-archaeology' that neglects the vital aspects of physical and intellectual labour in archaeological research. Surveying, excavating, studying, and interpreting archaeological evidence are engaging yet demanding tasks that deserve recognition. Understanding the conditions under which the past is explored, shaped, interpreted, and politicised requires acknowledging the efforts involved.

This session aims to survey the presence and role of the archaeologist's body in Roman archaeology worldwide, spanning from Britain to the Mediterranean. It raises the following questions: Who contributes to data retrieval in Roman archaeology? What are the working conditions experienced by archaeologists on Roman-age sites? How is the body of archaeologists, especially women, considered and accounted for on these sites? Are the long-term effects of excavation on the archaeologists' bodies being studied?

By focussing on the archaeologist's body, this session emphasises the importance of both physical and intellectual labour at the heart of the relationship between archaeology and modern society. It promotes a sustainable and present-centred understanding of the materiality of the past. The session will be concluded with a roundtable in which all attendees and speakers will be invited to share and discuss their ideas on the presence/absence of the bodies in archaeological fieldwork and research.

Friday 12th (PM)		Room 2 - Drama Studio
14:00	Introduction (<i>Mauro Puddu</i>)	
14:10	Entanglement, Embodiment, Ontology: The body as medium for historical narratives (<i>Edoardo Vanni</i>)	
14:30	Archaeologists Unframed: The Shaping of Perceptions Beyond the Profession (<i>Cecilia Galleano</i>)	
14:50	Sexism in Archaeology: 'illustrating' the voices of female archaeologists (<i>Rita Gonçalves Pedro Casimiro da Costa</i>)	
15:10	Archaeological fieldwork for people with long-term conditions: limitations and potential for improvement (<i>Katerina Velentza</i>)	
15:30	BREAK	
16:00	Roundtable discussion	

Entanglement, Embodiment, Ontology: The body as medium for historical narratives

Edoardo Vanni – Università per Stranieri di Siena

This paper offers a perspective on the intimate link existing between theory, practice and the construction of historical narratives. It aims to investigate the specific ways in which the adoption of the body as a medium (as well as of the past or present agent) could be an historical factor for constructing categories and methodological procedures. The body in itself is the interface between different epistemological spheres. It is both a material surface through which archaeologists engaged with the past, and a heuristic barrier between object and subject and at the end the technical tool through which archaeologists construct historical interpretation. Through this paper, I will pay particular attention to the phenomenological approach that seems to cannibalize the debate. Ultimately, I will argue for a vision of the body as a place of asymmetrical relations between human and non-human that cannot be done justice from too strong a phenomenological or materialistic perspective. Even the neo-materialistic collapse of subject and object must be tempered by this idea of 'asymmetry,' in which a body beyond the human sphere must be accounted for. It is in this framework that I must consider time and space not only as contextual coordinates but as articulations of one another, with time structuring space and space giving form to time. All of this is done 'in/with/from the body'; the personhood is neither solely setting nor actor but can be thought of both as a language, a field in which all resides and of which all is composed, and the sign, the contextual manifestations of this field constantly invoking and at play with the whole, a whole that can never be disentangled from its concretization. This paper suggests looking at the body as a new heuristic tool for investigating the past as a whole, and ultimately a totalizing form of political engagement.

Archaeologists Unframed: The Shaping of Perceptions Beyond the Profession

Cecilia Galleano – Historic Environment, Land Use Consultants

The body of the archaeologist is often represented with distortions. Every archaeologist with field experience is aware that most of the time, the illustrations of archaeologists in action do not accurately represent the reality of the professional experience. Archaeological images primarily depict discoveries that often require a sensational or unique narrative to capture the public's attention. Within these photographs, the archaeologist is mostly portrayed with a brush for cleaning or with materials for recording and drawing. Mattocks, shovels, mud/dust, and physically demanding work are often out of the picture frame. This is not solely a consequence of publication choices; rather, it might derive from the lack of representation of archaeologists as professional figures within the archaeological narrative. The absence can be attributed to two main factors: working conditions and the lack of debate about the body of archaeologists. The working conditions for field archaeologists are still characterized by precariousness, limited career prospects, sexism, and age discrimination. The author will provide case studies based on their field experience in Roman excavations to support the above observations. This reflection on the field experience context has raised the following question: Is it possible to interpret the past anthropogenic remains with a limited but solid level of impartiality when we struggle to effectively communicate the present working conditions and the daily practices of our profession? This question will hopefully spark a debate.

Sexism in Archaeology: 'illustrating' the voices of female archaeologists

Rita Gonçalves Pedro Casimiro da Costa – Pre-Construct Archaeology

We live in a highly patriarchal society, where women are often regarded as secondary, the 'other sex'. This bias, unsurprisingly, extends to the field of archaeology. Literature often reflects the narrow interpretation of women's roles, and female archaeologists face regular sexist challenges in their profession. Comments such as "This is not a job for a woman" and various forms of uninvited derogatory comments are common. Other such remarks include

catcalling, remarks on physical appearance, sexual harassment, sexual assault, benevolent sexism, patronising attitudes, and disparity of opportunity, to name but a few. This increases in commercial archaeology which intersects with the male-dominated construction sector. Such biases are not limited to external sources; they sometimes come from peers and superiors, indicating a deeply entrenched societal prejudice where this is materialised in a far more discrete and undetected type of sexism. This makes archaeology a hostile and oppressive field for women. This paper intends to delve into sexism in archaeology by addressing pertinent questions: How are women perceived and treated in this field? What are their career prospects, especially in fieldwork? Why is there an evident lack of older female professionals in senior roles? Fieldwork requires female archaeologists to challenge traditional gender norms, a path laden with hurdles. Addressing these issues is complex and won't find resolutions swiftly. However, making our voices heard and taking action is vital. Illustrations can spotlight the struggles female archaeologists face, such as workplace gender-based violence. In our visually-driven society, these drawings become potent tools to communicate these silent battles.

Archaeological fieldwork for people with long-term conditions: limitations and potential for improvement

Katerina Velentza – Helsingin yliopisto

This paper analyses limitations and solutions concerning archaeological fieldwork for people living with long-term conditions, namely health conditions or diseases that are persistent or otherwise long-lasting in their effects and therefore considered as disabilities. The information discussed is based on personal experiences of archaeologists living with long-term conditions such as cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, autoimmune diseases, genetic disorders, viral diseases and others. The aim of this paper is to navigate the audience through various obstacles and limitations that people with autoimmune diseases and other long-term conditions might face when trying to participate in academic activities and archaeological fieldwork projects. Travel, weather, working conditions, schedule, accessibility to health services and mental health factors will be some of the topics discussed. While exploring these issues I will propose specific solutions and details that could be taken into consideration when organising a project to make archaeological fieldwork more inclusive and accessible to people with such disabilities.



The Material Culture of Childhood

Juliet Samson-Conlon – Birkbeck

Objects of childhood are culturally significant (Aries, 1962). They are part of how cultural norms are created and reinforced and are a valuable source for illuminating the lived experiences and social identities of children. It is possible to trace the courses of Roman childhood through material culture: for example, there is evidence for terracotta bottles being used to feed infants; dolls and a variety of toys would have been used in play and socialisation; and the protective *bullae* or *lunulae* would be worn throughout childhood and removed to mark adolescence, as a rite of passage into adulthood.

It is only in recent years that the lacunae in scholarship on children and childhood in the Roman world has been addressed with a view to understanding how childhood was both perceived socially and experienced individually. Age, per se, was not important; indeed, the Latin vocabulary did not contain words for ‘baby’, ‘infant’, or ‘toddler’ (Laes, 2011). Rather, childhood was viewed as a social category rather than a biological or developmental one, with the social roles that children could fulfil being defined by status and not by chronological age. Archaeology has enabled a fuller understanding of childhood in antiquity, demonstrating for example that jointed bone dolls are not simply passive artefacts that prepared their owner for the roles of being a wife and a mother but had a broader cultural significance, and are complex facets of identity formation and gender construction (Dolansky, 2012).

This session will bring together contributions from recent and on-going research into the material culture of childhood in the Roman world and will address how we can archaeologically understand childhood in the past. Papers are particularly welcome on specific object identifications, comparative analysis, or studies of individual sites which cover settlement and/or burial data in relation to childhood.

Friday 12th (PM)		Room 3 - Nunn Hall
14:00	Introduction (<i>Juliet Samson-Conlon</i>)	
14:10	Childhood in the Roman Near East: the evidence from Dura-Europos (<i>Juliet Samson-Conlon</i>)	
14:30	Adorning Childhood: Identifying Childhood through Adornment (<i>Courtney A Ward</i>)	
14:50	Investigating Roman maidens’ skills: spinning tools, writing sets and gaming pieces in the funerary contexts of the Roman Empire (<i>Ada Nifosi</i>)	
15:10	BREAK	
15:40	Toys, Trinkets and Treasures: Child Burials in the Durus River Valley (Iberia) (<i>Henry Clarke</i>)	
16:00	Tracing children through material culture in the funerary context of Roman-period Slovenia (<i>Kaja Stemberger Flegar</i>)	
16:20	Roman Childhood on the “Catarinella” Askos: Mourning, Social Integration, and Subadult Agency (<i>Christian Heitz & Matthias Hoernes</i>)	
16:40	When breast isn’t best; alternative infant feeding practices in Roman Britain (<i>Kayt Hawkins & Julie Dunne</i>)	

Childhood in the Roman Near East: the evidence from Dura-Europos

Juliet Samson-Conlon – Birkbeck

Society is reproduced through children and their enculturation, yet childhood can be problematic to interpret archaeologically, often relying upon decontextualised finds. This paper will provide an introduction to how we can archaeologically understand childhood in the past, in the context of the site of Dura-Europos in Syria. The site was extensively excavated in the 1920's & 30's, yielding a rich array of material, including contextualised finds relating to children. Using the opportunities provided for by the volume and variety of secure archaeological data from Dura (approximately 15,000 artefacts from ten seasons of published excavation) this paper will highlight some of the material available for examining childhood at the site, which includes both settlement and burial evidence. With its focussed contribution on this one specific site in the Roman Near East, this paper will provide an overview of some of the unique opportunities that are available, in relation to the archaeology of childhood widening the discourse on children and childhood in the wider Roman world, whilst also addressing broader questions of everyday life, cultural interaction and gendered practices.

Adorning Childhood: Identifying Childhood through Adornment

Courtney A Ward

Studies on the material culture of childhood dress and adornment often focus on the *bulla* of the freeborn boy and the *lunula* that was associated with girls; however, were these really the clear-cut markers of childhood identity that the literature suggests? This paper looks at the assemblages of amulets and jewellery associated with children from sites preserved by the eruption of Vesuvius in AD 79 (e.g., Pompeii and Herculaneum). This material is particularly informative as it documents the lived experience (and adornment) of children rather than presenting identities that were created for them in death. This paper argues that as Roman children moved from *infantia* to adolescence, becoming more active and visible members of the household (and society), so too their adornment moved from more inward-focusing apotropaic charms and amulets to active objects that helped create and display identity. Further, it identifies a gender divide (between *puer* and *puella*) in this transitional period and the ways in which this was expressed through adornment. Overall, this paper uses the personal adornment found with children in Roman Campania to archaeologically identify stages of childhood that are not highlighted or only hinted at in the written record.

Investigating Roman maidens' skills: spinning tools, writing sets and gaming pieces in the funerary contexts of the Roman Empire

Ada Nifosi – University of Kent

The Roman tombs of young, and perhaps unmarried, women found in the Roman Empire, and dating between the 1st and the 4th c. AD, have received great attention from scholars in the past few decades. Previous studies have focused on the most striking aspects of young girls' exceptional burials: the mummification of some of these girls in an oriental fashion; the unusual amount of jewellery; the presence in many of these tombs of ivory and bone dolls. Less attention has been paid to the funerary objects which showed the girls' practical skills: in particular spinning tools, such as finger distaffs, writing sets, gaming pieces and even musical instruments. Why were these objects included in tombs of young girls? Were they included as material attestations of the girls' agency, as part of their future dowry or as symbols of their ideal skills? This paper stems from my ongoing book project on maidenhood in funerary contexts and will offer evidence coming from several tombs of young women in the Roman Empire (in particular Italy and Egypt) and will compare such evidence with funerary inscriptions and historical sources.

Toys, Trinkets and Treasures: Child Burials in the Durius River Valley (Iberia)

Henry Clarke – University of Leeds

Late Iron Age and early Roman period burial assemblages from the Durius Valley which ostensibly contain toys (e.g. rattles, marbles and game tokens) are often considered children's graves. The same is true of assemblages which include miniaturised objects which seem to replicate the adult world on the relative scale of the child's. However, osteological analysis has only securely identified the age of the deceased in some cases. Moreover, many of these objects are also found in the graves of known adults. How then are we to use these burials confidently as evidence of the lived experiences of children in this region? This paper will re-evaluate the purported material culture of childhood identified from burials in the Durius Valley. It will draw on recent insights into material agency and from sensory archaeology to reconsider what these objects could do, as well as the cultural significance that might have been attached to them. It will explore how far we can use this material culture to identify the treatment of children as a distinct social group, whether these items were perceived differently in life and in death, and how far they might reveal the identities of the deceased individuals they were buried with.

Tracing children through material culture in the funerary context of Roman-period Slovenia

Kaja Stemberger Flegar – PJP d.o.o. Arheološko podjetje

In this paper I am going to address certain groups of material culture through which one can trace children in the funerary setting. Children have been studied to a limited extent in Slovenian archaeology. While osteological analyses have only become a standardised part of post-excavation procedures in the last two decades, there is a vast amount of older published material for which the biological data is missing. I will re-examine these datasets for objects known from external parallels and ancient sources to indicate the presence of children of different age groups. We know from the writings of ancient authors that the rules for burying were different for children and adults, influencing among other aspects the choice of grave goods. From the burials of Roman-period Slovenia, two major groups emerge in regard to artefacts commonly considered to be associated with children. The larger group contained apotropaic items that varied in terms of material, shape, and supposed magical attributes. The less numerous and less studied group of burials included feeding bottles, and have in similar contexts been interpreted as infant graves across the Empire.

Roman Childhood on the "Catarinella" Askos: Mourning, Social Integration, and Subadult Agency

Christian Heitz – Leopold-Franzens-Universität Innsbruck

Matthias Hoernes – Universität Wien

In order to understand children as active participants in lived religion and in the communities of early Roman southern Italy, this paper focuses on the so-called "Catarinella" askos, variously dated between the 3rd and the first half of the 1st century BCE. This unique painted vessel from Lavello (Basilicata) depicts a funerary ceremony with children serving as musicians and interacting with the corpse. The paper argues that pre-adult community members, though barely visible as such in the region's burial record, were integrated in administering funerary ceremonies, expressing grief and mourning, and performing practices of lamentation. To make this case, the paper contextualises the askos within the figurative repertoire of southern Italy, drawing on 4th-century funerary paintings from Campania and terracotta figurines from tombs in 4th- and 3rd-century northern Apulia, but also on earlier Italic depictions and later Roman parallels. By emphasising the interplay of Italic, Greek and Roman traditions, it situates the pictorial evidence provided by the "Catarinella" askos in the context of the profound political, cultural and ritual changes that took place in Daunia during the Middle and Late Republican periods.

When breast isn't best; alternative infant feeding practices in Roman Britain

Kayt Hawkins – University College London; Archaeology South-East

Julie Dunne – University of Bristol

All mothers at some point make a decision about how to feed their baby, decisions influenced by social and cultural factors. Alongside maternal breast-feeding and wet nursing, the use of small, spouted, ceramic vessels to provide replacement or supplementary foodstuffs in the Roman period has been proposed by various researchers. Whereas such vessels have a long history in other geographical regions, no such prehistoric equivalents are known from Britain, where the earliest occurrences date to the mid-late 1st century AD. Scientific analysis on continental prehistoric vessels have revealed traces of dairy-based contents, interpreted as evidence for replacement breastfeeding (Rebay-Salisbury et al 2021), yet recent organic residue analysis of some Romano-British vessels have produced mixed ruminant and dairy lipid traces, indicating a different or adapted manner of use. This paper will explore the possible implications of these results, in conjunction with a review of the vessels production, distribution and final placement within infant burials.

Bibliography:

Rebay-Salisbury, K., Dunne, J., Salisbury, R.B., Kern, D., Frisch, A., Evershed, R.P. 2021. Feeding Babies at the Beginnings of Urbanization in Central Europe. *Childhood in the Past* 14(2): 102-124. DOI: [10.1080/17585716.2021.1956051](https://doi.org/10.1080/17585716.2021.1956051)



For a fistful of Daleks: scholarship, popular culture, Roman world

Ljubica Perinić – Hrvatska akademija znanosti i umjetnosti

Anton Ye. Baryshnikov

Andrew Gardner – University College London

June of 2023 is the month when Queens of the Stone Age release their new album, 'In Times New Roman'. This is not just good news for all Josh Homme's or Dean Fertita fans but also a reminder that images of Rome and her imperial past still matter today. But the same can be said about the popular culture itself; it matters more than it seems, it continues to impact scholars who study the realm of Rome, and the realm of Rome is still impacting society and popular culture.

Some manifestations of such impact were discussed during TRAC 2023. But that debate is far from being over and not because we failed to agree on what Doctor is the best. There are a lot of sources of influence and inspirations to be talked about. How may Conan and the snake cult help those who study ancient religion? How may professional wrestling contribute to social archaeology and history? What can modern music and improvisation tell us about religion and hegemony in ancient polities? Many things, from strips to movie trips, contributing to the popular and academic image of Rome and her Empire remain unseen and unnoticed. So, this session aims to make them visible and enhance our understanding of antiquity (let alone creating popular images of better quality).

Friday 12th (PM)		Room 4 - Clarke Hall
14:00	Introduction	
14:10	Quatermass and the Trench: The influence of London's archaeology on Sci Fi, Fantasy, and Horror (<i>Owen Humphreys</i>)	
14:30	Meditations on popular cultures, hegemonies, and archaeological horizons of "Roman Britain", as compared with personal experiences of the sound ritual (<i>Jake Weekes</i>)	
14:50	"Was there any message with the bracelet?" "...I think the bracelet is the message." Values and Material Culture in Rosemary Sutcliff's Roman Britain (<i>David Walsh</i>)	
15:10	Verso police - Gladiatorial combat, preconceived notions and common misconceptions in popular culture (<i>Ivan Radman-Livaja</i>)	
15:30	Catilina: The Villain and His Virtues (<i>Anna Markina</i>)	
15:50	BREAK	
16:20	Obliti privatorum, publica curate (<i>Ljubica Perinić</i>)	
16:40	Gorgeous George on Roman ruins: the concept of 'kayfabe' and identities in the Roman world (<i>Anton Ye. Baryshnikov</i>)	
17:00	Discussion	

Quatermass and the Trench: The influence of London's archaeology on Sci Fi, Fantasy, and Horror

Owen Humphreys – Museum of London Archaeology

In 1958, workmen on a bomb-damaged construction site in central London uncovered a mysterious capsule. Archaeologists were brought in, and the site became a national sensation, with queues around the block and fevered public debate. But the contents of the capsule threatened the world in a way that only Professor Quatermass could avoid. The trenches, archaeologists, workmen, and the public response to them in the landmark Sci Fi mini-series *Quatermass and the Pit* were almost exact replicas of the scenes reported on in London four years earlier, when archaeologists unearthed a Roman Temple in central London. This marked the start of a long connection between London's archaeology and genre cinema, both domestic and international; from buildings archaeology in Hammer Horror to *Crossrail* in *The Mummy*. Whilst blockbuster pop-cultural depictions of archaeology (Indiana Jones, Tomb Raider, *Uncharted*, etc.) are typically rooted in exotic pulp adventure fiction, this paper explores the interplay between domestic archaeology (and its depictions in news media) and works of speculative fiction, focusing on London as a case study. In doing so, we will show how archaeology has become worryingly Flanderised, shifting from being a locus for public debate to mere set dressing.

Meditations on popular cultures, hegemonies, and archaeological horizons of "Roman Britain", as compared with personal experiences of the sound ritual

Jake Weekes – Canterbury Archaeological Trust

In his insightful *In Small Things Forgotten* (1977; 1996), James Deetz included an extraordinary example of the impact of mass media popular culture on traditional material. Deetz was considering music as material culture, the creation of sound waves in the air (I would like to qualify this excellent idea by describing music as sound ritual). In this light Deetz looked at the transformation of a traditional creole via a medium of mass communication in the United States. In small and isolated frontier communities a musical and dance ritual had developed around "the string band", generally based on a banjo (instrument of African origin) and a fiddle (violin of European origin). A somewhat sedate image of country waltzes at feasting events can be invoked. In the early twentieth century this was shattered by radio waves that could channel music westwards across large distances into the interior, and fast picking Bluegrass music was pumped out to remote homesteads, creating a new craze and changing their particular music rituals forever! Many similar such occurrences have occurred, with new groups being inspired by, and taking up, new music and related culture from remote and very different places and backgrounds. Consider the "British Blues Boom" of the 1960s, for example, which saw mainly middle classed young people pick up on the electric blues of African American Chicago that they sought out on vinyl records, and eventually popularised their version of it on a global scale, with bands like the Rolling Stones actually materially changing the career opportunities of Blue Greats from the heartland itself. How new people make these new cultural things their own is surely the most interesting thing. Music has a hegemonic aspect in broader polities, which have imagined communities that require an idea at least of shared ritual and community: in modern commercialism the cultural "product" becomes increasingly homogenised and branded, stifling improvisation and free expression. In my own experience, having been told by 1980s ideologues that music of the electric guitar and drum kit was a thing of the past, with synthesizers and drum machines taking over, I was personally in a group that resisted, and I still do, in various groups. The music I/we used to play in my first band was a version of "the Boogie", of John Lee Hooker fame, which I heard from a remote source (an LP) in my youth, just like those people mentioned by Deetz and their Bluegrass, and just like the Rolling Stones, John Mayall, Cream and Jimi Hendrix (a fascinating creole subject in his own right!) and all those of their ilk had done before my own time. OK... Do reflections on these things have a place in the archaeology of Roman Britain? I will look at some examples of how provincials adapted their rituals and identities in the face of "Romanness" (or rather various provincial versions of that cultural horizon), at the same time considering both improvisation and structuration as the forces that lie behind creole archaeological horizons. Maybe a "popular culture horizon" is a good description of "Romanness" actually!

“Was there any message with the bracelet?” “...I think the bracelet is the message.”, Values and Material Culture in Rosemary Sutcliff’s Roman Britain

David Walsh – Newcastle University

Rosemary Sutcliff was one of the most successful and prolific authors of historical fiction in the twentieth century. Primarily considered a children’s author, although she wrote several novels for adults, Sutcliff’s works have sold millions of copies and have been translated into a variety of languages. Sutcliff’s narratives were set in various periods and locations, but she is most famous for her novels and short stories set in Roman to post-Roman Britain, beginning with *The Eagle of the Ninth* (1954). This paper will discuss how Sutcliff drew upon the archaeological record to advance the didactic aspects of her narratives. Sutcliff was aware that she had a platform to instil certain values in her young readership, and these values were repeatedly exhibited by her protagonists, particularly bravery and fortitude in the face of adversity. In many of her narratives, certain objects are passed down through the generations as symbols of these values. These objects were often drawn directly from the archaeological record or display close parallels with real-world objects. Consequently, for Sutcliff’s readers the real-world version of the artefact, or a similar item, becomes encoded with these values as they draw on Sutcliff’s narratives to ‘fill-in-the-gaps’ in the object’s biography.

***Verso pollice* - Gladiatorial combat, preconceived notions and common misconceptions in popular culture**

Ivan Radman-Livaja – Arheološki muzej u Zagrebu

When people think of Roman civilisation, one of the first things that come to mind is gladiatorial fights. One may hardly encounter someone who never heard of the games in the arena and it is certainly a topic that everybody believes to be quite well-informed about since this appears basically as common knowledge, even for people who never paid much interest to ancient history. Obviously, it is not knowledge acquired through reading written sources and scholarly literature, but through popular culture, especially movies as well as cartoons and novels since the 19th century. But how close is the nowadays widespread vision of Roman games to the historical facts? As a matter of fact, one should rather say how far this commonly accepted image is from what was actually going on in the arena. This paper aims to present the most common clichés and contrast them with what Roman sources and archaeological discoveries actually tell us about gladiatorial combat.

Catilina: The Villain and His Virtues

Anna Markina

Sallust, being the one who witnessed Catilina's conspiracy as a youth, the one who saw Caesar's dictatorship and its consequences as an adult, seems to have a rather clear view on of the former: «*Catilina fuit ingenio malo pravoque ... animo audace subdolo vario ... alieni adpetens sui profusus, ardens in cupiditatibus*». Such harsh judgements can be seen through the whole book up to the very last chapters when, all of a sudden, within the description of the final battle between consul's army and Catilina appear some real, seemingly hidden from the contemporaries, traits of his character. At the death's door he is a noble commander indeed, *vir virtutis*, the one who does not betray himself, his former actions and intentions, as well as the people whom he has led to riot against *Rem Publicam*. Of all surviving ancient texts this monography of Sallust may be the first to demonstrate a good trait of an undoubtedly villain person; it also may be the first example of usage of this feature as rhetorical device. This paper presents an attempt to analyze such an image of 'a virtuous villain' from the perspective of the folklore motif, that has been a common feature of many later texts. The earliest stages of its existence can reconstructed on the basis of classic scholarly publications (such as books by Campbell and Propp), it had been changing since then and still exists as an important of a contemporary pop-culture, from books and movies to cartoons and comics (hey, Loki, I am looking at you). Such

cultural-philological approach can be helpful for Roman historians and archaeologists (and for anyone who deals with ancient history); it helps to put the evidence in a wider cultural context, it inspires the quest for some real meta-disciplinary agenda, it saves from trusting any of the ancient witness too much. But most important, it serves the ultimate goal of the research — reaching a better understanding of the past and a better understanding of the present.

Obliti privatorum, publica curate

Ljubica Perinić – Hrvatska akademija znanosti i umjetnosti

Roman religion per se, no matter how many volumes or pages have been written so far, is a field in which we still struggle. Which cult was private, which was a matter of public observance, how do they intermingle, or do they intermingle – it seems that every answer we give is equally correct or equally wrong. How exactly did the Romans conceive and think of religion and how does it differ from our understanding of it, if at all? How did the cults spread? The above sentence, or now a local proverb, *Obliti privatorum publica curate* is the 15th century inscription that stood above the entrance of the Rector's palace in the Republic of Ragusa, what today is the city of Dubrovnik in Croatia. The Rector's palace was the seat of the rectors of the Republic of Ragusa between the 14th century and 1808, the seat of the Minor Council and of the state administration. It was the centre of political power. This same maxim, 'Forget the private, take care of the public', can be easily transferred to Rome which is no wonder since the sentence was a paraphrase from Cicero's *De officiis*. Especially effortless is the sentence's transposition to the Roman army with its division to the official and unofficial cults. Through movies or series like *Gladiator*, *Conan*, and HBO's *Rome*, the aim of this paper is to validate or not religious moments depicted there.

Gorgeous George on Roman ruins: the concept of 'kayfabe' and identities in the Roman world

Anton Ye. Baryshnikov

In 1941 the attendants of a wrestling show in Eugene, Oregon saw how a man dressed like a French aristocrat entered the ring. It was George Raymond Wagner, also known as 'Gorgeous George', 'Human Orchid' and 'Toast of the Coast'. His influence on pop culture is enormous and surely cannot be overestimated. Still, one must be truly surprised to see his name in the abstract for Roman archaeology conference. For us it is more important that persons like Gorgeous George convey so-called 'kayfabe', a key concept for the world of professional wrestling, a word that has a very complex meaning and reflects a very complex social reality where the simple division of 'real' and 'fake' does not work. This paper is focused on the 'kayfabe'; the author believes that it can be useful at least as a productive and inspiring research metaphor for social history and archaeology. In particular, it may be beneficial for the ever-growing field of identity studies where the blurred lines between the reality existed and the reality declared are sometimes hardly noticed.



Identity, Integration, and Roman Colonial Coinages in the 2nd and 3rd Centuries CE

Robyn Le Blanc – The University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Szymon Jellonek – University of Warsaw

This panel considers Roman colonial coinages from the second to third centuries CE, focusing on how coins functioned as indicators of colonial identity and cultural and political integration. Many studies (e.g., papers in Howgego, Heuchert, and Burnett 2005) consider how coinages reflected civic identities, but this panel aims to focus on the numismatic manifestation of colonial identities and on local approaches to negotiating them. In particular, we ask: how did these coinages present their relationship with Rome and assert a colonial identity while simultaneously promoting local cults, myths, and priorities? What numismatic transformations coincided with colonial status, and what regional or chronological patterns can we trace? Aulus Gellius asserted that colonies were miniatures or copies of Rome, an assessment often invoked to understand the significance of colonial motifs; to what extent is this framing helpful in elucidating the messaging on these coins, and their reception? Are colonial coins proof of spontaneous integration with autochthonous culture? Or were they used to manifest Roman domination? Or can both approaches be traced? The ultimate goal of this panel is to challenge and deconstruct how Roman colonies used coins to negotiate a colonial identity, and to make connections to Rome, other peoples, and communities.

Bibliography:

Howgego, C.J., Heuchert, V. and Burnett, A.M. 2005. *Coinage and Identity in the Roman Provinces*. Oxford: Oxford University Press

Friday 12th (PM)		Room 5 - C3.09
14:00	Introduction	
14:10	Roman Coinage and Local Narrations (<i>Charikleia Papageorgiadou</i>)	
14:30	The Emperor and the City - imperial portraits as markers of colonial identity? (<i>Francesca Bologna</i>)	
14:50	Language of Roman Colonial Coins: Code-switching or Linguistic Incompetence? (<i>Szymon Jellonek</i>)	
15:10	Civic Coins, Colonies, and the Constitutio Antoniana (<i>Robyn Le Blanc</i>)	
15:30	BREAK	
16:00	Mouse God or Plowmen? Comparing the Roman Coinage of Alexandria Troas and Parion and their Iconography of Identity (<i>Amanda Herring</i>)	
16:20	Cassandreia deconstructed (<i>Olivia Denk</i>)	
16:40	New Legends in the Land of Byzas: Roman Identity and Civic Competition in Byzantium and Perinthus (<i>Emily Hurt</i>)	

Roman Coinage and Local Narrations

Charikleia Papageorgiadou – National Hellenic Research Foundation

A neat numismatic iconography, using mostly symbolic and static figures, was normally ideal to disseminate the Roman state's messages. However, there are few instances, where more complex scenes are represented, a tendency which is more evident at the Eastern provincial mints where scenes of narrative and popular informal character are represented, denoting interaction and time continuity. It is possible that these numismatic types can be seen in a context of a policy of remembrance of the glorious past of indigenous people or of declaration of a local identity, especially as they are dated to the 2nd century onwards and related to the "Greek Renaissance" of the Antonine period. Since most of them represent scenes from well-known myths, traditions and novels, which are also reproduced in other forms of art, they can be also explained as part of a wider imitative tendency, based on sketches circulating through the empire in the hands of itinerant artists, to be used privately or stately.

The Emperor and the City – imperial portraits as markers of colonial identity?

Francesca Bologna – Università di Verona

The image of the Emperor appeared on coins minted throughout the Roman Empire, from the capital to its most remote outposts. It was his face – and that of other members of the imperial family – that ensured the validity of local currencies. This was true also in the eastern Empire, where cities with a long and established civic tradition included imperial portraits on the obverse of their coins. Yet, studies exploring the relationship between coinages and civic identities have focused almost exclusively on reverses, overlooking the informative potential of obverses. Imperial portraits were variously received, showing different attitudes and local visual traditions. This paper will focus on imperial numismatic portraits of Emperors and Caesars in the east of the Empire in the 3rd century CE, assessing whether colonies showed a distinctive attitude towards imperial images. This in turn will highlight if the different legal status of the colonies entailed a different approach from that of their neighbouring cities, exploring how the relationship with Rome shaped civic identities. The paper will focus on two case studies: coins showing Geta and Caracalla (198-211 CE) and Macrinus and Diadumenian (217-218 CE).

Language of Roman Colonial Coins: Code-switching or Linguistic Incompetence?

Szymon Jellonek – Uniwersytet Warszawski

Latin remained the sole language of Roman colonies in the 1st century BCE and 2nd century CE. However, in the 3rd century ten of the newly established colonies decided to strike coins with Greek inscriptions. Furthermore, there are coins bearing bilingual or even trilingual legends. Simultaneously, Latin was still in use on coins of old veteran colonies and some founded in the 3rd century. Nonetheless, plenty of linguistic errors occurred on colonial coins in the 3rd century. The presented paper will challenge the phenomenon of bilingual colonial coins. Was it an effect of code-switching or rather the result of the engraver's linguistic incompetence? The author will present arguments in favour of either possibility and argue that both are correct.

Civic Coins, Colonies, and the *Constitutio Antoniniana*

Robyn Le Blanc – The University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Colonial status in the Early Principate conferred both symbolic status and real privileges to recipient provincial communities, including land grants, citizenship, self-government, and (sometimes) exemption from provincial land taxes. Cities celebrated their status on civic coinage through the use of Latin legends, colonial titles, and imagery connected to Rome, such as depictions of the Roman civic foundation rite, the *Lupa Romana*, and an image of the statue of Marsyas from the Forum Romanum. The nature of colonial status shifted in the third century CE, e.g., with grants under the Severans acting as rewards for particular loyalty. In addition, in 212 CE the Edict of Caracalla (*Constitutio Antoniniana*) granted Roman citizenship widely to communities across the provinces, essentially undercutting one of the primary benefits of colonial status. Nevertheless, communities still received colonial grants, and promoted them as a special status on their coinage. This paper explores what impact the *Constitutio Antoniniana* had on the ways that colonial types and status appeared on locally produced coins, particularly arguing that coinage demonstrates that the symbolic importance of colonial status still outweighed the loss of more tangible benefits in the third century CE.

Mouse God or Plowmen? Comparing the Roman Coinage of Alexandria Troas and Parion and their Iconography of Identity

Amanda Herring – Loyola Marymount University

This paper proposes to examine the coinage of two Roman colonies in the Troad: Alexandria Troas and Parion. Alexandria Troas and Parion, like the other few Roman colonies in western Anatolia, were already established cities that were re-founded as Roman colonies. While Roman colonists were brought to the cities and Roman civic structures were imposed after their re-foundations in the first century BCE, it is difficult to see these cities as miniature Romes due to their previously established Greco-Anatolian urban structures, populations, and cults. In the second and third centuries CE, both cities minted coins with a bust of the emperor on the obverse and a symbol of the city on the reverse. Alexandria Troas's coinage regularly featured images of the locally important and distinctly Anatolian cult of Apollo Smintheus, who had also appeared on the coinage of Alexandria Troas before Roman colonization. In contrast, in Parion, the reverse of their coinage often depicted oxen and men plowing. Plowing was associated with the foundation of a Roman colony, so the image celebrates Parion's status as a colony, rather than local history or cult. This paper will examine why Parion asserted their Roman-ness more forcefully than Alexandria Troas on their coins, despite the cities' proximity and similar backgrounds. It will argue that the differences in numismatic iconography can be attributed to differences in how identity was renegotiated in tandem with economic and social status in the cities in the Roman imperial period.

Cassandraia deconstructed

Olivia Denk – Universität Basel

New insights into the coin iconography of Chalcidice were produced within the framework of my PhD project. The paper is dedicated to the Roman colony of Cassandraia, former Potidaea, and deals with an interesting reverse type that Hugo Gaebler mentioned in a footnote (Gaebler 1906, 54-55). Speaking of a pantheistic connection of Ammon with Zeus and Dionysos or with Zeus, Dionysos, and Asclepios, the coin images reflect local cults from the incorporated sanctuary of Aphytis (Nea Kalithea). I aim to analyze this syncretic phenomenon with an interdisciplinary approach based on coin material from the 2nd and 3rd centuries and archaeological findings from

Aphytis and Potidaea. Furthermore, the appearance of the nymph Nysa on the reverse type (e.g., Gordian III, Coin Cabinet Winterthur) will be discussed in the context of myth-making. This focus on Cassandreia demonstrates a case study to trace the numismatic interplay of colonial identities and stylistic citations of local cults on Roman colonial coinages.

New Legends in the Land of Byzas: Roman Identity and Civic Competition in Byzantium and Perinthus

Emily Hurt – Yale University

In 196 CE, Septimius Severus drove his rival, Pescennius Niger, out of his stronghold in the city of Byzantium on the Bosphorus. In the wake of Niger's defeat, Severus took the city, executed its soldiers and magistrates, stripped it of its lands and walls, and placed it under the control of nearby Perinthus. Numismatic evidence reveals that Severus also granted to Perinthus a temple of the imperial cult and the right to hold a series of games. Soon after this display of civic punishment, Severus refounded Byzantium as *Byzantion Colonia Antoninia*. This paper examines and compares the coinages of the colony of Byzantium and the city of Perinthus to ask how these cities used the language and mechanisms of Roman power to negotiate regional power dynamics. In doing so, the paper considers how local cults and foundation legends were refashioned in the dialogue with both Roman and local histories. Numismatic iconography offers a window into how Rome engaged with the long tradition of peer-polity rivalry in the east to establish and normalize colonial identity as it was mapped onto existing city states.



Looking back, looking forward: reflections and recent research on the Romans in Sussex

Louise Rayner – University College London; Archaeology South-East

Rob Symmons – Fishbourne Roman Palace; Sussex Past

In April 2024, the IoA Sussex Archaeological Field Unit (now known as Archaeology South-East) celebrates 50 years since its establishment in 1974. Of course, excavation and research into Roman Sussex goes much further back, but with the huge increase in rescue and then planning-led excavations over the last 50 years how has our understanding of Roman Sussex developed? Has knowledge advancement been consistent across the three main geological zones of

Sussex: the Weald, the Downs and the Coastal Plain or is the evidence variable across these different locations?

Sussex has Roman palaces, many known villa sites, road network and associated roadside settlements, temples, industrial sites and rural farmsteads – many key sites excavated decades ago. What have recent excavations added to this picture? Or is the most significant knowledge increase coming from older archives and re-examining their potential?

Other extensively studied regions are now considering whether ‘theoretical knowledge plateaus’ have been reached (Aldred et al 2023; Evans et al 2023). How far away or close to this ‘data mountain’ is Roman Sussex? What do we understand well and where are the gaps? How should this influence the focus of future research? This session will invite contributions from across the diverse community of archaeologists active in Sussex to reflect and review past and current research in the Roman archaeology of Sussex, in its widest sense and consider how best to approach understanding the Romans in Sussex over the next 50 years.

Friday 12th (PM)		Room 6 - C3.11
14:00	Introduction	
14:10	Roman Archaeology in Sussex: the first 30 years of the Sussex Field Archaeology Unit (<i>David Rudling</i>)	
14:30	Holding out for a Nero: redefining the Chichester/Rome Connection (<i>Miles Russell</i>)	
14:50	From Chichester to Hayling Island. Exploring a possible pilgrimage route westwards from the Roman town to the civitas boundary (<i>Anthony King</i>)	
15:10	Pottery and its role in our understanding of Roman Sussex (<i>Anna Doherty</i>)	
15:30	Looking back at 50 years of charred plant remains analysis: insights and reflections on roman agriculture and food in Sussex (<i>Elsa Neveu, Lucy Allott & Angela Vitolo</i>)	
15:50	BREAK	
16:20	Impacts of the Roman invasion of Britain on the landscape around Fishbourne Roman Palace (<i>Joseph Shakespeare, Mark Hardiman, Rob Scaife, Rob Symmons & Adele Julier</i>)	
16:40	What’s left to learn about Roman iron in Sussex? (<i>Mike Charlton, Ethan Greenwood & Rob Symmons</i>)	
17:00	Data, knowledge, gaps and what the future might bring? Understanding Roman Sussex through 20 years of development-led archaeology 2005-2025 (<i>Andrew Margetts, Hayley Nicholls, Giles Dawkes, Tom Munnery & Louise Rayner</i>)	

Roman Archaeology in Sussex: the first 30 years of the Sussex Field Archaeology Unit

David Rudling – The Sussex School of Archaeology and History

Although the Roman period was not specifically chosen for one of the four main research projects of the Sussex Archaeological Field Unit (SAFU) in 1976, soon after the Unit's establishment in 1974, during the next 30 years much Roman archaeology was undertaken, initially as state funded rescue archaeology (especially dealing with plough damaged sites) and subsequently as planning-led responses to development works (especially road and house building). In addition, some projects were chosen to cater for the undergraduate fieldwork training needs of the UCL Institute of Archaeology, of which SAFU was a part. All this survey and excavation work resulted in significant advances in knowledge regarding some previously investigated key sites (such as Bignor Villa, Chanctonbury Ring, and Lancing Temple) and the discovery and investigation of new sites elsewhere (examples being a tiliary with ancillary structures at Hartfield, the first Sussex 'roundhouse' to villa developmental sequence at Beddingham, and the investigation of field systems at Beachy Head and at Brighton). This lecture will review some of the main Roman archaeology undertaken by SAFU during the period 1974 to 2005. It will highlight some of the major achievements of this fieldwork, but also identify various major gaps in our knowledge of Roman Sussex at the beginning of the new millennium.

Holding out for a Nero: redefining the Chichester / Rome Connection

Miles Russell – Bournemouth University

Recent archaeological fieldwork in West Sussex, combined with new survey of sculpture and a reanalysis of museum archive material, has not only shed new light on the nature of (and form taken by) early Roman settlement in central southern Britain, but has also helped better define the intimate relationship between the Julio Claudian first family of Rome and the British Iron Age ruling elite. It has long been recognised that first century Chichester (NOVIOMAGVS) originally possessed a large number of important inscriptions, but the immediate area has also produced sculptured images featuring both the princeps and other members of his immediate family. These, when combined with the muscular, imperial-inspired architecture of palatial buildings at Fishbourne, Pulborough, Southwick and Eastbourne, suggest that our current understanding of Roman activity in Sussex and eastern Hampshire is deficient, the area in fact being critical to the transmission of *Romanitas* and formal creation of the new province. The Sussex coastal plain was not some provincial backwater, Fishbourne palace acting as a "beacon of civilisation in a landscape otherwise devoid of Mediterranean culture", but something altogether more significant. This slice of Britannia was, it seems, a favoured place for both old and new money as well as for those Britons who were simply holding out for a Nero.

From Chichester to Hayling Island. Exploring a possible pilgrimage route westwards from the Roman town to the *civitas* boundary.

Anthony King – University of Winchester

Although not in present-day Sussex, the temple site on Hayling Island has always had relevance to the Roman *territorium* of Chichester and its preceding Iron Age *oppidum*. This paper explores the nature of that relationship, with particular reference to a potential pilgrimage route from Chichester, via Funtington and Havant, to the temple site. The alignment of the Roman road west from Chichester to Havant will be discussed as part of the pilgrimage route, in view of the problem of Fishbourne Roman palace and its position in relation to the road. The new finds from Hayling Island since 2015 give a perspective on the temple as a focus for widely dispersed offerings and a possible seasonal mass presence around the shrine itself. The positioning of the temple on the island will also be explored, its link to Commius, and the evidence for Hayling being the western limit of the Iron Age territorial *oppidum* and also the *civitas* of the Regini/Regni.

Pottery and its role in our understanding of Roman Sussex

Anna Doherty – Archaeology South-East; University College London

Currently, there are limitations to our understanding of Roman ceramics in Sussex. We lack fine grained understanding of ceramic phasing and patterns of supply for Roman Chichester, for example. Major pottery industries are poorly understood with relatively few known kiln sites and even fewer that are comprehensively published. We do not yet have a regional type-series to ensure that different specialists working on pottery from the region produce datasets that can be collated and compared. This paper aims to address why this matters for our wider understanding of the Roman period in Sussex, highlights some areas where knowledge has improved and discusses what we can do to further integrate pottery into regional research.

Looking back at 50 years of charred plant remains analysis: insights and reflections on roman agriculture and food in Sussex

Elsa Neveu – Archaeology South-East; University College London

Lucy Allott – Archaeology South-East; University College London

Angela Vitolo – Archaeology South-East; University College London

In the last 50 years, Archaeology South-East (ASE) participated in rescue and planning-led excavations that contributed to document and understand Roman Sussex including the development of charred plant remains analysis in this region. The influence of Romans had major impacts on society, technology, economy and the environments. This project aims to create a database of Roman sites in Sussex from which charred plant remains were analysed for final reports or publications by ASE. For each site; excavation and publication date, site type (villas, farms, towns, religious or military settlements), number of samples, their volume, feature type, number of crop taxa and quantity of remains will be recorded. This paper will review the dataset to establish what type of sites are documented and consider evidence for regional features such as the association between crop choice and geological zone (the Weald, South Downs and Coastal Plain), access to spices and exotic species in urban and rural sites and how these trends articulate with dynamics evidenced in the rest of Britain and described in existing reviews of Roman Archaeobotany. We will highlight gaps in our knowledge of the area and research questions for future projects and publications.

Impacts of the Roman invasion of Britain on the landscape around Fishbourne Roman Palace

Joseph Shakespeare – University of Portsmouth *Mark Hardiman – University of Portsmouth*

Rob Scaife – University of Southampton

Rob Symmons – Sussex Past

Adele Julier – University of Portsmouth

Fishbourne Roman Palace is an important archaeological site as it was one of the earliest sites of Roman influence in the British Isles. Pollen work was conducted during initial archaeological excavations, but preservation was poor and few taxa were recovered. In this study we present a sediment core of 193 cm which covers the period of Roman occupation of Fishbourne, with a basal date of approximately 209 BCE. The core was taken from salt marsh sediments 1 km south of Fishbourne Roman Palace, on the western bank of the Fishbourne Channel. The sediments were composed mainly of fine silts and clays containing some macro plant remains and yielded well preserved pollen. From 2 CE to 400 CE potentially Roman introduced taxa such as *Picea* and *Abies* are observed along with high levels of *Brassicaceae* pollen potentially originating from the palace garden. Post- 400 CE an increase in arboreal taxa is observed from the wider landscape, potentially indicating land abandonment, which is consistent with other records from the local area during this time period. This allows for a greater insight into long-term Roman-induced landscape change by military, industry and domestic influences.

What's left to learn about Roman iron in Sussex?

Mike Charlton – University College London; Archaeology South East

Ethan Greenwood

Rob Symmons – Sussex Past

The Weald in Sussex is the best researched and documented Roman ironmaking landscape in Britain. This is in large part due to the extraordinary work of Henry Cleere who defined not only the aims of Wealden iron research, but also outlined the first models of iron production and distribution in Roman Britain. This has sometimes been taken as the final word and other times sparked debate—the role of the *Classis Britannica* in the organisation of production in the Western Weald being a prime example of the latter. Cleere's own writings indicate that his iron circulation models were not complete and called for evaluation through iron provenance analysis. The dominant approach to iron provenance is via the chemical analysis of slag inclusions using a combination of x-ray microanalysis (SEM-EDS) and Laser Ablation Inductively Coupled Mass Spectrometry (LA-ICP-MS) to generate complete elemental characterisations. We present the first application of this method in Britain to a small sample of Roman nails collected from Fishbourne Roman Palace and offer an estimate of their provenance. Results demonstrate that investigations of Roman ironmaking in Sussex have a long way to go before reaching a 'knowledge plateau' and call for new directions of coordinated research.

Data, knowledge, gaps and what the future might bring? Understanding Roman Sussex through 20 years of development-led archaeology 2005-2025

Andrew Margetts – University College London; Archaeology South East

Hayley Nicholls – University College London; Archaeology South East

Giles Dawkes – University College London; Archaeology South East

Tom Munnery – University College London; Archaeology South East

Louise Rayner – University College London; Archaeology South East

Archaeology South-East (UCL Institute of Archaeology) has undertaken hundreds of development-led projects across the counties of Sussex, carrying out fieldwork where planning conditions require archaeological work to be undertaken. But over the last 20 years what have these contributed to our understanding of Roman Sussex, where are the gaps and to what extent will future projects be able to address these? Most of the excavations undertaken have uncovered evidence relating to early Roman rural settlement, many with Iron Age origins so this paper will explore what Sussex was like for rural populations at the time of the Roman conquest and the impact this had on the countryside. From Pocock's Field, Eastbourne, across the central Weald at Broadbridge Heath and all along the Coastal plain to Chichester, large-scale excavations have provided new evidence for Roman settlement, burial, agriculture and land management. This paper will provide an overview of the work of the last 20 years across the landscape zones of the region, explore the evidence from key sites, identify gaps and consider what our future projects may or may not do to help address these.

Ritual in War and Peace: Implements, Objects, Practices

Marsha McCoy

In his ground-breaking work, *Peace and War in Rome. A Religious Construction of Warfare* (1990; English 2019), Jörg Rüpke explored a little-studied area, the intersection of the Roman army with religion. He discussed the rituals of martial life, in Rome, on the march, in battle, in victory, and in death. He studied the objects and practices of war, the cult of the standards and other implements, that became themselves quasi-religious objects, even as they remained tools of war. In Rüpke's view, earlier studies of war that focused on legal constructions of battle, separating sacred from profane, and secular from holy, miss a crucial, essential, and wide-ranging element of Roman warfare. While political and sociological theorists (e.g. Kerzer. 1988; Sperber. 1975) have studied more general aspects of these social phenomena, Rüpke's granular focus on Roman military objects, rituals, practices, and beliefs provide an essential underpinning for work on religion and war in the Classical world.

This session seeks abstracts for papers that consider objects used in both religion and war, not only in Rome but also in the provincial cultures and societies that Rome interacted with, since the Roman Empire and its armies came to encompass not only the religion of the Romans but also those of other peoples. Archaeological, epigraphic, numismatic and other evidence from material culture is welcomed, as well as literary and other sources.

Friday 12th (PM)		Room 7 - C3.15
14:00	Introduction (<i>Marsha McCoy</i>)	
14:05	Roman Sword Inscriptions: Religious Context and Dedicatory Objects (<i>Connor Beattie</i>)	
14:30	Built-in protection. Weapons as building deposits? (<i>Monica Gui</i>)	
14:55	"Signis receptis": Imagining peace and war in Augustan religious politics and local provincial coinage (<i>Viktor Humennyi</i>)	
15:20	BREAK	
15:50	Imagining Peace with Rome: The rituals and representations of peace treaties on the Roman frontier (<i>Richard Teverson</i>)	
16:15	Venus Victrix: Goddess of War (<i>Aneirin Pendragon</i>)	
16:40	'Woe to the Vanquished'. Ritual thresholds and moral responses to returning veterans in the Roman Republic (<i>Arjen van Lil</i>)	
17:05	Taming the Mórrígan? Exploring a potential North Pennine conflict landscape (<i>Alistair McCluskey</i>)	

Roman Sword Inscriptions: Religious Context and Dedicatory Objects

Connor Beattie

Ownership inscriptions on Roman military equipment (helmets, shield-bosses, greaves, *fibulae*, and swords) form a relatively small and seriously understudied group of non-monumental epigraphy. They were normally scratched onto the object's surface or formed through small, hammered dots (*punctum*) – distinguishable, therefore, from manufacturer stamps pressed into the hot metal during the manufacturing process. In 1960, Ramsay MacMullen argued that these inscriptions were applied to make the retrieval of weapons from the stores easier and to prevent loss or theft, establishing a consensus which still holds today. MacMullen, and subsequent analysis, focused almost exclusively on military helmets, yet inscribed Roman *gladii* (the Roman infantry sword from the 3rd century BCE to the 3rd century CE) and *spathae* (originally a Roman cavalry sword and employed by the infantry from the 3rd century CE) seriously problematise this explanation: swords were almost always kept with their owners and not in the stores. I have collected together Roman sword inscriptions, and in this talk I will suggest an alternative reading, and therefore, a different explanation of their function. This will be based on showing the religious context for these inscriptions and the role of Roman swords as dedicatory objects.

Built-in protection. Weapons as building deposits?

Monica Gui

As defining for the very identity of Roman soldiers, military equipment was imbued with complex meanings, beyond practicality and material value. Therefore, its manipulation outside the secular sphere can reveal spiritual beliefs. That arms and armour were not only used in warfare, but also in religious activities, is proven by the well-attested depositions in rivers, temples and shrines. Though the presence of military equipment in more mundane contexts in military installations usually indicates pragmatic explanations, its placement in unusual locations suggests the possibility of ritual activities occurring within the perimeter of military bases. Following these observations, the present paper analyses a few cases in which pieces of equipment were incorporated into various structural elements within Roman military installations. The close association with built structures or building sequences suggests deliberate behaviours with probable ritual significance. The chosen locations allow some inferences on the scope of these activities. The apparent variability probably denotes individual acts driven by personal beliefs, although in some cases collective involvement can be suspected. While such material records cannot unequivocally inform us on the actual circumstances and purposes of the depositions, they can help to (partially) reconstruct lost practices and broaden the range of known ritual behaviours manifested in the Roman military environment.

“*Signis receptis*”: Imagining peace and war in Augustan religious politics and local provincial coinage

Viktor Humennyi – Lviv University

The paper focuses on the military ensigns of the Roman army returned to Augustus by the Parthians in 20 BCE and the religious and ideological contexts in which they were used. Despite a large amount of attention given to the topic of the *Signa recepta* and the cult of Mars Ultor in the past scholarship (cf. C. Simpson, J. Rich, P. Zanker, C. Rose, H. Kryśkiewicz), several main questions still provide a field for discussion. One of them is the coins minted in the Roman provinces that included the images of the military *signa* that were located in the temple. The question of what temple the coins actually depicted along with the connections between the cult of Mars Ultor and the ideas of vengeance, war, and the diplomatic aspects of peace require special attention. The author questions the ideological and religious contexts of the messages that the coins provided to the local population using the frame concept in which background knowledge is important for the understanding of the images which, at the same time, offered several possible interpretations to the viewer.

Imagining Peace with Rome: The rituals and representations of peace treaties on the Roman frontier

Richard Teverson – Fordham University

How did peace with Rome appear to the non-Roman? This paper applies Rüpke's methodologies from *Peace and War in Rome* to the imagery of making peace with Rome. It argues that non-Roman attempts to represent Roman peace-making rituals reveal the central role of learning new religious activities in securing a lasting treaty with Rome. Such imagery is vanishingly rare. I consider three examples: the mythological reliefs at the temple of Lagina in Straonikeia; the reliefs on the arch of Cottius at Susa, and the treaty coins of Herod Agrippa I and Herod of Chalcis, and read them in conjunction with examples of monumental diplomatic inspirations from the West (the *Seanoc Tabula Alcantarensis*) and the East (the *Astypalaia* alliance inscriptions). Each of these images offers an ancient artist's insider interpretation of the appearance and performance of these (to them) foreign religious rites, designed to display the future---as envisaged by their treaty-makers---as stable and beneficial. I end by following Rüpke again in suggesting ways we might see evidence for individual hopes and beliefs in these scenes of communal action.

Venus Victrix: Goddess of War

Aneirin Pendragon – University of St Andrews

The goddess Venus is often explored in her roles as the goddess of beauty, love, sex, and fertility, but one of her aspects that receives lesser attention is Venus Victrix, the armored goddess of victory. This paper aims to explore how this facet of the goddess Venus was honoured in relation to war and how her worship may reflect the victories obtained by those who marched into battle. Gathering any existing evidence relating to Venus Victrix, this paper will outline her role in preparing for war, e.g., what individuals dedicated to her to ensure victory in battle, and then what was carried out once that victory was realised. There will also be a discussion of the possible origins of Venus Victrix, specifically Aphrodite Areia 'Aphrodite the Warlike' of Greece and Ishtar, which may inform what religious activities were carried out in Rome but may have yet to have surviving evidence. When academic research explores war in Rome, Venus is often not part of the exploration, and I hope this paper can bring her the attention that she deserves in this particular domain.

'Woe to the Vanquished'. Ritual thresholds and moral responses to returning veterans in the Roman Republic

Arjen van Lil

Roman Republican society was inherently geared towards military success. Triumphs, military decorations, donatives and land grants: for the returning victorious veteran, society offered anchored cultural practices. However, thousands of veterans returned from wars less fortunate. Cultural narratives of defeat stress Rome's reluctance in receiving and reintegrating defeated survivors, and sources remain ambiguous about their whereabouts. This raises a question of sociopsychological and cultural nature: How did Roman society receive those veterans, unfit for Rome's narrative of military success? Several passages and practices offer insights into this enigmatic aspect of Roman society. Plutarch (*Mor.* 4.20.5) recounts the custom of receiving veterans presumed dead through the roofs of houses; Appian (*BC* 2.120) reports of civil war veterans no longer returning home due to 'unjustifiable wars'; and various sources describe the ritual of defeated soldiers passing under the spear-formed yoke. Roman veteran reintegration has largely been addressed in terms of land settlement and victory rituals. However, psychiatric and anthropological insights stress the universal social and moral challenges that both veteran and community face, notably in the context of defeat. By addressing the moral dimensions and ritual thresholds pertaining to returning veterans, this paper seeks to illuminate vital, understudied aspects of Roman military culture.

Taming the Mórrígan? Exploring a potential North Pennine conflict landscape

Alistair McCluskey – Newcastle University

Within Irish Celtic mythology, The Mórrígan is portrayed as a shapeshifting deity of battle and sovereign territory often associated with caves, such as Oweynagat near the royal site at Rathcroghan. The potential for such cultural connections across the Irish Sea is rarely considered when examining cave deposits in Roman Iron Age Britain, where frequently they are described with more secular functions in mind such as domestic habitation or workshop sites. This paper will explore the wider contexts of the small-finds assemblages from the North Pennine caves around Malham and Ingleborough. Here, the regional distribution patterns of distinctive forms of bone spoon, together with other nearby Iron Age ritual deposits and Roman military sites, may suggest the area to have been a region of spiritual/religious significance specifically targeted by the Roman Army during its advance north in the Flavian period. As such, it may represent an attempt to break a cultural link between the Iron Age communities in North Britain with their potential allies across the Irish Sea.



Roman Frontiers and Borderlands: theory and practice

David Breeze

Andrew Gardner – University College London

Interpretations of Roman frontiers and borderlands, and their connections to the wider Empire, have been changing in recent years, with much new data and new insights from diverse disciplinary traditions. Meanwhile, the contemporary significance of the character of borders and frontiers has become ever clearer in a world with many new conflicts, divisions, and barriers, alongside new connections and mobilities. In this context, understanding and theorising the details of the interactions on Roman frontiers, across the great diversity of these in time and space, is an urgent challenge. Papers are invited to this session which consider both broad and particular questions to advance our interpretations of Roman frontiers. How can comparative studies within the Roman world, and to other historical contexts, enhance our comprehension of the workings of frontier operations? What was everyday life in different parts of the frontiers like? How did people move along, around, and through the frontiers? What was the relative balance of licit and illicit activity? Were geography, ecology and climate major determinants of frontier processes? How did militarization and defence co-exist with interaction and communication? And how can advances in Roman frontier studies be better communicated to diverse public and scholarly audiences?

Saturday 13th (AM)		Room 1 - Elvin Hall
09:30	Introduction	
09:40	A line in the sand? Understanding Rome's North African frontiers in XXIst century (<i>Anna H. Walas</i>)	
10:00	Towards a more inclusive understanding of the Roman imperial borderlands: the case of the Lower German Limes in the Netherlands (<i>Saskia Stevens, Gert Jan Plets, Wouter Vos & Henk van Houtum</i>)	
10:20	Servi on the Frontiers: Records of Slaves in the Roman Provinces on Today's Serbian Territory (<i>Ivana Protić</i>)	
10:40	Friend or foe? What fortlets reveal about local and military relationships in the northern frontier zone of Britain (<i>Matthew Symonds</i>)	
11:00	BREAK	
11:30	Explaining the silences: why are women at the frontiers and borderlands invisible to us? (<i>Lien Foubert</i>)	
11:50	Interprovinciality in the Roman Empire: the case of Syrian and Pannonian dress (<i>Ursula Rothe & Jen Baird</i>)	
12:10	The Walls Come Tumbling Down: Frontier Mythology from Rome to North America (<i>Emily Hanscam</i>)	
12:30	Theorizing colonies: The use of Roman parallels in the early modern colonization of Ireland and North America (<i>Richard Hingley</i>)	

A line in the sand? Understanding Rome's North African frontiers in XXIst century

Anna H. Walas – University of Nottingham

European colonialism placed Roman frontiers at the heart of contradictory narratives between Europe and North Africa. Roman frontier played a key role in the European discourse about 'other' societies, based on colonial back projections onto the Roman past, producing contradictory narratives between Europe and North Africa that place cultures in competition. Colonial and then post-independence discourses have equated European colonization with Roman conquest, viewing Roman frontiers as a separating and discriminating barrier. This impacts discussion around the understanding, de-colonisation and protection of the Roman frontiers in North Africa. Drawing on research on unpublished materials from 1960s excavation of Bu Njem, Libya the paper provides examples of how approaching military civilian relations offers opportunity to overcome the colonial bias, and to amplify local voices in frontier discourse. The paper traces the relationship between colonial rule and excavation of Bu Njem to highlight the dynamics of power in politics of fieldwork, which reinforced colonial bias. Based on the author's engagement with work in Cuban Studies on cultural heritage of a Ruta de la Revolución, the paper reflects on the process of heritagisation, highlighting the role of academic activism and of tuning into current literary and non-academic cultural discourse.

Towards a more inclusive understanding of the Roman imperial borderlands: the case of the Lower German *Limes* in the Netherlands

Saskia Stevens – Universiteit Utrecht

Gert Jan Plets – Universiteit Utrecht

Wouter Vos – Hogeschool Saxion

Henk van Houtum – Radboud Universiteit

What kind of border feature was the *Limes*? And how has our modern lens influenced its interpretation? The Lower German *Limes*, created in the 80s CE, ran from the modern town of Katwijk in the Netherlands to the town of Remagen, south of Bonn in Germany. This Roman border feature has been the focus in Dutch Roman archaeological research for the past half a century. Its inscription as UNESCO World Heritage in 2021, has only instigated further interest. Although the *Limes* often features as a line on maps, suggesting a territorial divider and hard border, in recent scholarship the interpretation has moved towards the idea of a contact zone, and terms as frontier and frontier zone appear in literature substantiating this. First, this contribution sheds light on the archaeological knowledge regarding the border functionality of the *Limes*. Second, we introduce the concept of imperial borderlands. By stressing the imperial dimensions, we promote a postcolonial interpretation and representation. The notion of borderlands steers away from an exclusive focus of military significance and functions as a useful tool to understand the impact of the Roman presence on societal dynamics, cross-border relations, local power relations, and its landscape. Applying the concept of imperial borderlands helps us to better comprehend the archaeological and geopolitical reality of the Lower Germanic *Limes* in a more inclusive manner, facilitates a critical heritage discourse, and brings us closer to understanding the *Limes'* significance.

***Servi* on the Frontiers: Records of Slaves in the Roman Provinces on Today's Serbian Territory**

Ivana Protić

The Roman slave system constantly emphasized the inequality of social classes as slavery was omnipresent in all aspects of Roman life. Individuals were enslaved in different, violent and nonviolent ways, they came from various territories and divergent social structures within them, they were of different ages and sexes. They were, most frequently, victims of Roman military expansion, who were renamed, disenfranchised, sold, and used. Roman slavery is often seen as a unitary concept, bringing to mind gladiators and enchained individuals being tortured,

psychologically abused by their owners and generally oppressed by anyone whose way they stood in. There were, in fact, a great number of slaves who spent their days doing hard physical labour, individuals who are today considered to be archaeologically invisible. However, there were enslaved estate managers, financial advisors, imperial slaves, etc., who enjoyed greater privileges, and who represented the very top of the hierarchical ladder of the enslaved social group. The aim of this research is to shed light on the identities of slave records from the Roman provinces, the territories of which were within today's Serbian borders, and depict the spectrum of job positions and social roles of the epigraphically recorded enslaved individuals.

Friend or foe? What fortlets reveal about local and military relationships in the northern frontier zone of Britain

Matthew Symonds – Current World Archaeology

The Roman army did not adopt a uniform approach to fortlet use in Britain. Instead, different regions display marked differences in terms of overall installation numbers, the ingenuity of their fortifications, and their inclusion within wider control systems. As fortlets served as a means to create a dispersed military presence by embedding small numbers of soldiers – typically between roughly 8 and 80 men – within the landscape, such variations arguably reveal something about the temperament of local groups occupying or operating within these regions. Combining the implications of the fortlets with the wider archaeological, ancient literary, documentary, and epigraphic evidence grants insights into a wide range of local responses to both the Roman presence and the creation of a frontier zone. The results hold implications for understanding the nature of the resistance faced by the military, which in turn formed the backdrop to interactions between occupiers and occupied, colouring everyday life. Assessing this shows how shifting relationships between the military and local groups help explain the evolution of security measures within the frontier zone.

Explaining the silences: why are women at the frontiers and borderlands invisible to us?

Lien Foubert – Radboud Universiteit

Women at the Roman frontiers are to a large extent invisible to us. There are many aspects of women's frontier life on which the sources remain silent. Which women lived at the frontiers and borderlands of the Roman Empire? Did it take a particular type of endurance to manage life there? Were women able to find companionship or was it a lonely state of being? Everything that makes these women human seems to be lost to us, so we don't talk about it for fear of giving too much free rein to our imagination. We often let them be invisible and silent. But at what cost? It is important to remain nuanced about these silences and not jump to the most obvious and perhaps convenient conclusion, that women and their human affairs were and are just not there. Are there (other) explanations for these silences? Can we identify and explain the power dynamics that defined – both in the ancient and more recent past – what was and what was not a serious object of mention (and therefore of research)? Are the silences real? And if so, is there a way around them? This paper will make use of the case of Roman Egypt, in particular but not exclusively, to venture an answer to these questions.

Interprovinciality in the Roman Empire: the case of Syrian and Pannonian dress

Ursula Rothe – The Open University

Jen Baird – Birkbeck

The considerable amount of work on the nature of cultural exchange in the Roman Empire in recent decades has given us a much more nuanced and less Rome-focussed understanding of these cultural dynamics. Most of the new theoretical approaches, such as ‘hybridity’, ‘creolisation’, the ‘third way’ and those applying globalisation theory view cultural exchange as directly involving either Roman agency, the vehicle of Roman imperial culture, or at least a Roman cultural element. Current work by the speakers focusses on the ways in which people from different parts of the empire directly influenced each other. This is what we are calling ‘interprovinciality’. This happened especially as a result of the movement of people such as soldiers and merchants, and is particularly prevalent in the frontier provinces, where this migration was at its most intense. This paper will introduce the concept of interprovinciality and use women’s dress in Syria and Pannonia as an example. The movement of people between these two provinces is well documented, and consists of both army personnel (e.g. *the ala I Augusta Ituraeorum sagittariorum* at Intercisa) and civilians (e.g. the benefactor of the Carnuntum amphitheatre: CIL III 143592). The extent to which this resulted in cultural exchange has been a matter of some debate (cf., e.g., Barkóczy 1984 and Budai Balogh 2011), but has in any case mainly focussed on artistic styles, onomastics and religious cults (e.g. Jupiter Dolichenus). This paper will look at women’s dress in Roman Syria and Pannonia and explore the possibility that there was also some influence between the two in terms of both garments and dress accessories, as well as some of the ways in which this may have come about.

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The Walls Come Tumbling Down: Frontier Mythology from Rome to North America

Emily Hanscam – Linnéuniversitetet

Methodological nationalism is pervasive throughout archaeology—one way we can see its continued influence is through the uncritical perpetuation of tropes about civilization versus barbarism in narratives about the past. These tropes are especially apparent in the study of past border landscapes like Roman frontiers, landscapes which played a key role in the development of the civilization vs. barbarism dichotomy. Beyond academia, politicians and the wider public have taken an even less critical approach to methodological nationalism as reflected in the understanding of modern landscapes such as the American West as ‘the frontier’ requiring civilization. Ideas about the ancient Romans civilizing the barbarians and the Americans civilizing ‘the West’ are connected, but we do not fully understand how. We need to explore this epistemological connection between ancient and modern border landscapes, especially considering how the mythology of the American frontier created an easily identifiable trope of civilization conquering barbarism/wilderness, which became intimately entangled within American nationalism. In Europe, ideas about national borders are linked to the material and intellectual legacy of Roman frontiers—some of which continue to serve as national borders today. This paper presents preliminary research contending that, despite geographic differences, US frontier mythology is similarly linked to the intellectual legacy of Roman frontiers.

Theorizing colonies: The use of Roman parallels in the early modern colonization of Ireland and North America

Richard Hingley – Durham University

This paper will focus on the variable way in which Roman concepts were adopted and adapted by the English in the colonization of North America and Ireland during the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. The Roman parallel was used directly by settlers in their military and political actions and in creating new plantations/forts. Adventurers and settlers drew on classical texts and their scant knowledge of Roman material culture to create colonial landscapes. This process has been studied, primarily in the USA and in Britain, as a topic of historical research, and this paper explores ways in which archaeological research on settlement landscapes and material culture might help inform a decolonized account of these early actions that dispossessed local communities of their lands and resources. This paper explores a phase, in North America at least, before the formation of established frontiers. It aims to (a) provide a source of parallels to the processes of colonization in the Roman world and (b) act as the basis for a new research project on the use of classical Roman parallels in the colonization of North America by the English from the late sixteenth century to the American War of Independence.



Sexuality, Gender, and Roman Imperialism

Sanja Vucetic – University of Sheffield

Kelsey Madden – University of Sheffield

Sexuality and gender are critical to understanding how Roman dominance affected social change in communities subject to imperial, social, and sexual hierarchies. Recently, the traditional Romanisation paradigm has been replaced by critical approaches that anchor sexuality dynamics at the centre of conquest and the experience of the Roman empire (Ivleva and Collins 2020; Madden 2022; Vucetic 2022). Roman imperialism also continues to be positively investigated from a gendered perspective, though the focus remains on the elite (Cornwell and Woolf 2023). These conversations nonetheless remain on the fringes of archaeological discourse. The longstanding critiques, many directed at TRAC/RAC participants, attest to this (Baker 2003; Pitts 2007; Revell 2010). This session integrates the issues of gender and sexuality into traditional questions of Roman archaeology while engaging with the conceptual agenda of interconnectivity, ethnicities, and social inequalities. It invites papers about the effects of Roman imperial regimes on sexual and gender relations, practices, and identities of the conquered communities and colonists, the relationship between Roman imperialism and sexual violence, and the implications of gender and sexuality intersections with race, age, etc. across the empire. Discussions on the materiality of sexuality and gender using post-humanist, materialist feminist, globalisation, and queer perspectives are particularly encouraged.

Saturday 13th (AM)		Room 2 - Drama Studio
09:30	Introduction	
09:40	Imperialism, Enslavement, and Ethnic Hierarchies in the Roman Provinces: The Case of “El Negret” (<i>Sarah Beckmann</i>)	
09:55	‘Warriors’ and ‘weavers’: Challenging gender stereotypes in Roman provinces (<i>Tatiana Ivleva</i>)	
10:10	Caryatids and female hostages at the Forum of Augustus in Rome (<i>Aksel Teigen Breistrand</i>)	
10:25	Campanian miniature gods and the study of religion, sexuality and gender under Roman imperialism (<i>Claire Heseltine</i>)	
10:40	BREAK	
11:10	Women as Architects of Change: Agency, Gender, and Patronage in Roman Italy, North Africa, and Asia Minor (<i>Melissa Kays</i>)	
11:25	Cives Roman(x) Sumus: The Iconography and Topology of Queer Power in the Roman House (<i>David Frederick</i>)	
11:40	Syrians, their literary reputation and self-representation in times of Elagabalus: Between elitist textual propaganda and local visual discourse (<i>Lukasz Sokolowski</i>)	
11:55	Invisible Woman Syndrome at the Roman Baths (<i>Amanda Hart</i>)	
12:10	Discussion	

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Imperialism, Enslavement, and Ethnic Hierarchies in the Roman Provinces: The Case of “El Negret”

Sarah Beckmann – University of College Los Angeles

The age and servile posture of the so-called “El Negret” – a 1st century CE bronze statue of a nude male child of African descent found in a Roman-era residence in Tarraco (Spain) – suggests a *deliciae*, an enslaved child subject to physical, emotional, and sexual abuse. Yet this particular statue marks a departure from other examples of *deliciae* qua lamp/traybearers in that the boy’s penis is extended, versus flaccid. Such fetishization of the penis objectifies and “others” this boy; it places him in the company of purportedly wild and promiscuous creatures (e.g. satyrs; pygmies), thereby distancing him from other Hellenized *deliciae* represented in paintings and three-dimensional arts. Using comparative visual analysis, critical race theory, and recent work on sex, gender, and Roman imperialism, my paper probes the motivations behind this particular depiction of an enslaved African boy. I treat “El Negret” as a window into the codification of ethnic hierarchies in provincial settings. Tarraco’s elite, I argue, used this object to navigate their place as inhabitants of the early Empire. “El Negret” manifests the espoused superiority of certain ethnicities over others (e.g. African), which in turn deemphasizes the social gulf between the elite of Tarraco vs. the Italian Peninsula.

‘Warriors’ and ‘weavers’: Challenging gender stereotypes in Roman provinces

Tatiana Ivleva –Newcastle University

The paper addresses the session’s topic ‘material traces of alternative identities/narratives that challenged dominant power structures and reclaimed agency’. Through the analysis of imagery on funerary monuments in western Roman provinces, it will introduce new ways of thinking about gender roles in the Roman provinces. Too often, gender roles of provincials have been assigned to represent ‘man the warrior’/‘woman the weaver’ conventions. For women, it is the image of obedient housewife, spinning yarn, raising children. For those serving in the army, it is the image of hypermasculine defenders of the Empire, riding down the barbarians dressed in military clad with shining armour and medals. For civilians, it is the image of male *paterfamilias* surrounded by their children and holding hands with or touching the shoulders of their female wives. No alternative readings to those norms are explored for the provinces, despite the critical methodologies being applied to the visual art of the classical Mediterranean and broad understanding in Roman provincial scholarship that individual identities do not correlate with dominant constructions of masculinity and femininity. This results in perpetuating a one-sided image (also for the public) of binary gender roles of provincials. Yet, the analysis of images on Roman funerary monuments reveals hybrid gender norms that are communicated visually, allowing thus to re-assess stereotypical feminine and masculine roles. Applying theoretical frameworks from gender studies, I suggest to move the discussion towards seeing multiple genders such as masculine femininities, feminine masculinities and caring masculinities, among others, operating within the provincial circles.

Caryatids and female hostages at the Forum of Augustus in Rome

Aksel Teigen Breistrand – Universitetet i Bergen

This paper offers an interpretation of the caryatids on the attic frieze of the porticoes of the Forum of Augustus in Rome as explicitly linked to one activity in particular which took place in the forum: female hostages making peace-securing pledges. By examining the sculptural traits of the caryatids in light of Vitruvius' (1.5) iconological description of their culturo-historical origins as female victims of war representing subjugated peoples, it is argued that the choice of caryatids as a motif reflects how Augustus, according to Suetonius (21.2), introduced the practice of taking female hostages, since "the barbarians disregarded pledges secured by males." As the forum itself was decorated with female symbols of conquered provinces, these hostages experienced a visual mnemonic manifestation of their own subordination to the Romans as they were led through the forum and past the caryatid representations on their way to the temple of Mars Ultor to swear their allegiance to Rome. Employing a materialist feminist theoretical framework, in which the female hostages are viewed as being treated by the Roman oppressors solely on the basis of the political usefulness of their gender—to favour the Romans and hurt the local communities—the social role of the female hostages, and the phenomenon of Roman female hostage-taking in the Augustan political milieu, is examined.

Campanian miniature gods and the study of religion, sexuality and gender under Roman imperialism

Claire Heseltine – King's College London

This paper will offer two areas of possibility presented by miniature objects. Both case-studies will be taken from the corpus of miniature divine representations found in 1st century CE Campania, with the aim of showing the value of studying personal objects and miniatures to expand our understanding of the construction of religion, sexuality and gender under the Roman Empire – as well as how they mesh together.

The ancient miniature refracts the world that surrounds it by shifting scalar and spatial expectations, manipulating the position of the viewer. Due to their minute size, these tiny objects force certain forms of engagement – inviting the viewer to touch them and to hold them close. When the miniaturised figure is the goddess of love, presented as a beautiful nude, we can see how these personal objects may have become the focal point for private feeling and eroticism, both mediating and becoming the object of that desire. In Pompeii, these nude miniatures proliferate – but scholars have insisted on interpreting them as tokens of fertility and family. Using Sara Ahmed's work, we can map a new way of reading objects that creates room for previously excluded narratives of sexuality within classical archaeology. As well as offering this way of reading queer desire, the material from Campania also offers us a new way of responding to the cultural interchange and religious syncretism that thrived in this area – visible through the considerable portion of the miniature corpus which represents Egyptian deities, such as Isis, Harpocrates, and Bes. The intimate relationships formed with 'Egyptian' cult indicated by these highly personal objects helps to show how deeply rooted the worship of Egyptian deities was in the Vesuvian area – it was not new or 'exotic' phenomenon but a widely-held, popular, and longstanding example of religious syncretism in Roman Italy. The miniature allows us to see the reception of these gods into the most personal sphere of individual religious praxis.

Women as Architects of Change: Agency, Gender, and Patronage in Roman Italy, North Africa, and Asia Minor

Melissa Kays – University of York

Investigating the multifaceted dynamics of women's social mobility within the Roman Empire during the 1st to 3rd centuries A.D., this research uncovers how women conformed to the gendered norms of society but could often also transcend them by commissioning public monuments and structures we might find unexpected in male-dominated Roman society. Using an extensive database encompassing over 270 benefactresses and their monumental contributions, this research unveils the varied roles women were playing in Roman public life. It emphasizes how

elite, and sometimes non-elite, women were operating under their own agendas while navigating the complexities of a hierarchical social order in their respective regions. The study employs a blend of quantitative and qualitative methodologies to examine regional variations in gender roles, benefaction type, the influence of religious and public roles, epigraphic evidence, and familial involvement in women's access to independence. By comparing Italy, North Africa, and Asia Minor, this research illuminates how diverse cultures shaped women's social agency, challenging traditional gendered narratives that limited women to domestic roles. This investigation provides a valuable methodological framework for future researchers keen on unravelling the intricacies of ancient societies, demonstrating the significance of a comparative approach in capturing the complexities of women's experiences in history.

Cives Roman(x) Sumus: The Iconography and Topology of Queer Power in the Roman House

David Frederick – University of Arkansas

At the margins of the empire Roman sexuality can be strikingly “un-Roman,” reflecting local constructions of gender and power (Ivleva and Collins, 2020). This insight can be turned toward a key locus for Romanization at the empire’s core: the Italian urban domus. In current interpretations, the Roman house displays and reproduces elite power, including the use of penetrative sex to enforce dominance. And yet, non-binary, feminate youths (e.g. Endymion, Hermaphroditus, Narcissus) comprise the most common mythological subject in domestic wall painting, often depicted with erections. While delicate, these erections signify arousal and potential agency, hovering between the anatomical binary of penis-clitoris. The spatial distribution of these figures complements the network topology of the houses, which is decentralized into multiple significant nodes and information pathways, suggesting the multivocal circulation of power. This points to the role of the house in (re)producing non-elite (but citizen) status, as its enslaved household members are often freed, becoming new Roman citizens. Situated between penetrator and penetrated, the non-binary status, agency, and sexuality of these new Romans, many of non-Italian origin, constitutes a category of queer power invisible in the “sexuality wars” of classics, but essential for understanding imperial sexuality beyond the penetration model.

Syrians, their literary reputation and self-representation in times of Elagabalus: Between elitist textual propaganda and local visual discourse

Lukasz Sokolowski – Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz

Roman imagery has fundamental value as social document reflecting the identities and gender roles performed in Italy and in the provinces. The aim of this paper is to confront the content of Graeco-Roman literary sources with the evidence of portraiture produced in Syria under Severans. The ancient sources left a critical image of the Syrian population. It was described as decadent, sexually-ambiguous, following weird cults and customs and with a conspicuous love of luxury. The peak point of the negative, ‘oriental’ impact on imperial Rome is described under the reign of Elagabalus, known to publicly appear in priestly ‘Syrian robes’ revealing his unorthodox sexual behaviors. The eminent visual evidence at first seem not to reflect such controversies. The men are usually shown in Greek civic attire. Women appear in local robes, which reflect their regional bonds and unofficial status. But there is also vast evidence of local priestly imagery, which under Severans introduced several new patterns. Thanks to representations from Palmyra, Zeugma, Hierapolis, Dura Europos and Hatra the famous robes of Elagabalus can be reconstructed showing large resemblance to the descriptions attested in sources. It seems that what caused the public embarrassment in Rome was at the same time the object of the vigorous affirmation at the peripheries. The local elites created a specific communication code that asserted their presence in the imperial milieu together with distinct markers of their specific heritage which were conspicuously stressed breaking the standards of official portraiture and the practice of *paideia*.

Invisible Woman Syndrome at the Roman Baths

Amanda Hart – Bath and North East Somerset Council

Following the discovery of the Great Bath, a new museum designed to house the early collections and baths was built in Bath. The new museum was designed in the neoclassical architectural style with a Tuscan colonnade, Diocletian windows, and a terrace topped with statues of the Emperors and Generals closely associated with Britain. It was a Victorian interpretation of the baths, based on the grand bathhouses of Ancient Rome. Many of the themes drawn out by the antiquarians involved in the early excavations included military conquest, imperialism, and 'civilisation' that reflected the British colonial context of the late nineteenth century, and directly influenced the development of the early museum displays. It is a narrative that still underpins the existing Roman Baths Museum displays today, one that is centred on military conquest and the local population's desire to be 'Romanised', supported by the evidence for white elite males. Women are only discussed in the context of being the (stereo)typical Roman wife. What evidence is there for the women who visited the bathing complex and Temple of Sulis Minerva and those that lived in *Aquae Sulis*? What does that reveal about how 'Romanised' they were, what their status was and what roles they may have had?



Urban Archaeology in Central Italy: from survey to stratigraphic excavation

Stephen Kay – British School at Rome

Emlyn Dodd – University of London

Margaret Andrews – Harvard University

Seth Bernard – University of Toronto

There is a strong tradition of applying landscape archaeology methods to urban space in Italy, with a large number of surveys at urban sites covering a wide temporal and spatial range. A diverse set of methodologies has been used, from traditional fieldwalking with surface collection to advanced multi-technique geophysical prospection, LiDAR, multispectral imaging, aerial mapping and more. More recently, several projects have transitioned from a non-invasive phase to targeted stratigraphic excavation with the aim of clarifying chronological developments and adding greater granularity to our understanding of urban histories. Key questions remain about how to transition from site-scale survey to focused excavation, and how best to integrate approaches. Responding to these questions, recent projects have cast new light on urban life in Italy at different spatiotemporal scales. This panel hopes to take stock of this work with an eye towards both empirical and methodological questions prompted by integrated approaches. We invite proposals from those that are considering how to marry different approaches at urban sites in Italy.

Saturday 13th (AM)		Room 3 - Nunn Hall
09:30	Introduction	
09:40	March separately, fight together: Geophysics and stratigraphic excavations in the Vulci Cityscape Project <i>(Mariachiara Franceschini & Paul Pasiaka)</i>	
10:00	Understanding urban development at the Etruscan town of Vulci through geophysical prospection and archaeological excavations <i>(Serena Sabatini, Irene Selsvold, Anna Gustavsson, Lewis Webb, Kristian Göransson, Stephen Kay & Elena Pomar)</i>	
10:20	Theory, practice, validation: remote sensing, geophysics and excavation in the pre-Roman city of Falerii <i>(Maria Cristina Biella, Filippo Materazzi & Nicolò Sabina)</i>	
10:40	The Falerii Novi Project: the multimethodological exploration of a Roman town <i>(Stephen Kay, Emlyn Dodd, Margaret Andrews & Seth Bernard)</i>	
11:00	BREAK	
11:30	Standing on each other's shoulders? Between survey and excavation at Interamna Lirenas <i>(Alessandro Launaro)</i>	
11:50	Roman Cosa: small-scale city, large-scale investigations <i>(Allison Smith, Andrea U. De Giorgi & Maximilian Rönnerberg)</i>	
12:10	Revealing the Forma Urbis of Roman Aquinum (Lazio): from non-invasive survey to focused excavation <i>(Giuseppe Ceraudo, Frank Vermeulen, Veronica Ferrari, Lieven Verdonck, Francesco Pericci & C. Felici)</i>	
12:30	Landscape archaeology of an Adriatic City: The Municipium of Suasa (Marche, Italy) <i>(Enrico Giorgi)</i>	

March separately, fight together: Geophysics and stratigraphic excavations in the Vulci Cityscape Project

Mariachiara Franceschini – Universität Freiburg

Paul Pasiëka – Universität Mainz

The Vulci Cityscape project aims to achieve a new understanding of the structure and development of the Etruscan-Roman city of Vulci by combining large-scale geophysical prospections with targeted excavations. In 2020, 22.5 ha, slightly more than a quarter of the city plateau, were surveyed with magnetometry. Another monumental temple was identified directly next to the Late Archaic *tempio grande*. The temple and its immediate surroundings were investigated with additional GPR and, since 2021, stratigraphic excavations have been carried out at the northeast corner of the temple and at a road adjoining it to the north. This paper discusses the methodological challenges and potential of using different geophysical prospection methods in combination with archaeological excavations. Especially between magnetometry and GPR, the different results complement each other. Although the GPR provides a detailed picture, also in terms of depth, some building materials, such as tuff, show up much weaker than in magnetometry. Some anomalies that could not be interpreted in the GPR could only be understood through large-scale excavations, which also provide chronological and historical depth to the results of the prospections. Constantly reviewing the results of the different methods contributes to their continuous development and improvement, and it is only through their complementary use that their full potential is revealed for the study of ancient cities.

Understanding urban development at the Etruscan town of Vulci through geophysical prospection and archaeological excavations

Serena Sabatini – Göteborgs universitet

Irene Selsvold – Göteborgs universitet

Anna Gustavsson – Göteborgs universitet

Lewis Webb – Göteborgs universitet

Kristian Göransson – Göteborgs universitet

Stephen Kay – British School at Rome

Elena Pomar – British School at Rome

The Gothenburg Understanding_Urban_Identities project aims to investigate urban development at Vulci over the long durée from the Bronze Age until Late Antiquity. The powerful Etruscan town defined the character of the settlement as we know it today, but most of the visible remains belong to the re-organization of the site after the Roman conquest in 280 BCE. To identify suitable study areas, we decided to focus on the eastern edge of the plateau. Two factors indicate this area could have had a key role in pre-Roman Vulci: 1) the strategic position with its direct view of the monumental Ponte Rotto necropolis; and 2) previous excavations on the slopes below, which recorded material dating to various periods including proto-historic ones. The geophysical prospection indicated an urbanised area, with regular buildings and roads in the north-western part, while to the south-east it appeared less urbanised and occupied by alignments partially diverging from the regular organization of the Roman period. The subsequent excavations have focused on the latter area and uncovered a cultic space pre-dating the Roman conquest and possibly abandoned thereafter. The strategy adopted proved to be successful in unveiling intriguing new aspects of the urban development at Vulci.

Theory, practice, validation: remote sensing, geophysics and excavation in the pre-Roman city of Falerii

Maria Cristina Biella – Sapienza Università di Roma

Filippo Materazzi – Sapienza Università di Roma

Nicolò Sabina

During the last 50 years several non-invasive techniques have been applied to the study of pre-Roman cities. Among others magnetometry, GPR and more recently and still ongoing UAV multispectral and thermal remote sensing. Since 2020, new research began at Falerii Veteres (Civita Castellana, Viterbo) under the framework of the Falerii Project

with the aim to investigate the pre-Roman city with a holistic perspective. Particular attention has been paid to the Vignale hill, not impacted by modern urbanisation and used for agricultural purposes apparently since the mid-Republican period. Furthermore, only minor excavations have taken place on the hill at the end of the 19th century and it had been systematically surveyed with magnetometry at the end of the last century. Vignale has emerged as an exceptional case study to validate the efficacy of cutting-edge low-altitude remote sensing techniques. Since 2020 areas were systematically surveyed and from 2022 an excavation was opened, guided by the outcomes of the UAV imaging. This paper aims to critically present the comparison between the remote sensing results and those from the ongoing excavation, which is revealing a wide area (about 600 m² as of June 2023) of the ancient city with an occupation that can be dated from the Middle Bronze Age to the 2nd century BC. Finally, a new experimental UAV multispectral and thermal remote sensing laboratory will be presented.

The Falerii Novi Project: the multimethodological exploration of a Roman town

Stephen Kay – British School at Rome

Emlyn Dodd – University of London

Margaret Andrews – Harvard University

Seth Bernard – University of Toronto

The largely greenfield site of Falerii Novi presents an exceptional opportunity to investigate an entire intra- and extramural urban area using a wide variety of archaeological methodologies. Its location and history furthermore make the site an excellent case study for broader questions of urbanisation and the impact of urban sites on their surroundings in Roman Italy. Several decades of surface and aerial survey along with geophysical prospection across the ca. 32 ha site provide a robust foundation for a new project focusing on leveraging non-invasive results with targeted stratigraphic excavation. This paper presents some initial results from the Falerii Novi Project (FNP), which began in 2022 to excavate several key intramural locations in order to test and build from past geophysical survey to improve our overall understanding of the site's chronological and historical development. The project has thus far worked to tie together both survey and stratigraphic methodologies into a coherent and comprehensive city-scale urban archaeology at this important Tiber Valley site. We discuss the challenges and benefits that have so far emerged from our experience of working with both diverse methods. Ultimately, our project aims to move beyond a simple dualistic perspective of strengths and limitations to explore how effective integration of these techniques can build a more complete understanding of the character and impact of urban processes in central Italy.

Standing on each other's shoulders? Between survey and excavation at Interamna Lirenas

Alessandro Launaro – University of Cambridge

Archaeological survey and excavation work at different scales, deal with datasets of different nature and pursue rather distinctive ranges of questions – they complement each other. One often follows the other, with targeted excavation contributing a depth of understanding that survey normally cannot. But this is not to say that survey is just a preparatory (if necessary) step to be further validated by excavation. On the contrary, survey provides the broader archaeological context against which the more granular data of excavation need to be framed and understood. Their complementary relationship is thus better conceptualised as part of a circular (rather than linear) progression, with each approach informing and enhancing the other. Fieldwork at and around the Roman town of Interamna Lirenas (Southern Lazio) has shown us the concrete benefits of this dialogue through a combination of extensive geophysical prospection, systematic field survey, and targeted excavation. This paper will review the distinctive nature of these different datasets and how their effective integration enhanced each other's interpretation, achieving a level of understanding that no individual approach could have ever achieved on its own.

Roman Cosa: small-scale city, large-scale investigations

Allison Smith – Indiana University

Andrea U. De Giorgi – Florida State University

Maximilian Rönnerberg – Universität Bonn

Despite its small size, Cosa is prominent in the scholarly discourse of the colonial politics that transformed the Italian peninsula during the Middle Republic. Yet, the circumstances of the early foundation, as well as the vision of its founders, remain a matter of dispute. Putative military rationales partially account for the nucleation and growth of a community that, by the time the Second Punic War was over, had no threat in sight. LiDAR and geophysical information, in conjunction with excavation datasets from the bath and commercial areas, coalesce into new discussions of the city's development, from the colony's early days to its coming of age in the Augustan and later Imperial periods. New avenues of research investigate the rationales that guided the urban project when ancient Cosans inhabited the site, as well as the economic and environmental drivers that shaped its urban fabric in fundamental ways. Side-lined for too long, the link between the hilltop settlement and the Portus Cosanus, in particular, unpacks exciting new possibilities for the study of the city, its socio-economic evolution, and, not least, materiality. Through this marriage of non-invasive techniques and stratigraphic excavations, a fuller and fresher story of Cosa emerges.

Revealing the *Forma Urbis* of Roman Aquinum (Lazio): from non-invasive survey to focused excavation

Giuseppe Ceraudo – Università del Salento

Frank Vermeulen – Universiteit Gent

Veronica Ferrari – Università del Salento

Lieven Verdonck – Universiteit Gent

Francesco Pericci – Università di Siena

C. Felici – Università di Cassino

During the past twenty-five years the Università del Salento developed large scale archaeological investigations within the Ager Aquinas Project. This topographical research to reveal the urbanscape of the Roman city of Aquinum (Castrocielo, Frosinone - Italy), on a partly greenfield site along the Via Latina between Rome and Capua, is characterized by a multidisciplinary approach. From the start a wide range of non-invasive field activities (e.g. aerial photography, artefact surveys) directed the field operations, leading from 2009 onwards to a first phase of excavations focused on the street network, the theatre and a monumental thermal building. In recent years, collaboration with external teams of specialists have carried out intensive geophysical prospections within the city area and their often spectacular results have initiated a second phase of stratigraphic excavations with a great impact on the knowledge of the urbanism in this region. Especially the combination and integration of large-scale geomagnetic surveys and GPR prospections, and the integration of all obtained imagery with other remote sensing data (e.g. LiDAR, multispectral imagery) now shed a new light on many aspects of the character and dynamics of the urban development of the triumviral colony of Aquinum. The presentation will discuss the methodological choices made here, the way techniques are being integrated and assessed, and the most striking results regarding Roman public and private spaces in the city.

Landscape archaeology of an Adriatic City: The Municipium of Suasa (Marche, Italy)

Enrico Giorgi – Università di Bologna

The archaeological park of Suasa lies in the heart of the Marche region, in the ager Gallicus (in Regio VI of Italy in the Augustan period). Research at the site by the University of Bologna has been ongoing for more than 30 years, employing aerial photography and geophysical prospection from the outset as a guideline for the archaeological excavations. In the case of the ancient Roman city of Suasa, cropmarks and geophysical anomalies have always been

particularly readable and have made it possible to draw the shape of the city by integrating data from the archaeological excavations. Over time, techniques and tools have evolved, therefore the research conducted at Suasa provides an opportunity to reflect on changes in research methods, which have increasingly seen archaeology without excavation. For example, methodologically, it seems that at Suasa the integration of geophysical surveys and aerial photographs shows, in many cases, a better effectiveness of aerial photographs, perhaps linked to the composition of the ground. Moreover, from the point of view of archaeological interpretation, the topography of the city seems not to follow the urban planning patterns widespread in Roman times. These problems seem to be common to Suasa and other similar Roman cities in the mid-Adriatic area and offer an opportunity to reflect on a representative case study in a regional context.



Theorising arts and crafts

Kaja Stemberger Flegar – PJP d.o.o. Arheološko podjetje

Jason Lundock – Full Sail University

As in any social environment, craft production was essential both inside the Roman Empire and on its borders. There is a great diversity of these goods from the Roman period, ranging from mass produced items that were manufactured on an industrial level and intended for wide distribution, all the way to the handiwork of local workshops and households. End products of crafts and the material means of production can be preserved in the archaeological record and the archaeological remains sometimes provide insight into the production process and use life of the materials involved.

This panel seeks to open the discussion on how crafts influenced identities and how artistic expressions affected life in the Roman world. We will welcome papers exploring how crafts and craftspeople could be interpreted as conveying aspects of identity, communicated on micro and macro levels, as well as how these processes affected the lived experiences of those involved. The papers shall cover many aspects of crafting that are observed through processes such as space utilisation, procuring and storing ingredients, and manufacturing tools. Other topics related to crafts, such as the spreading of production techniques and the adoption of knowledge from inside and outside the Empire, will also be warmly welcomed.

Saturday 13th (AM)		Room 4 - Clarke Hall
09:30	Introduction	
09:40	The reuse of glass and pottery objects as a craftsman's tools (<i>Kaja Stemberger Flegar & Rafko Urankar</i>)	
10:00	AIDA and the metalworker - a theoretical approach to marketing metalwork in the Roman world (<i>Stefanie Hoss</i>)	
10:20	Craftworking in Roman military communities - developing a fresh understanding (<i>Amy Baker</i>)	
10:40	BREAK	
11:10	What the Romans did for us. And how. And why. Roman technologies in context (<i>Adam Sutton & Owen Humphreys</i>)	
11:30	Pottery Production in Roman Noricum - potters as communities in contact (<i>Martin Auer</i>)	
11:50	Credat emptor: Trustworthiness in visual commemorations of craft and trade (<i>Nicole Brown</i>)	
12:10	The Art and its Craftsman: Approaches to the Artist in the Roman World (<i>Jason Lundock</i>)	

The reuse of glass and pottery objects as a craftsman's tools

Kaja Stemberger Flegar – PJP d.o.o. Arheološko podjetje

Rafko Urankar – PJP d.o.o. Arheološko podjetje

Roman recycling and the reuse of objects have received only limited attention in Slovenian archaeology. While working on a number chronologically and geographically disparate Roman sites, we noticed that several broken glass and pottery objects had been reused in a curious manner. Here we present the preliminary analysis of the knapped objects through the lens of the prehistoric lithic methodology. We have recognised different types of objects, namely scrapers, blades, drills, and combined tools. As their names suggest, each of these had a specific purpose. In the Roman period, however, a wide variety of specialist tools was utilised in the different crafts, which are also documented in e.g. art. In this paper, we aim to interpret the use of the knapped objects discovered near a Roman pottery kiln in Colonia Ulpia Traiana Poetovio (modern day Ptuj, Slovenia) in the context of pottery making.

AIDA and the metalworker – a theoretical approach to marketing metalwork in the Roman world

Stefanie Hoss – Universität zu Köln

To attract attention, rouse interest and thus make a purchase probable, a metalworker could use that important innovation of the Roman era, the shop: a room with a counter open to the street, allowing the customers to see the wares. According to the modern AIDA model of marketing, Attention is followed by Interest, inducing Desire and finally provoking Action (purchase). However, in order not to lose money, the metalworker had to produce objects for display that were likely to find a customer. He thus had to walk a tightrope of following a known pattern that had sold in the past and innovating fashion to keep customers interested in buying. In addition, metalworkers were of course able to take commissions, but even then, the customers would have had to have an idea of what objects to order and whether the metalworker was able to work in the desired manner, a fact demonstrated by the objects on show in the shop. In my paper, I would like to share some thoughts on the conditions and limitations of a metalworker marketing his wares in the Northwestern Provinces, as a stepping-stone towards developing a theory of Roman marketing in the NWP.

Craftworking in Roman military communities – developing a fresh understanding

Amy Baker – Newcastle University

Craftworking in Roman military spaces is poorly understood – rife with assumptions as to how it was organised, how communities engaged with it, and who undertook it – and yet it can answer questions around the use of space and social practice in military communities. The material culture of craftworking can also highlight the presence and labour of different identity groups, including soldiers, civilians, slaves and women. This paper will present a theoretical framework for the examination of craftworking from Roman military sites and how studying tools and structures can highlight the fruits and challenges of applying them. It will highlight the preliminary results of PhD research currently being undertaken in Antonine-period Scotland. Important social theories of craft activity used more widely in prehistoric archaeology, such as cross-craft interactions, will be described as relating to Roman military archaeology – finds, structures, and spaces – to sketch some early insights into the organisation of craft that go beyond the purely functional perspective applied in much previous research. Although this research is not complete, it will hopefully highlight the importance of looking at crafts in Roman military contexts with fresh eyes.

What the Romans did for us. And how. And why. Roman technologies in context

Adam Sutton – Museum of London Archaeology

Owen Humphreys – Museum of London Archaeology

Technology occupies a strange place in Roman studies. Amongst the public, technological sophistication is a core component of the Roman 'brand'. The 'achievements' of Roman engineering, architecture and manufacturing are 'what the Romans did for us'. However, in academia technology studies are marginalised, often reduced to arcane technical reporting divorced from interpretation and seen as separate from studies of 'society'. This need not be the case. Studying technologies provides insights into the culturally-conditioned practices that practice theory tells us to interrogate, the knowledgeable actors that agency theory has us seeking, and the materials that any new materialism must investigate. Technological change is a defining interface in the cultural maelstrom of the Roman conquest. Change and stability, 'innovation' and 'conservatism' are all evidence of the wider cultural, social and economic interactions playing out at multiple scales, within and between different demographics. The rapid changes seen in the Roman period provide countless case studies which we are only beginning to explore. This paper will explore the opportunities provided by technology studies on five key themes (innovation, the *longue durée*, imperialism, the economy, and lived experiences) and outline where technology studies can go from here to capitalize on these gains.

Pottery Production in Roman Noricum – potters as communities in contact

Martin Auer – Universität Innsbruck

The Roman Province of Noricum, located in the Alpine region encompassing Southern Germany, Austria, and Slovenia, exhibits a distinct type of pottery commonly referred to as "Noric pottery" in scholarly research. This term implies a uniform pottery style across the province. While the overall appearance of ceramics in many parts of the region is indeed quite similar, characterized by gray-black fired clay mixed with lime or quartz, displaying high functionality and undergoing gradual morphological changes, a closer examination reveals noteworthy regional distinctions. Various combinations of materials and raw resources are utilized, and production techniques may differ from one area to another. Furthermore, localized decorative patterns emerge, enabling us to attribute these products to specific workshops. These workshops also leave their mark on the vessel crafting techniques employed. Consequently, vessels with similar shapes may be crafted differently by various potters. This suggests an organization of pottery production in small workshops, potentially operating at the household level. Nevertheless, these workshops influence each other and exchange ideas regarding forms and ornamentation. Therefore, one can deduce that pottery makers maintain connections with each other, collaboratively shaping the material culture of Noricum as part of a shared community of practice.

***Credat emptor*: Trustworthiness in visual commemorations of craft and trade**

Nicole Brown – Williams College

During the first and second centuries CE, funerary monuments became an important means by which working Romans could communicate a sense of pride in their skills, and celebrate their commercial achievements. In this effort, visual elements often played a crucial role, whether in the style of portraiture used for the deceased or through the representation of tools and workplace scenes. Recent scholarship has rightly tended to emphasize the overall positive attitude toward physical work and trade—in contrast to elite views—that such monuments sought to convey. But it is also true that ancient craftspeople and retailers inhabited a social environment in which their trustworthiness and integrity was continually doubted, while needing to rely heavily on their own personal relationships, networks, and word-of-mouth to ensure prolonged success. While *collegia* may in some instances have helped with reputation-building, this paper uses a reappraisal of certain well-known workplace scenes (e.g., the

Coppersmith Relief from Pompeii and the Relief of a Butcher and his Wife from Ostia) to show how funerary art also offered a valuable opportunity to showcase a business's trustworthiness—specifically, its ability to provide long-lasting goods to the customer, and therefore, long-lasting security to the business owner's successors.

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The Art and its Craftsman: Approaches to the Artist in the Roman World

Jason Lundock – Full Sail University

Post-humanist approaches have had a wide impact in how we discuss human-thing relations and the paradigms we construct in order to understand them. This paper shall discuss the relation between the craft product and the craft producer, principally utilising theoretical approaches from the Marxist and Post-humanist schools of theory. By acknowledging the agency of the craft product itself and theorising the producer as the passive agent reacting to its influence on their actions and self-awareness, this paper seeks to contribute to the wider dialogue of how an art can form its artist and what effect this may have on how the producer constructs their identity and perceives themselves within a wider social context.



Sacred Landscapes in the Roman World: Concepts and Approaches

Francesca Mazzilli – Universität Münster; Royal Holloway

Eleri Cousins – Lancaster University

Sacred landscapes are becoming a near-ubiquitous archaeological framework for understanding ritual and religious behaviour in the Roman world. That ubiquity, however, conceals a variety of conceptions and usage, ranging from casual shorthand for distributions of religious material, to highly technical GIS analyses of viewsheds and least-cost paths, to heavily theory-driven phenomenological explorations of natural environments (to name but a few). This diversity of approach is welcome, but it does also invite critical reflection on what we can and do mean by sacred landscapes in the Roman world, and the methodologies by which we investigate them. To this end, this session will invite paper proposals that seek to explore these varied conceptions of sacred landscapes and ignite conversations on their nature and meaning, both in antiquity and in archaeological discourse. Potential topics might include, but are certainly not limited to:

- Contextual definitions of sacred landscapes (e.g. urban vs rural, macro vs micro)
 - Micro-, meso-, and macro-approaches to sacred landscapes
 - Exploration of particular sacred landscapes in the Roman world
 - Dynamics of multi-period sacred landscapes
- Quantitative and qualitative methods for defining and understanding sacred landscapes
 - Phenomenological approaches to ritual activity in landscape settings
- Relationships between sacred landscapes, human activity, and the environment

Saturday 13th (AM)		Room 5 - C3.09
09:30	Introduction	
09:40	Social agency and a multi-layered approach to understanding rural sacred landscapes in the Roman West <i>(Ralp Häussler)</i>	
10:00	Wilderness, heavy places, and storytelling <i>(Anna Collar)</i>	
10:20	Conceptualising landscapes and the sacred at Teffont <i>(David Roberts)</i>	
10:40	BREAK	
11:10	Investigating concepts of sacred landscapes on and beyond the northern frontier <i>(Martin Goldberg & Fraser Hunter)</i>	
11:30	Sacred rivers? New approaches to Roman objects near bridges <i>(Eckhard Deschler-Erb, Hella Eckardt, Ferdinand Heimerl, Stefanie Hoss & Philippa Walton)</i>	
11:50	Spatiality of the Worship of the Gods: Sacred Landscape of Palmyra and Palmyrena <i>(Aleksandra Kubiak-Schneider)</i>	

Social agency and a multi-layered approach to understanding rural sacred landscapes in the Roman West

Ralph Häussler – University of Winchester

Rethinking our methodologies for sacred landscapes, we aim for a multi-layered, more holistic approach. Thirty years after Tilley's *Phenomenology of Landscape*, pragmatic and functional approaches to sacred landscapes are still very influential in scholarship. How appropriate are concepts like 'geosymbols', 'landmarks', 'tasksapes' and political 'manipulation' really in our endeavour to comprehend Roman sacred landscapes? My starting point are rural places of worship of diverse size (e.g., non-architectural sites, rock and hilltop sanctuaries), notably in more remote mountainous locations in Roman Iberia, Gaul and Noricum, where we can explore the multilateral relationship between nature, animals and humans, and how this affected diverse human understanding of the divine and their ritual activities. Cross-cultural examples (e.g., Tibetan yul lha) can provide food for thought to understand religious significances, human experiences and ritual activities. Some Roman-period sites attracted long-distance pilgrimages, which leads to the question of 'glocalisation': even in remote locations in the Alps or Pyrenees, people were not isolated. By interacting with urban centres, they experienced colonial discourses, urban festivals, etc. Individuals therefore did not only 'bricole' new votives and rituals for pre-existing cult places, but Iron Age sites changed meaning due to people's experiences and the changing Roman settlement structures.

Wilderness, heavy places, and storytelling

Anna Collar – University of Southampton

This paper explores the idea of Roman sacred landscapes and sanctuaries as part of a divine natural world: with both wilderness and cultivation thrumming with gods, monsters, ghosts and manes. Within this powerfully numinous understanding of their world, most of which is lost to us today—both in evidence and in our own capacity to imagine—sanctuaries are reminders of the presence and insistence of the spiritual in the pre-Christian Mediterranean. Sanctuaries can be usefully understood as 'heavy places' in the landscapes: knots in time of actions, emotions, experiences and stories. Sanctuaries help to show us how people in the past structured their lives and drew out meaning, created order and found safety in a blizzard of incomprehension about the mysterious, and sometimes dangerous, wild forces of the natural world around. Sanctuaries are places which make sense amidst voids—both of our own archaeological and historical knowledge, but also of voids contemporary to the people that held them sacred. How might we explore these conceptualisations of the spiritual and the natural world in the Roman period? An embodied, phenomenological exploration of the archaeological landscapes, material and narratives of Roman sanctuaries may enable us to draw out the threads of memory, meaning, and emotions that constitute sacred place and spiritual encounters.

Conceptualising landscapes and the sacred at Teffont

David Roberts – Cardiff University

Over ten years of fieldwork at Teffont, Wiltshire, have provided a wide range of evidence for activity at, and surrounding, a large ridgetop shrine complex. This paper explores the viability of the concept of a sacred landscape for understanding lived experiences of this place in the Roman period. Wealth, monumentality and structured deposition are clearly articulated at and around the shrine complex, but in highly contingent forms, drawing closely on local and regional secular contexts of practice for meaning. Building on collaborative discussions with the project's team of specialists, this paper will argue that the sacred and profane are so deeply entangled at this site that alternative interpretive frameworks to the sacred landscape may provide richer understandings of belief and lifeways in the Roman period.

Investigating concepts of sacred landscapes on and beyond the northern frontier

Martin Goldberg – National Museums Scotland

Fraser Hunter – National Museums Scotland

Concepts of sacred landscapes in the military zone are often dominated by altars and the rather rarer ritual architecture, but many expressions of belief lacked or avoided such an obvious visual presence. In this paper we consider southern and eastern Scotland, an area that saw a complex and shifting relation with the Roman world, in terms of its hoards and related deliberate deposits in the Roman Iron Age. Can we see meaningful patterns in landscape setting and material content of such hoards? Does a comparison with the frontier zone around Hadrian's Wall, which saw longer-term permanent military settlement, reveal whether there were differences in perceptions of sacred landscapes between the military community and the local Iron Age populations? Were practices and locations shared, adopted, adapted, or kept deliberately separate? This paper will take a large-scale and long-term comparative view of deposition in this area.

Sacred rivers? New approaches to Roman objects near bridges

Eckhard Deschler-Erb – Universität zu Köln

Hella Eckardt – University of Reading

Ferdinand Heimerl – Universität Trier

Stefanie Hoss – Universität zu Köln

Philippa Walton – University of Reading

Rivers are major features in ancient and modern landscapes, and often become loci for deposition. Unfortunately in many cases it is difficult to disentangle ritual offerings from rubbish disposal, with German and British scholars typically employing different theoretical approaches. Many German scholars favour 'rational' explanations for river finds (such as rubbish disposal, accidental loss, floodwater, shipwrecks), while British archaeologists tend to argue for votive deposition (Snodgrass 2006). Previous analyses have focused on only selected objects, with the bulk of the finds assemblage ignored. This paper explores quantitative and qualitative methods to attempt a more nuanced analysis, using two case studies (Piercebridge, UK and Trier, Germany) where large artefact assemblages have been recovered near major Roman bridges. We will explore the interpretative challenges posed by the nature of artefact recovery from riverbeds and assess what they reveal about Roman identities and the nature of religious practice. We will also examine the histories of those who recovered the artefacts. How has their involvement affected the interpretation of the site and what is their impact of their recovery processes?

Spatiality of the Worship of the Gods: Sacred Landscape of Palmyra and Palmyrena

Aleksandra Kubiak-Schneider – Uniwersytet Wrocławski

This paper orients on the geographical aspect of the places of cult of deities worshipped in Palmyra and the villages located in the near surroundings, described under the term Palmyrena. Through the analysis of the geographical features like mountains, wadis, springs, arid zones and oasis within the urban and rural spaces, we will look at the deities worshipped by the people within the city as outside in the "rural" zone. Are these two zones complementary or they present completely nonmatching religiospaces? Do we meet same deities there? Furthermore, what can we say about the people seen in Palmyra and in Palmyrena? Do we see the religion of the nomads and the passers-by? What do the sanctuaries in both places look like? Finally, what is the role of Palmyra in the aspect of the cult of the deities? Is the region described as Palmyrena religiously independent or is there any influence and impact from the city? These are the questions which are posed in this presentation.

Peopling Rural Architecture Studies: a cross-Channel perspective

Lacey Wallace – University of Lincoln

Sadi Maréchal – Universiteit Gent

This session brings together archaeologists studying regions on either side of the Channel/La Manche to discuss people-centred questions in rural domestic architectural studies. Too often, treatments of architecture and elaboration are heavily focussed on material, technologies, typologies, and style, with a regrettable lack of using these data to address how we understand past people and their lives. Equally, such studies often suffer from a lack of contextualization of the architecture of nearby regions, a gap that is especially notable across the Channel.

Architectural data can be used to explore common activities, shared values, and the exchange and movement of people and ideas between regions now within modern Belgium, the Netherlands, France, and Britain. Papers in this session will address these challenges, addressing thematic and question-driven approaches to studying rural communities and identities, using architecture and elaboration.

Saturday 13th (AM)		Room 6 - C3.11
09:30	Introduction (<i>Lacey Wallace & Sadi Maréchal</i>)	
09:45	From Celtic to Roman rural settlements in the north of France and England (<i>Aurore Diliberto</i>)	
10:00	Morphology and evolution of rural settlements in Northern Gaul, Germania and Britain: interesting comparisons (<i>Antonin Nüsslein</i>)	
10:15	East Malling to Blicquy: a Nervii connection? (<i>Stephen Clifton</i>)	
10:30	Building small, standing tall. Social aspects of adopting and adapting Roman domestic architecture in rural northwestern Gaul and Britain (<i>Sadi Maréchal</i>)	
10:45	BREAK	
11:15	Roundtable discussion (<i>led by Steve Willis - open to all</i>)	

From Celtic to Roman rural settlements in the north of France and England

Aurore Diliberto – Université du Luxembourg

My research is focused on rural societies from the first century B.C. to the Late Antiquity on both side of the Channel, and more specifically in seven Celtic territories: Dobunnian (Costwold), Durotriges (Dorset), Trinovantes (Essex), Unelles (Normandy), Nerviens (Cambrésis), Morins (Thérouanne) and Ménapiens (Cassel). It is insightful to compare the evolution of LPRIA to late Roman rural settlements in these regions. While the integration of Gaul to the Roman Empire started after the Gallic war, the indigenous people of Britain were incorporated only one hundred years later when rural settlements became Roman farms or '*villae*'. However, in some regions (such as Normandy in France or the Cotswolds in England), the local topography influences the establishment of the Roman settlements suggesting the creation of a local identity from the first installations. Finally, my paper will be focused on the transformation of rural settlements on both side of the Channel and interpreted considering archaeologic, historic, environmental (topography, hydrography etc.) and geological aspects.

Morphology and evolution of rural settlements in Northern Gaul, Germania and Britain: interesting comparisons

Antonin Nüsslein – Centre national de la recherche scientifique

Major surveys carried out recently in Britain, northern Gaul and Germania (such as the ERC Rurand project) have shown that the countryside was made up of a multitude of different types of settlements, some with highly varied architecture, morphologies and evolutions. Even '*villae*' have different morphologies from one region to another. In particular, vernacular habitat types probably exist. What do these differences tell us about the people? Do they indicate economic and social differences? Regional cultural settlements? Or are there elements that unify the different regions? Based on a comparison of several examples of settlements excavated in Britain, northern Gaul and Germania, this article aims to provide some answers to these questions, in particular by trying to distinguish the morphological, architectural, economic and social elements that differentiate or link these different parts of the Empire.

East Malling to Blicquy: a Nervii connection?

Stephen Clifton – University of Kent

Ongoing excavations by the Maidstone Area Archaeological Group (MAAG) at East Malling in Kent have revealed two new masonry structures that could be part of a much larger enclosure, first seen in the 1950s and '60s when it was labelled a '*villa*'. Now possible votive deposits and the presence of a walled causeway have suggested that the site may be of a sacred nature. When searching for comparisons for this Kentish arrangement we came across the details of the site at Blicquy in Belgium. This site appears to have an entrance building almost the same size and shape as East Malling and the orientation is almost identical. The survey data has also given us an indication that the perimeter wall and possible structures built against the north and south wall are also mirrored. Blicquy's design and layout is unique among Continental sanctuaries and to find a site in southern Britain with such striking similarities begs the question of what were the links between the two areas? Are we looking at a breakaway faction of the Nervii coming to Britain? Or is it the result of a marriage between distant clan elite?

Building small, standing tall. Social aspects of adopting and adapting Roman domestic architecture in rural northwestern Gaul and Britain

Sadi Maréchal – Universiteit Gent

On both sides of the Channel, in what would become the provinces of Britannia and Gallia Belgica, the start of the Roman period also meant the start of stone domestic architecture. The shift from indigenous houses in perishable materials to residences in stone was a major turning point in the history of the regions and reveals how local inhabitants were engaging with the Roman cultural sphere. This paper will focus on two regions characterized by a low number of Roman-style villas and a strong persistence of vernacular architecture: the Menapian territory in modern-day Belgium and the Iceni territory in modern-day England. The modest rural houses, often with only the base of the walls in stone, are strongly reminiscent of traditional indigenous house architecture, yet incorporate and adapt certain specific Mediterranean elements. By examining which elements were adopted and adapted, and how this might have changed through the lifecycle of the building, we can try to understand how local elites negotiated their own place of power within a local setting and yet within the broader framework of the Empire.



RAC General Session 1

Saturday 13th (AM)		Room 7 - C3.15
09:30	Community art and public engagement on Hadrian's Wall (<i>Andrew Roberts</i>)	
09:50	Le tesserae 'Vota Publica' del IV sec. d.C (<i>Christian Mondello</i>)	
10:10	Signacula as Reusable Type in the Roman Empire (<i>Elizabeth Robinson</i>)	
10:30	Modelling Textile Production and Consumption in the Roman Republic: A Novel Approach (<i>Fenella Palanca</i>)	
10:50	BREAK	
11:20	Absence of Evidence is Evidence ... of a Vineyard (<i>Simeon D. Ehrlich</i>)	
11:40	"Soft stone, most human stone" in Roman architecture (<i>Daniel P. Diffendale</i>)	

Community art and public engagement on Hadrian's Wall

Andrew Roberts – English Heritage

In the Summer of 2023, English Heritage commissioned a community art installation, *The Future Belongs To What Was As Much As What Is* led by the artist Morag Myerscough at Housesteads Roman Fort along Hadrian's Wall. The work reimagined the fort's northern gateway, and was clad with brightly coloured, textured placards inspired by Roman archaeological collections. These were created by community volunteers and inscribed with words and phrases created through workshops in conjunction with the artist, a poet, and English Heritage subject specialists. The result was a contemporary statement of what the Wall and its associated collections meant to the communities of Hadrian's Wall. This paper will discuss how the art installation was used to encourage engagement with archaeological collections and remains through the evaluation of extensive audience questionnaires and surveys. It will show how the artwork moved the demographic and psychographic profile of the site's visitorship, and conveyed learning outcomes that were distinct from those of the traditional on-site interpretation. The installation emphatically recreated a 'lost' aspect of Hadrian's Wall as an invasive and shocking presence in the landscape. It also changed the narrative emphasis of Housesteads away from the fort being a functional part of a military frontier to that of an ancient and contemporary community.

Le tesserae 'Vota Publica' del IV sec. d.C

Christian Mondello – Università degli Studi di Messina

L'obiettivo di questa comunicazione è quello di ridiscutere la speciale categoria di tesserae tardo-romane 'Vota Publica', realizzate in bronzo e in ottone, le quali recano i ritratti di imperatori romani da Diocleziano (284-305 d.C.) a Valentiniano II (375-392 d.C.) in combinazione con iconografie isiache ed egiziane. Comunemente noti come 'Festival of Isis coins' in letteratura e sul mercato, questi manufatti sono stati messi in relazione da A. Alföldi (*A Festival of Isis in Rome under the Christian Emperors of the IVth Century*, Budapest 1937) con il festival romano del Navigium Isidis, nel cui ambito essi sarebbero serviti da mezzi di 'propaganda pagana', su apparente iniziativa di circoli senatori reazionari di Roma. Il ritrovamento di nuovi esemplari, alcuni dei quali provenienti da contesti archeologici, nonché la rivisitazione della cronologia e dei modelli di produzione consentono di avanzare nuove riflessioni relative a questa serie di tesserae tardo-romane, la cui ratio costituisce ancora oggi una irrisolta vexata quaestio.

Signacula as Reusable Type in the Roman Empire

Elizabeth Robinson – University of Dallas

Signacula are a type of *instrumenta domestica* (tools intended for everyday use) that were used in the production and labeling of items within the Roman economy. This paper focuses on the subset of *signacula* used for branding or impressing various materials, including wooden barrels, and their role as reusable type on the outskirts of the Roman Empire. The *signacula* were meant to be used repeatedly, and they often bore the initials of individuals representing *tria nomina* or *duo nomina*, although some referred to military legions. The general consensus is that these markers were used by producers, merchants, and administrators, and perhaps even to indicate ownership. The creation and use of these tools was thus a fundamental part of the manufacturing chain, yet this type of technology seems to have been confined only to certain regions of the Empire. This paper explores the ways that the production and use of these *signacula* relate to Roman views of identity, ownership, and production. It also relates these observations to considerations of how other examples of reusable type may have functioned in the broader Roman economy.

Modelling Textile Production and Consumption in the Roman Republic: A Novel Approach

Fenella Palanca – University of Melbourne

Textile production must have comprised a significant portion of the Republican economy, but the actual scale and complexity of this industry is often unclear, owing to an ostensible lack of consistent evidence for textile manufacture in this period. However, recent developments in experimental archaeology have made it possible to produce plausible estimates for the labour and material requirements of creating textiles, particularly for the primary manufacturing processes of spinning and weaving. This paper will first use such estimates to propose several quantitative models of hypothetical textile production and consumption from the third to first centuries BCE. Next, the extant literary and archaeological evidence will be employed to further substantiate these models, yielding a more holistic picture of the textile industry. The magnitude of labour hours alone required to produce fabric for Roman Italy reflects the considerable scale of this economy, and the evidence, while not always consistent, suggests that several modes of production were utilised to meet this high level of demand. Overall, it will be argued that the Republican textile economy operated at a higher level of intensity and complexity than scholars have sometimes assumed, owing to the (often invisible) economic contributions of slaves and women to this industry.

Absence of Evidence is Evidence... of a Vineyard

Simeon D. Ehrlich – Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Material evidence of wine production abounds – notably winepresses and transport amphorae – but identifying evidence of vine cultivation archaeologically is more challenging. Ancient vineyards would not necessarily yield artifacts that would survive in the archaeological record, nor would they yield botanical or palynological remains that would survive in situ in a vineyard itself. So what remains to serve as evidence? And how securely can this identify a vineyard? Excavation at Ascalon (Ashkelon, Israel) from 2013-2016 yielded a series of late antique soil disturbances cut into a Philistine cemetery at regular intervals. There were no material or plant remains found that could offer clear evidence of viticultural activity. Rather, irregularities and inconsistencies in the stratigraphy suggested depositional processes at work consistent with ancient agricultural treatises' descriptions of the operations necessary to establish and maintain a vineyard. This paper argues that such stratigraphy alone, in the absence of corroborating material evidence, is sufficient basis to identify the area as a vineyard. Excavated vineyards from sites outside the Levant offer notable comparanda, but none match the exact agricultural methods employed at Ashkelon. Hence, its vineyard and the interpretive framework necessary to identify it deepen our understanding of vine cultivation in the Romano-Byzantine Near East.

“Soft stone, most human stone” in Roman architecture

Daniel P. Diffendale – Scuola Superiore Meridionale

Not all stones are created equal: this contribution aims to problematize the binary division of Roman architecture as either stone-built or not. Taking cues from Vitruvius' *lapides molles* and the numerous types of *pietra dolce* in early modern Italy, and considering physico-mechanical characteristics deriving from geological composition, I suggest that “soft stone” is a category that is both meaningful historically over the *longue durée* and useful for archaeological analyses. Its physical properties mean that the permanence of soft stone is not assured (and, even if it is a less likely target for the limekiln, it is nonetheless susceptible to fragmentation for reuse), while the labor and tools required for its quarrying and working are not comparable to those for hard limestones or marble; its energetics economies at times tend closer to those of “perishable” materials than to those of hard-stone masonries. While my focus is on the various types of soft volcanic tuff found in Latium and Campania that were exploited for ashlar masonry during the Roman Republican and early Imperial periods, the analysis is applicable much more broadly, *mutatis mutandis*, to tuffs found elsewhere in the empire or to myriad sandstones and soft limestones.

Winners and Losers? Failure in the Roman World

Astrid Van Oyen – Radboud Universiteit

Emlyn Dodd – University of London

The Roman world was a high-risk environment, but this risk was not equally distributed. Different regions, periods, and socio-economic strata experienced risk, and thus success and failure, in different ways and to varying extents. Whereas macro-scale models assess the gross distribution of income or wealth, the topic of failure provides a lens to examine the lived experiences and consequences of such inequalities. Micro-histories of failure focused on one site, structure or enterprise can show how the narratives of growth that characterize the macro-economic study of the Late Republican and Early Imperial period smoothen out local histories. But failure can also be scaled up, to analyse communities, networks, or regions. Through failure, we can foreground a more nuanced understanding of social and economic dynamics, often revealing sequences of boom and bust, to put oscillations, turns, and frictions at the centre of the nascent Roman empire. Possible questions include:

- how to identify failure archaeologically;
- different analytical scales for the study of failure;
- the unequal conditions and consequences of failure, between different groups, sites, or
 - communities (e.g. rural and urban);
 - the relation between failure and growth;
- empirical and conceptual intersections between failure, resilience, and innovation

Saturday 13th (PM)		Room 1 - Elvin Hall	
14:00	Introduction (<i>Astrid Van Oyen & Emlyn Dodd</i>)		
14:10	Troubleshooting the Roman world of color: artisanal materials and the working knowledge of pigments (<i>Hilary Becker</i>)		
14:30	Acknowledging failure and resilience in ancient Roman design (<i>Penelope J. E. Davies</i>)		
14:50	Embodying Roman Failure: Bodies in Alliance in Rural Sardinia (<i>Mauro Puddu</i>)		
15:10	Discussion		
15:30	BREAK		
16:00	Growth and failure of productive systems in the North African provinces (<i>Lilia Palmieri</i>)		
16:20	The restorative power of gardening collectives in post-earthquake Pompeii, AD 62-79 (<i>Jess Venner</i>)		
16:40	Between Boom and Doom: Rethinking Urban Change in Italy's Middle Tiber Valley (<i>Adeline Hoffelinck</i>)		
17:00	Discussion		

Troubleshooting the Roman world of color: artisanal materials and the working knowledge of pigments

Hilary Becker – Binghamton University

Faberius paid no doubt a large expense to have the walls of his peristyle painted with the cinnabar (mercury sulfide) but within 30 days his walls had turned black. Vitruvius' shared Faberius' story to help others not mistake the same costly mistake. Archaeometry coupled with ancient sources makes it possible to understand to what extent Roman artists were able to successfully work with their ancient colorants and also helps us to recognize where there were problems. The study of the production of colorants such as the principal blue colorant Egyptian blue provides evidence of what ancient workmen knew from making and doing in their workshops. Both the review of the archaeological evidence from an ancient Egyptian blue workshop, as well as modern experimental archaeology producing this blue, both reveal what kinds of mistakes could be made in the course of production. Study of this evidence reveals that a variety of failures were possible including errors in proportions, product purity, firing time, etc. Such evidence also helps to reveal the number of variables that Egyptian blue producers had to navigate around every time they made produced this color in order avoid costly firing failures. When using materials, Roman artists were occasionally willing to collect and try out a new material to see if it might work as a colorant when painting. Such attempts could have failed, and in fact, there were materials that were tried, and based on the surviving evidence, were not used again, which may speak to a learning curve. The Roman craftsmen also had an incredible amount of knowledge regarding in what contexts the pigments on their palette could be used for painting. For example, most artists knew when not to apply a pigment (such as malachite, or azurite, or cinnabar) in order to avoid material failure. Quantitative studies help document these examples in the painted archaeological record and reveal more about the working knowledge that Roman patrons and painters had to use their materials correctly, even while highlighting the occasional failures, such as that of Faberius.

Acknowledging failure and resilience in ancient Roman design

Penelope J. E. Davies – The University of Texas at Austin

This paper explores structural failure and resilience in ancient Roman architecture and urbanism. Focusing on the centuries before the fire of 64 CE, it argues, perhaps surprisingly, that Romans faced constant architectural failure, which political authorities carefully managed. Architectural historians tend not to characterize failure recognition and resilient design as catalysts in the evolution of Roman architecture until the far-reaching building legislation Nero instigated to avoid future conflagration. Yet a slight shift in perspective on three familiar waves of architectural and urbanistic development suggests they were, in fact, a powerful force for change, alongside aesthetics, and closely intertwined with ideology. Tracing a progression in scale from an engineering definition of resilience (stability and robustness of individual buildings) to an ecological definition (long-term viability and nature of ecosystems), this paper concludes that, against this new continuum, Nero's legislation delivers even more radical repercussions than are usually acknowledged. In turn, recognising Roman failure not only requires a more critical approach to the trajectory of Roman architecture, but also an interrogation of the role it serves in modern culture.

Embodying Roman Failure: Bodies in Alliance in Rural Sardinia

Mauro Puddu – Università Ca' Foscari Venezia

This paper focusses on the embodiment of - and reaction to - failure in the late Republican/early imperial rural Sardinia, with the intention to contribute to investigating "how to identify failure archaeologically". Being one of the first provinces abducted by Rome to exploit its cultivable land that needed to be subtracted to Carthage, Sardinia offers a plethora of investments and potential failures. There are at least two possible scopes to

detect failure: on one hand spaces of failure, sites with material signs of sudden interruption of productive activities; on the other hand, places of failure, such as the human body. This paper's target are the signs of failure inscribed in the bodies of the women and men buried in the rural cemeteries nearby such sites of failure. Historically, Sardinia has often been interpreted as a passive resources provider, exploited by more active agents, such as Carthage, Rome, Spain, Italy, willing to fulfil designs of power, conquest, and unification. Defined by Cicero as "one of the three granaries of Rome", Sardinia hosted communities that during the Roman period endured increasing demands of production and exploitation. The theoretical lens of failure provided by this session gives us a unique opportunity to investigate these communities as active agents that not only endured but also reacted to potential strategic failures. This paper focusses on funerary contexts of rural Sardinia set-up in the proximities of failing productive activities, aiming to highlight both short term and long-term embodied signs of reactions to failure: archaeologically investigated ritual elements standing out from regular funerary practices, and bio-archaeologically visible marks of malnutrition and overwork. By framing failure as the empires' failings towards its people, specifically the non-elite women and men caught between top-down economic strategies, this paper relies on Judith Butler's Bodies in Alliance theory, where the human body is seen as the collective and active expression of refusal of socially and economically induced precariousness, a constant element of the Roman world.

Growth and failure of productive systems in the North African provinces

Lilia Palmieri – Università degli Studi di Milano

The North African provinces experience socio-economic ups and downs during the middle and late Roman imperial age and beyond and change dramatically in the process of defining a productive system only apparently unaltered over time. If the flow of African goods appears as a seamless continuum from the Mediterranean perspective, the production topography allows us to understand how one production decreases within a region not only in favour of another production, but also in favour of the same highly intensified production in another neighbouring region. This discontinuity generates different economic landscape models and consequently different social contexts.

The paper focuses in particular on the network of structures related to olive oil production, fishing industry and pottery production as the main archaeological markers functional to the analysis of the productive system in the North African provinces and of the inter-regional and inter-Mediterranean routes of the African goods. This macro-scale comparative analysis aims to identify a growth-failure model in order to define the productive and commercial dynamics of the territories involved, revealing sequences of boom and crisis throughout the micro-histories of individual production units as part of the economy of a region at the centre of the Roman Empire.

The restorative power of gardening collectives in post-earthquake Pompeii, AD 62-79

Jess Venner – University of Birmingham

Community and knowledge sharing are key for ensuring the 'bounce back', or *resilire*, of an urban system following failure or crisis. In both modern and ancient urban centres throughout history, examples of horticultural collectives created in response to crises can be found, from the first Italian wine co-operatives created in Northern Italy post-WWI, to the communal groups supporting the *huertas urbanas* created in Havana, Cuba post-1989, and the community gardens constructed following the devastating earthquakes of 2010-11 in Christchurch, New Zealand. In ancient Pompeii, graffiti records the presence of collegial groups related to horticulture, including garlic-sellers, fruit-sellers, perfume-makers, grape-pickers, inn-keepers, cart drivers, and poultry-dealers, which leads to the question: what role did community play in the 'success' of Pompeii's working gardens following the catastrophic earthquake of AD 62/3? While the effects of the earthquake of AD 62/3 meant that the majority were faced with lifestyle challenges, such as displacement from demolished or damaged properties or food and water shortages others, namely the (wealthy) landed, were in a position to create opportunity from failure. In the

seventeen years that followed, at least thirty-two new agricultural gardens were created in Regions I and II in the space of demolished or damaged residential and commercial buildings. While this allowed the landed class to diversify and protect their income, social inequalities rising from local responses to ‘failure’ in terms of land development and rental, and access to water and trading networks, were inevitable. Using modern case studies of urban horticultural collectives as a comparison point, this paper will uncover evidence for garden-related community groups in Pompeii and consider how these groups may have tempered the effects of the social inequalities arising from failure in the town’s final seventeen years. It will also introduce the possibility of partial garden rental and reflect on the role of local *collegia* in horticultural government and innovation in Pompeii’s gardens. Through this novel exploration of garden-related collectives, this paper will position community groups as a crucial component not only of the town’s survival in its final years, but also of its success.

Between Boom and Doom: Rethinking Urban Change in Italy’s Middle Tiber Valley

Adeline Hoffelinck – Radboud Universiteit

The Roman World encompassed a vast network of cities, each characterized by differences in size, infrastructure, functions, and, as is frequently implied or even explicitly argued, levels of success. Settlements in the Middle Tiber Valley, which were part of one of Italy’s most densely developed urban areas – Rome’s *suburbium* – underwent significant shifts in their success story during the transition from the Late Republic to the Early Empire. Once flourishing, towns in this Valley seemed to decline as they witnessed losses in physical size – some shrinking or even being entirely abandoned – as well as in their social and economic importance. Traditional narratives describe Rome’s suburban towns as failures, while recent frameworks favor a more moderate interpretation, suggesting that these towns evolved into symbolic centers. However, doesn’t this still qualify as a form of failure, considering that towns ultimately experienced a mere secondary, less successful, developmental trajectory? This paper reframes the story of urban success, failure, and repurposing in the Middle Tiber Valley by integrating both old and new archaeological data and introducing a novel conceptual toolbox inspired by community resilience theory. In doing so, I argue that current narratives on urban development in the Roman World should leave more room for alternate, and possibly thriving, futures between moments of urban boom and doom.



Theoretical Approaches to Big Data in Roman archaeology
Penny Coombe – Getty Research Institute; University of Reading
Nicky Garland – Archaeology Data Service

Roman archaeology has long produced large and complex data. Creating, managing, and sharing ‘big’ datasets has been of perennial interest for many archaeologists. The potential and limits of ‘big data’ have been recently highlighted and discussed and a light shone on how digital heritage relates to recent research in Roman Archaeology (e.g. Garland TRAC webinar 2023; TRAC 2023 Digital Archaeology workshop; TRAC 2022 session 4). Technological advances and increased application of data principles in Roman archaeology provide the urgent impetus and opportunity for critical reflection on the theoretical approaches that underpin these analyses. By identifying the theoretical frameworks that drive the production, use and reuse of big data in Roman archaeology we can better understand the potentials and pitfalls of these approaches.

This session provides space for theoretical analysis. In particular, we welcome papers and discussion on, but not limited to:

- What assumptions have been made in constructing datasets and ontologies?
- Can the theoretical discussion of data and big data (e.g. Morgan 2022) elucidate more aware and humanised interpretations?
 - What common principles for compiling, combining and sharing data are needed?
- How can we combat the ‘siloesation’ of data within archaeological subfields (Lawrence 2022)?

Bibliography:

- Lawrence, A. 2022. Harder – Better – Faster – Stronger? Roman Archaeology and the challenge of ‘big data’. *Theoretical Roman Archaeology Journal* 5 (1): 1-29
- Morgan, C. 2022. Current Digital Archaeology. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 51: 213-231

Saturday 13th (PM)		Room 2 - Drama Studio
14:00	Introduction	
14:05	Bringing coins out of the cabinet. Nomisma.org, a controlled vocabulary and ontology for numismatic linked open data (<i>David Wigg-Wolf</i>)	
14:30	All Things are Numbers? Theoretical Approaches to Non-standardized Legacy Data in Romano-British Pottery Studies (<i>Eniko Hudak</i>)	
14:55	Deconstructing the narrative: the use and misuse of big data (<i>Lev Cosijns & Georgia Gould</i>)	
15:20	Learning from Gendered Approaches to Big Data (<i>Alena Wigodner</i>)	
15:45	BREAK	
16:15	25,000 scattered components. A digital corpus for Roman stone architecture in Germany (<i>Katja Roesler & Kerstin Hoffman, Aline Deicke & Berenike Rensinghoff</i>)	
16:40	What pot is it anyway? - Theoretical challenges in the classification of ‘messy’ pottery data in the Roman Northwest (<i>Alasdair Gilmour</i>)	
17:05	Deathscapes by numbers: Exploring applications and implications of burial plot size from the epigraphic record (<i>Dragos Mitrofan</i>)	

Bringing coins out of the cabinet. Nomisma.org, a controlled vocabulary and ontology for numismatic linked open data

David Wigg-Wolf – Deutsches Archäologisches Institut

As more or less standardised, mass-produced serial products, coins are ideally suited to digital applications, in particular in the context of databases, linked open data and the semantic web. Since 2011 the Nomisma.org consortium has developed a controlled vocabulary and ontology for numismatics that is now widely applied in the discipline. By employing the concepts of Nomisma.org, the American Numismatic Society alone hosts data on more than 500,000 coins from 86 international projects and institutions that are accessible via portals such as Online Coins of the Roman Empire (<https://numismatics.org/ocre/>) and a SPARQL endpoint. Many other projects such as Coin Hoards of the Roman Empire (<https://chre.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/>) implement the Nomisma.org vocabulary and so are fully integrated into the wider world of linked open data. A report by the ARIADNE EU-FP7 project mentioned Nomisma.org as a particular example of good practice from which the archaeological community can benefit (G. Geser, ARIADNE WP15 Study: Towards a Web of Archaeological Linked Open Data. Version 1.0 (Salzburg Research 2016)). This paper will present the development and architecture of Nomisma.org, as well as the philosophy behind it. Questions addressed will include how Nomisma.org can – and cannot – be a paradigm for archaeological data, as well as how it can facilitate better integration of numismatic data into archaeological research and discourse.

All Things are Numbers? Theoretical Approaches to Non-standardized Legacy Data in Romano-British Pottery Studies

Eniko Hudak – Newcastle University

Pottery is one of the most common artefacts recovered from archaeological excavations, and the variety of attributes recorded for pottery analysis produces vast amounts of quantitative and qualitative data. Over the history of the development of Romano-British pottery studies there has been an increasing emphasis on standardising the methods of and the terminologies for consistent recording of basic information to facilitate discussions. Updates of professional guidelines, however, have no scope to cover datasets preceding their publication resulting in incompatible pottery datasets across time. This paper aims to demonstrate that we should not fear the fuzzy, incomplete, and sometimes even confusing nature of legacy datasets in Roman pottery studies. The case study presented here collated big data on the distribution of Mancetter-Hartshill *mortaria* in Roman Britain from a variety of secondary datasets from archaeological reports of the last 60 years. It will explore the value (and perhaps even the necessity) of reframing the quantity-driven pottery analysis mindset to be able to make the most of non-standardised legacy data from secondary datasets: an application of theoretical frameworks that rely less on quantities of finds and utilises other attributes to explore province-wide research questions. Numbers may not be everything, but FAIR data is.

Deconstructing the narrative: the use and misuse of big data

Lev Cosijns – University of Oxford

Georgia Gould – University College London

With the increasing availability of online archaeological materials and the allure of compiling databases to store certain information together to increase its accessibility, the use of big data in archaeology has become very attractive. For example, some of the pre-requisites of certain funding bodies is to produce a database at the end of the project. However, numerous assumptions have been made in the construction of these large databases, and significant issues have often been ignored. This presentation aims to shine a light on some key issues in the building

and handling of big data in archaeology using several case studies. For instance, there are significant issues which arise when small-scale archaeological surveys are compiled into one large dataset, namely a significant issue in the lack of a common language or international framework for historic chronologies, which often translates into unclear dating of sites. This can also be seen in the big data of Norwegian Migration Period textile archaeology, such as the textiles from the graves of Snartemo, Norway, which were heavily influenced by Late Roman products and trade. Thus, this presentation will deconstruct examples of larger datasets and examine the effects of big data on archaeological analysis.

Learning from Gendered Approaches to Big Data

Alena Wigodner – Princeton University

Studying gendered behavior in the archaeological record requires us to distill a dynamic aspect of identity into static objects. Which objects represent the behavior of women? Of men? Adding to the challenge, it is easy for archaeologists to overlook the truth as our own gender biases shape our interpretations. Roman archaeology's embrace of big data has provided new tools for studying gendered behavior, leading to what I argue is a critical symbiosis. Large datasets require us to face our gender assumptions, moving beyond the anecdotal and into the provable. Indeed, the very act of designing and populating a database shapes our approach to the relationship between an object and the gender of its user. Concurrently, gender research can guide our approach to big data more broadly, both at a theoretical level and at a highly practical one as we grapple with applying quantitative and data-driven methods to the study of a complex, intersectional aspect of identity. I illustrate the potential of this symbiotic relationship through my own database of gendered offerings from sanctuaries across Roman Britain and Gaul; my analysis especially highlights the way embracing uncertainty in dataset design and analysis helps us capture the behavior of women and other marginalized groups. Big data extends our understanding of the gendered Roman world—and vice versa.

25,000 scattered components. A digital corpus for Roman stone architecture in Germany

Katja Roesler – Deutsches Archäologisches Institut

Kerstin Hoffman – Deutsches Archäologisches Institut

Berenike Rensinghoff – Disiecta Membra

Aline Deicke – Marburg Centre for Digital Culture and Infrastructures

Roman Antiquity and its material remnants have long been the source for corpora and large data collections conducted by research institutes, like ASR, CIL, OCK, CRFB. In 2023, the new corpora project *disiecta membra* commenced with a reflective and decidedly digital approach to large data collections. In the next 24 years, three institutions – University Mainz conducting archaeological research, Digital Humanities at University Marburg, and RGK conducting epistemological research – with the support of several partners are going to collect and analyse 25,000 scattered components of Roman stone architecture and c. 5,000 archaeological contexts in Germany, which are hardly known and published. A specific emphasis will be on generating and modelling data for object biographies, provenance, and epistemological issues. One of the primary objectives is to publish the data in compliance with the LOUD and FAIR principles with the help of ontologies (e. g. CIDOC-CRM) and controlled vocabularies. This paper introduces and discusses our digital and structural approach as well as the epistemological research needed for building a digital collection that compiles not only data and metadata, but gives information on data creation, i.e. past sampling strategies, categorisations and (pre-)processings, and is open to future scientific questions, digital methods and technology.

What pot is it anyway? – Theoretical challenges in the classification of ‘messy’ pottery data in the Roman Northwest

Alasdair Gilmour – University of Exeter

While Roman pottery may at first seem an ideal candidate for ‘big data’ analyses, holistic approaches that would consider coarse, regional, and less standardised ceramics on an equal footing with finewares like Samian are hampered by diverse methods of classification. This is especially problematic when attempting cross-regional comparisons, and when comparing different wares recorded using different typologies and in different languages. This paper aims to discuss these inherent challenges in the production and utilisation of pottery databases in the Roman Northwest, and proposes using shape data derived from digitised typological illustrations as a potential means to address them. Lawrence (2022) notes the need for novel classifications and analytical units to properly utilise ‘big’ datasets, and by using shape data instead of typological designations and form classifications as the base units of pottery analysis it may be possible to unearth new and interesting nuances in datasets that would otherwise be obscured. Moreover, focusing on the shape data allows us to step away from our modern classifications and their implications (do we consider a vessel as a cup or a bowl?) and foregrounds the materiality of the objects themselves, something often at risk of being lost in the digitisation of archaeological material.

Deathscapes by numbers: Exploring applications and implications of burial plot sizes from the epigraphic record

Dragos Mitrofan – University of Exeter

Burial plot dimensions indicated by the formulae such as in *fronte/in agro* are not uncommon in the Roman Late Republic and early Empire (1st century BCE–3rd century CE). However, these inscriptions appear prevalent in early urbanised areas of the Late Republic, and much less common in the provinces, including Britain where none have been documented. The paper has several objectives. First, it seeks to validate some of the conclusions reached by Bennet (2020) in her unpublished PhD which focused on the ECDS database. Additionally, it aims to explore other research questions, better suited for the smaller EDH database (over 600 raw data entries), such as investigating whether a more expensive material correlates with a larger plot area. Thirdly, as both Toynbee (1996) and Bennet (2020) noted, these dimensions are occasionally associated with legalistic phrases that prohibit inheritance, further partitions, or impose fines for disturbance or removal. Furthermore, with few exceptions (field boundaries, *milliaria*, dedications) dimensions appear to be almost exclusively present in epitaphs, raising the question whether these inscriptions have a more significant legal role to play than previously considered. The ultimate goal of this research is to construct, publish and maintain a .csv database in accordance with FAIR principles. This database will allow for a comprehensive comparison with archaeologically recorded dimensions and will contribute to a greater understanding of burial practices and their legal implications.

Approaching the archaeology of urbanism in Roman Britain

Michael Marshall – Museum of London Archaeology

Sadie Watson – Museum of London Archaeology

Romano-British urban centres have been extensively studied over several centuries. Some, such as London, are principally known from rescue/development-led excavation, while others have been investigated through antiquarian/academic fieldwork. This session will consider the state of urban archaeological practice and understanding in relation to these sites and will explore potential directions for future work. How should urban archaeologists across different sectors contribute and collaborate? How can we deal with huge volumes of material and data, while still creating space for nuance? How might development-led contractors adapt research aims and methods to tell new stories and contribute to new debates? How can we mine archives and publications effectively to re-investigate and compare towns? What topics remain understudied or neglected? How can work on Romano-British towns be made more impactful and relevant to the modern world, or reach different audiences? What can work on Romano-British urban centres learn from and offer to other studies of urbanism?

Saturday 13th (PM)		Room 3 - Nunn Hall
14:00	Introduction	
14:10	Re-evaluating the dating of Relief Patterned tiles from Romano-British towns (<i>Han Li</i>)	
14:25	Corbridge, the most Northerly Town in Roman Britain (<i>Frances McIntosh & Catherine Teitz</i>)	
14:40	Living in Roman London: considerations on the archaeology of Roman housing in a provincial context (<i>Nina Bizzocchi</i>)	
14:55	Promoting Romano-British Durovernum Cantiacorum (<i>Jake Weekes</i>)	
15:10	BREAK	
15:40	Foodways in Roman London: investigating patterns in botanical and animal bone evidence across the city (<i>Katie Miller</i>)	
15:55	Glevum: new approaches to the study of Roman Gloucester (<i>Andrew Pearson</i>)	
16:10	Londinium at the London Museum: creating content for a new museum (<i>Rebecca Redfern & Meriel Jeater</i>)	
16:25	Discussion	

Re-evaluating the dating of Relief Patterned tiles from Romano-British towns

Han Li – Museum of London Archaeology

There have been many attempts to date the roller-stamped or relief pattern tiles in Roman Britain. It remains very ambiguous, and the common belief is that they were used from the 1st to the 2nd century. Many common patterns of relief pattern tiles, this includes box-flues and voussoirs are found in London as well as other contemporary urban centres of occupation. They include diverse fabric groups and roller dies. A recent attempt was made to redate all relief pattern tiles to the first century, causing some controversy and sparking many debates across the building material specialist community. This paper will explore and challenge this new theory, focusing on London and other towns, along with the kilns in the rural areas that provided tiles for the London's consumption. Implications for the study of ceramic building materials and their use in urban areas will be discussed.

Corbridge, the most Northerly Town in Roman Britain

Frances McIntosh – English Heritage

Catherine Teitz – Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz

Like many sites along Hadrian's Wall, Corbridge has a military narrative and chronology published by the big names of twentieth century archaeology. Despite the ink, Corbridge is far from 'solved'; different aspects of the site, including its urban qualities, emerge from the finds, the monument, and the archival records of excavations. This paper will highlight how even a well-established site can be re-interpreted both through varied sources of evidence and by researchers of different backgrounds. Recent work has framed Corbridge as an urban space, expanding its role in the frontier narrative. This has involved tapping into the potential of the vast finds assemblage, re-assessing Edwardian conclusions and using archives to re-evaluate spaces within the site. Investigating the archaeology of urbanism here requires a reconsideration of its presentation to academic and popular audiences. Whilst academic circles are well-acquainted with life beyond the military on the frontier, the popular view remains focused on forts, soldiers, and the defence of empire. Working at a site, established both as an excavation and a visitor attraction, offers an opportunity to enhance the story for both audiences. Corbridge is a place to question what urbanism looks like in a Romano-British context, and especially on the frontier.

Living in Roman London: considerations on the archaeology of Roman housing in a provincial context

Nina Bizzocchi – University of Cambridge

Since the 1990s new approaches in scholarship have highlighted how Roman domestic architecture had a peculiar social and sociological value. While this is particularly true for sites of the Mediterranean area such as Pompeii, this aspect of Romano-British townhouses has often been overlooked, partially as a consequence of the fragmentary nature of some of the evidence. This paper aims at discussing a possible approach to the archaeology (and the issues) of an urban context such as Londinium. More than 1500 Roman sites have been excavated in London and its major role in the history of the province makes it an interesting case-study to investigate Romano-British housing within the broader debate on 'Romanization' as a non-unitary, multi-agency process. However, the nature of its evidence and frequent lack of complete plans poses a series of issues, firstly that of the identification of a building as a 'house' within the archaeological record. While a proposed methodology will be discussed to consider how to best approach this specific material and its problems, some selected examples of housing structures will prompt a discussion on all the factors that contributed to the construction, and the social aspects, of this 'provincial' architecture, moving beyond a simple typological approach.

Promoting Romano-British Durovernum Cantiacorum

Jake Weekes – Canterbury Archaeological Trust

Romano-British Canterbury sometimes seems a bit of an afterthought, or hardly to feature at all, in syntheses of Roman Britain and the north-west provinces. In this paper, I suggest some reasons why Durovernum has always been something of a subaltern place, and remark that these are the very same reasons why it is important and interesting as an example of a provincial town. Canterbury began as an important node in a late Iron Age peninsular Kent hegemony with connections in mainland Europe and the institution of the town is probably two-fold, embodying an important example of variation in urbanism in Roman Britain within one and the same town rather than in comparison with others. There is good evidence that the urban centre began as a Gallo-Roman style resort, only becoming like a *civitas* capital in the early second century. The relationship between this second town, which flourished in the second century and first half of the third, and the late antique walled version of the town (adapted in about 270 to 290) is irregular, fascinating, and again an important contribution to our subject that may have been somewhat overlooked. Much new evidence is becoming available, especially of this later phase, along with new and interesting problems, and significant debates on agency.

Foodways in Roman London: investigating patterns in botanical and animal bone evidence across the city

Katie Miller – Royal Holloway

Food was central to the economic and social structures of Roman life and helped to shape personal identities and experiences. Londinium is the largest Roman urban settlement in Britain and amongst the best excavated, making it ideal for a high-resolution multi-disciplinary analysis of foodways. Previous work has shown that Roman London's foodways exhibit several noteworthy features, some of which are quite unusual within the province of Britannia. These include exceptional access to imported foodstuffs, above average consumption of pig and significant evidence for differentiated styles of dining. These traits reflect Londinium's character as a high status Roman urban centre with a busy port and its strong connections to patterns of diet and dining found elsewhere in the Empire. Focussing on the city's rich archaeobotanical and faunal assemblages, this paper will go further to examine evidence for differing foodways within the city and show that urban diets and experiences of food varied substantially. This approach allows us to move beyond settlement hierarchies and to begin to embed food into specific stratigraphic and social contexts. I will explore some ways in which exploring diet at an intra-urban scale can add to, or change, our understanding of foodways and identities in Roman London.

Glevum: new approaches to the study of Roman Gloucester

Andrew Pearson – Cotswold Archaeology

Of the major Roman towns in South-west England, two fell within the territory of the Dobunni, Corinium Dobunorum (Cirencester) and Colonia Nerviana Glevum (Gloucester). Both had first-century military origins, developing in the second century into fully-fledged urban centres. Both too were the subject of antiquarian and earlier to mid 20th-century archaeological investigations, those at Cirencester being the more extensive – though in each case mainly limited to keyhole observations within the modern urban footprint. Since the 1980s, however, the costs of archaeology have largely discouraged development within Cirencester, such that knowledge has not progressed greatly. The same held true for Gloucester, although urban renewal schemes are now generating new data albeit often on a small scale. Therefore, with this the immediate future, how can we take our knowledge forward? Glevum offers approaches which could be adopted. These include the application of science to new sites, whereas most substantive excavation in Gloucester between the 1960s and 80s applied little or none. Mining data

from past assemblages – both artefactual and osteological – has also been undertaken; this has produced information that informs about Glevum in isolation, but also creates opportunities for comparison and contrast with other Romano-British urban centres. This paper explores these approaches, and discusses how they are modifying our understanding of Glevum.

Londinium at the London Museum: creating content for a new museum

Rebecca Redfern – Museum of London

Meriel Jeater – Museum of London

The creation of a new museum at Smithfield market gives us the opportunity to update and share knowledge about Roman London with our visitors, through dedicated gallery displays and a focused space about life in a shop and house. Approaches to design, display and content differs between these two areas, but both give space to recently discovered objects to tell new stories about the settlement, and for multi-disciplinary evidence about the people to be shared through a variety of content and media. The opportunity to bring Roman London up-to-date for our visitors, also enabled us to critically examine, with the support of colleagues across education, contract archaeology and academia, display priorities and to help us give greater visibility to previously underplayed stories. New finds and revised interpretations of existing datasets and objects, have enabled us to deliver the ‘traditional’ key areas necessary to supporting the national curriculum – faith, the military and trade. By telling the story of Londinium anew, we have been able to give space to nuanced and empathetic insights and portrayals of enslavement, the lives of racialized minorities and those most harmed by the social and economic inequalities which shaped the Roman world.



TRAC General Session

Saturday 13th (PM)		Room 4 - Clarke Hall
14:00	The Bath of the Sick: Sensory Experiences of Illness and Water (<i>Giacomo Savani</i>)	
14:20	The Monstrous Body of the East: Eutropius and the Fall of Roman Masculinity (<i>Larisa Vilimonovic</i>)	
14:40	First trials managing and representing the imperfection of the data in the Roman Settlement Dynamics Study in Hispania (<i>Leticia Tobalina-Pulido</i>)	
15:00	Q&A session	
15:20	BREAK	
16:00	Breaking the Great Boar's Back - Gallic Masculinity, Defeat, and Iconographic Appropriation in Roman Art (<i>Ralph Moore</i>)	
16:20	The Etruscan woman: 'Romanisation', epitaphs, and material culture (<i>Alexis Daveloose</i>)	
16:40	Materializing a Gendered Colonial Worldview: Permeability and Impermeability in Votive Offerings from the Roman Northwest (<i>Alena Wigodner</i>)	

The Bath of the Sick: Sensory Experiences of Illness and Water

Giacomo Savani – University of St Andrews

Bathing can be considered one of the most deeply synaesthetic experiences, and its popularity in antiquity makes it an essential component of the Roman *sensorium*. People of different ages, genders, and cultural and social backgrounds appreciated this practice, which took place in many forms and settings and responded to different needs and expectations (e.g., religious, therapeutic, hygienic, and recreational). This paper investigates how the array of sensory stimuli associated with bathing was experienced by a specific category of ancient bathers: the sick. By focusing on Soranus' *Gynaecology*, Galen's *Method of Medicine*, and Aelius Aristides' *Sacred Tales*, I explore the diverse settings and arrangements of ancient hydrotherapy, re-evaluating the patient's sensory experience in connection with memory, feelings, and healing expectations. I also assess the unsettling perception of estrangement generated by experiencing a familiar practice in an unfamiliar and potentially traumatic context.

The Monstrous Body of the East: Eutropius and the Fall of Roman Masculinity

Larisa Vilimonovic – University of Belgrade

My intention in the proposed paper is to address the interplay of Roman imperial expansion and Roman hegemonic masculinity which was manifested in the social and cultural anxieties surrounding the integrity of the elite male body - *vir Romanus*. A distinctive dialectic between Roman sexual protocol and Roman imperialism formed the moral geography of the Mediterranean as a cultural byproduct of the Roman imperial expansion by separating the manly West from the womanly East, placing them in a hierarchical gendered position of two opposed geographical zones where the former symbolized a domineering male and the latter submissive female. I intend to delineate the proto-Orientalist discourse already present in antiquity by closely analyzing two invectives directed against the Eastern consul Eutropius by the poet Claudian from the late fourth century A.D. These two relatively understudied invectives compellingly attest to the political tensions between two imperial centers at a time when they both claimed their political and cultural hegemony. Obscene vocabulary, aggressive sexual humor, and scopophilic body shaming are all literary tactics that Roman politicians used to demean and discredit their opponents. In the case of Eutropius, the first and last eunuch consul, his gender fluidity and unmanliness were the most important tenets of the invective that exemplifies Roman imperialist sexuality discourse to the greatest degree. This study also enables us to comprehend the intersectional discursive technology of otherness in antiquity, in which poet Claudian intersected gender, class, and age by creating a monstrous body of the eunuch Eutropius that anthropomorphized the body of the Empire's East - the emasculated, pathetic eunuch, slave, and a repugnant old prostitute.

First trials managing and representing the imperfection of the data in the Roman Settlement Dynamics Study in Hispania

Leticia Tobalina-Pulido - Instituto de Ciencias del Patrimonio

When we study Roman settlement dynamics, we use a large amount of archaeological data from different sources and of varying quality. In other words, we work with a large and very heterogeneous volume of data. With the widespread use of GIS in these studies, sometimes no distinction is made in the analysis between "good quality" and "poor quality" data that would allow us to offer results in accordance with the characteristics and problems of our corpus. Despite this, there are still few works that include this management of the imperfection of archaeological

data in their research. Thus, in this paper we will present a case study for the Iberian Peninsula in which we have carried out an analysis of Roman settlement dynamics at the macro level considering these data imperfections (e.g. imprecision, uncertainty). Settlement models have been carried out considering all sites, then only those with less imperfect data and, finally, injecting the worst quality ones. This allows us to see the differences in the results if we consider only sites with accurate or precise chronological or typological data.

Breaking the Great Boar's Back – Gallic Masculinity, Defeat, and Iconographic Appropriation in Roman Art

Ralph Moore – Trinity College Dublin

The depiction of defeated foes, in various states of abjection, and of the spoils of war taken as trophies are common features of Roman art, at both monumental and more intimate scales. The visualisation of ethnic others in attitudes of failure and weakness undergirded and projected the power of the Roman Imperial state and marginalise the cultural identities of former rivals. This power was closely tied to ideologies of *virtus* as Roman hegemonic masculinity, in contrast and competition with the masculinities of other communities. The Caesarian Gallic Wars of c.58-50 BCE and the failed revolt of Florus and Sacrovir c.21 CE made the peoples of Gaul common subject matter for this kind of display, in ways that reveal much about the processes by which artists communicated the marginalisation of vanquished cultures and audiences may have engaged with it through a gendered lens. This paper examines how depictions of Gallic defeat in Roman contexts (e.g. Caesarian coinage, Augustan statuary, architectural sculpture in Gallo-Roman *coloniae* etc.) frame the othered, contested gender of their subjects and appropriate symbols from indigenous Gallic iconography and display of masculinity and martial prowess to communicate this ideological attack not merely to other Romans but to the Gauls themselves.

The Etruscan woman: 'Romanisation', epitaphs, and material culture

Alexis Daveloose – Universiteit Gent

This paper reevaluates our knowledge of Etruscan women during the late Etruscan period (ca. 350-1 BCE). This subject is complex for two main reasons: 1) the lack of Etruscan literary sources; 2) the Roman conquest of Etruria. Within the framework of glocalization and giving primacy to the role of female material culture, the societal status of the Etruscan woman is scrutinised analysing two separate but interwoven elements of late funerary culture. Firstly, the ratio of women in Etruscan tombs is diachronically studied. The prevalence of women in these contexts informs us about the value attributed to them within funerary and familial representation. Secondly, the way in which women are represented is analysed. The use of the various onomastic elements – such as *praenomen*, patronymic, metronymic, and *gamonymic* – is investigated for three case studies (Chiusi, Tarquinia, and Volterra). This is the first attempt at statistically analysing all onomastic components for the entire Hellenistic period. This paper explicitly rejects the old paradigm of pervasive 'Romanisation', with Roman influence not a priori assumed. Instead, Etruscan developments within a broader Italic context are seen as the basis for this analysis. Finally, this paper argues that there is no such thing as 'the Etruscan woman'. Rather, Etruria consisted of many subcultures with their own customs and modes of representation, as illustrated by the local funerary cultures.

Materializing a Gendered Colonial Worldview: Permeability and Impermeability in Votive Offerings from the Roman Northwest

Alena Wigodner – Princeton University

Roman imperialism had a gendered dynamic at its core: the Roman worldview entailed a gendered binary in which masculine, civilized Rome was obligated to control and care for an uncivilized, feminine other. Therefore, we must seek to understand not only how colonialism differentially shaped men's and women's opportunities, challenges, and behavior in the provinces but also the impact of a conquering worldview so symbolically intertwined with gender. To what extent did colonial subjects take up this loaded worldview? I examine its impact in Roman Britain and Gaul by applying a symbolic anthropology approach to objects uniquely suited to the task: votive offerings are highly individual, each one representing a single symbolic act. I include even the most inexpensive offerings so as to capture the behavior of rich and poor alike. Analysis of the materials offered by men and women, and of the materials in which men and women (both humans and deities) were portrayed, reveals a permeability-impermeability binary that reflects fundamental Roman understandings of femininity versus masculinity: women are associated with breakable clay, porous bone, and translucent glass and men with the strength and durability of metal. A comparison of this finding to gendered material associations in the Late Iron Age reveals the nuanced ways gendered understandings of the world changed as a result of Roman colonialism.



You cannot decolonise a syllabus: Decolonial Roman archaeology from disruption to transformation

Eva Mol – University of York
Zena Kamash – Royal Holloway
Miko Flohr – Universiteit Leiden
Andrew Gardner – UCL
David Mattingly – University of Leicester

This session wants to discuss decoloniality and the decolonization movement in Roman archaeology. The urge to more structurally eliminate the reproduction of epistemic and intellectual colonialism in the field has been growing recently. Decoloniality has brought a critical lens able to create awareness of issues of colonial language, power inequalities, and better ways to discuss diversity in the past. Likewise, it has been able to address some fundamental issues relating to current ethics of research and a renewed attention to the lack of diversity in the field (Kamash 2021). However, this attention has been partial and slow in its movement, and we want to discuss how we can make decoloniality from a disruption into a transformation of the field. It is our conviction that Roman archaeology will not only become more inclusive, but way more exciting if we work to include traditionally marginalized voices, works, and ideas in a structural way, if we give more space to non-canonical subjects, and grow more diverse in practice and people. This cannot be done of course, without also discussing responsibility and labour involved.

This labour includes a critical take on the concept itself, and the worrying developments we see happening in academia concerning decolonisation. The term 'decolonisation' has increasingly become hijacked by people and institutions for neoliberal gain. More worryingly, decolonisation has increasingly come to denote a primarily academic and cultural movement (Táíwò 2022), used as a metaphor rather than drawing to the direct action of repatriation of Indigenous land and life (Tuck and Yang 2012). In other words: the term implies action and can never be used lightly.

We welcome scholars, museum practitioners, field archaeologists; anyone who wants to reflect on these issues or has in any way been working on inclusive practices and positionality, social justice, or ways to disrupt Eurocentric knowledge hierarchies. We welcome contributions on recentering marginalised and subaltern voices (either in Roman history or the discipline itself) or in any way involved in using creative means to disrupt and deroot colonial thought from Roman archaeology.

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Saturday 13th (PM)		Room 5 - C3.09
14:00	Introduction	
14:10	'Are you really Dutch?' (Un)belonging in Roman Archaeology (<i>Miko Flohr</i>)	
14:30	'Are you really Iraqi?' Belonging, social bonds and decolonial action (<i>Zena Kamash</i>)	
14:50	Confronting Colonialist Narratives of the Ancient Indian Ocean: A Re-evaluation of the Roman Sources (<i>Nicholas Bartos</i>)	
15:10	Disrupting the narrative to better serve the London Museum's audiences (<i>Rebecca Redfern</i>)	
15:30	BREAK	
16:00	Woe to the Etruscans: Colonial thought and Classicism in Roman Archaeology and its Impact on Pre-Roman societies (<i>Michael McCabe III</i>)	
16:20	Ways to disrupt Eurocentric knowledge hierarchies: a focus on Latin and class (<i>Richard Hingley</i>)	
16:40	Disrupting the Archaeological Archive: Experiments in Decolonial Intervention (<i>Anne Chen, Adnan Almohamad & Jen Baird</i>)	

'Are you really Dutch?' (Un)belonging in Roman Archaeology

Miko Flohr – Universiteit Leiden

As is well known, Roman archaeology emerged as a profoundly 'Western' practice with deep roots in European colonial and imperial projects, and with a demography still overwhelmingly dominated by people of white, European descent. In many post-imperial European societies, the field is considerably less ethnically diverse than the broader population, and leading popular and scientific discourse still replicates ideas derived from European imperialist thinking that once shaped thinking on the Roman world; at the same time the complex colonial and imperial roots of the field remain at the margins of scholarly and professional narratives. This makes the field hard to navigate for people with roots outside 'the west'. In this paper I will suggest that we should look at this problem in terms of 'unbelonging', and that a profound and broadly shared understanding of the anatomy of this 'unbelonging' is an essential step towards making Roman archaeology more diverse and inclusive, and to dismantle the implicit (masculine) whiteness and coloniality that still pervade the field. I will argue, however, that this cannot be done without having difficult but sincere conversations about practices of bias and exclusion, and the ways in which these can accumulate into academic reputations and marginalizations.

'Are you really Iraqi?' Belonging, social bonds and decolonial action

Zena Kamash – Royal Holloway

In this paper I will explore how it feels to be a Roman archaeologist from a British Iraqi perspective. Building on the ideas drawn together by Soraya and El-Solh (1988), I will examine the ambivalence of being both an insider and an outsider as a British Arab woman, with particular reference to my experiences of leading the 'Crafting Heritage for Wellbeing in Iraq' project. Thinking through this project also allows an opportunity to engage deeply with the challenges and opportunities of decolonial action through archaeology and heritage in rebuilding fractured societies.

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Confronting Colonialist Narratives of the Ancient Indian Ocean: A Re-evaluation of the Roman Sources

Nicholas Bartos – Stanford University

New research on the maritime economies of the western Indian Ocean is increasingly highlighting the substantial contributions of a more diverse range of regional actors during the Roman period. Nevertheless, the field is still largely characterized by the colonialist, Eurocentric, and Orientalist holdovers of past scholarship. Many treatments rely on biased and incomplete ancient texts and exclude the world of late antiquity. Others perpetuate the narrative that the Romans disproportionately influenced regional economic development, a scholarly legacy deriving from earlier work by members of the British Raj in India who fashioned themselves as Roman descendants. Efforts towards more inclusive research are underway, but these are hampered by the unbalanced preservation and study of Roman textual and archaeological material compared to that from East Africa, Arabia, or Asia. This paper outlines how we can use these same sources to highlight the roles of more marginalized participants in this multicultural space. It draws on two case studies: the first involving computational models of non-Roman seafaring in the *Periplus Maris Erythraei* and the second incorporating recently excavated material of foreign diaspora communities along the Red Sea. Together, these demonstrate the importance of expanding the traditional boundaries of classical antiquity and its cultural diversity.

Disrupting the narrative to better serve the London Museum's audiences

Rebecca Redfern – Museum of London

Over the past decade, multidisciplinary work by colleagues has challenged many of deeply held beliefs about Roman Britain and one of the most visible in the media is the presence of racialized minorities, and the scientific evidence which refutes that these people were first-generation migrants or only 'seen' at military sites. We are all very familiar with how this played-out (and still does!), coinciding as it did with Brexit. The Museum of London is currently working to decentre whiteness within its own practice, and the author's bioarchaeological research questions deeply held narratives about the people of Roman Britain and London – both are challenges for our existing audience groups. Nevertheless, curatorial are striving to ensure that content at the museum's new site disrupts, challenges, and wherever possible questions the knowledge and 'facts' held by or taught to our audiences in order to serve them better. An overview of this curatorial experience is shared, particularly the challenges faced when need to create a new narrative often results in some very 'plain speaking' audience feedback! What is the cost of being disruptive when it is apparent that some audience groups want familiarity and reassurance from their visit?

Woe to the Etruscans: Colonial thought and Classicism in Roman Archaeology and its Impact on Pre-Roman societies

Michale McCabe III – Universiteit Leiden

The concept of a decolonised humanities and a decolonial Roman archaeology has been one for some time now. Edward Said's famous text on Orientalism has been out for 40 years, but we still use conceptual frameworks such as Orientalising and Orientalised in our works. What's more, is that the power balances and colonial language used are still applied in our conceptualisation of Romanization and Hellenization. Roman Archaeology, thus, still fundamentally operates on the colonial "Us vs. Other" paradigm, with nearly zero radical change in our methodological and theoretical toolbox in interpreting the past. This binary system of understanding the world has led to a severe misunderstanding of Etruscan material culture, specifically as it relates to extant "other" objects, more often than not, Roman. Etruscology is still operating with the paradigm of acculturation concerning Greek, Roman and Near-Eastern influences. This paper explores the post-Enlightenment thinking of nation-states, colonial influence, power dynamics and where the decolonial movement seems to have met a wall in Roman archaeology while concentrating on the impact this has had on Etruscology as a whole, specifically the Romanization debate. The goal is to discuss the relationship between the theoretical and methodological supremacy of colonial perspectives in Roman Archaeology and Etruscology. This paper thus suggests a critical reevaluation against a new paradigm of participatory actants within a developing Mediterranean *Koine*, reshaping the understanding of the role of material culture and stylistic development.

Ways to disrupt Eurocentric knowledge hierarchies: a focus on Latin and class

Richard Hingley – Durham University

This paper focuses on Latin language as a highly effective method for enacting inclusion and exclusion. Education in Latin formed/forms part of a powerful culture of exclusion: Learning the correct form of the language excluded those with less advanced training and knowledge ('barbarians', provincials, soldiers, traders, etc.). The currency of Latin derives from the use of the language to define status and class in the Roman world, as reinvented since the Renaissance as part of Eurocentric thought. This makes it difficult not to see the UK government's recent proposal to extend Latin teaching to state schools as an attempt to educate a wider spectrum of young people to know their place. The structure of the academy appears to hold back direct critique of the exclusionary nature of Latin

education, and archaeology surely has a role. The focus on identity in Roman archaeology has served, if anything, to sideline issues of inequality since it has flattened concepts of hierarchy. One idea is to turn some attention to the complex means through which inequalities were enacted and projected in the Roman past, consciously using this as part of the project to critique inequalities in our own societies.

Disrupting the Archaeological Archive: Experiments in Decolonial Intervention

Anne Chen – Bard College

Adnan Almohamad – Birkbeck

Jen Baird – Birkbeck

What would it take, in concrete terms, to effectively and meaningfully disrupt an entrenched Eurocentric knowledge hierarchy tied to a blockbuster ‘Big Dig’ era excavation? What obligations do we as scholars, curators, and students in the West, who have benefitted from the ‘Big Digs’ of the early 20th century, have to help bring about more equitable access to the (physical and intellectual) products of those excavations or to help rebalance processes of knowledge-making? Taking these questions as a starting point, this talk first reflects on what post-colonially informed perspectives and community engagement have taught us about the long-lasting repercussions of foreign excavations at the site of Dura-Europos, Syria. We then describe our recent collaborative efforts to harness the potential of emerging technologies to work toward active remediation of persisting inequities and biases of the sort which are often rooted in early archaeology.



Urban Structures, Inscriptions and Interaction in Imperial Rome: new approaches

Barbara Borg – Scuola Normale Superiore
Francesca D’Andrea – Scuola Normale Superiore

Rome as the first-ever mega-city possibly reaching c.1 million inhabitants in the early empire, still remains an enigma regarding the way it organised itself and maintained that size for over three centuries despite intensive research on many relevant aspects. Having long outgrown the 4th-century BCE city walls, the urbanistic structures that developed outside of these, and especially outside the later Aurelian Wall, have never been studied holistically and topographical patterns have rarely been translated into patterns of social interaction. The Project ‘The Inscribed city: urban structures and interaction in imperial ROME’ (IN-ROME, ERC-Adv-101054143, PI B.E. Borg), aims to fill that gap using both traditional sources of information (esp. literary, archaeological and archival) and new digital resources. Linking the Epigraphic Database Roma to the *Catasto Gregoriano* and other maps allows us to automatically map c.35,000 inscriptions from CIL VI onto the (archaeological) map of Rome, thus covering the *suburbium* to about the 9th milestone. The panel we propose will introduce the project, its sub-projects dedicated to specific under-researched aspects of the Roman topography, new methodologies developed to automatise the vectorisation of the *Catasto Gregoriano* and other maps, as well as first results.

Saturday 13th (PM)		Room 6 - C3.11
14:00	Introduction	
14:10	IN-ROME - The INscribed city: urban structures and interaction in imperial ROME (<i>Barbara Borg</i>)	
14:30	AI-Supported Vectorization in the IN-ROME project: A Scalable Approach to Historical Map Digitization (<i>Michael Vignoli & Michael Seidl</i>)	
14:50	Digital infrastructures for the understanding of Roman archaeological landscapes (<i>Julian Bogdani, Michael Seidl, Eleonora Iacopini & Michela Vignoli</i>)	
15:10	Villa dei Gordiani: some new epigraphic evidence (<i>Chantal Gabrielli</i>)	
15:30	New approaches to the study of the manuscript tradition of Roman epigraphs (<i>Umberto Michele Soldovieri</i>)	
15:50	BREAK	
16:20	From the Euphrates to the Tiber: The Arsacids in Rome (<i>Davide Maria Meucci</i>)	
16:40	Mapping ritual: towards a contextual understanding of religious practice in the Roman Suburbium (<i>Consuelo Manetta</i>)	
17:00	Continentia and Suburbium: the eastern periphery of Rome and its suburbs between the Servian Wall and the 9th mile (<i>Francesca D’Andrea</i>)	

IN-ROME - The INscribed city: urban structures and interaction in imperial ROME

Barbara Borg – Scuola Normale Superiore

Rome as the first-ever mega-city reaching c. 1 million inhabitants in the early empire (1st century BCE), remains an enigma regarding the way it organised itself and maintained that size for over three centuries. Having long outgrown the 4th century BCE city walls, the urbanistic structures that developed outside of these, and especially outside the late Aurelian Wall, have never been studied holistically in a systematic way. Considering that the built environment in any city both shapes and is being shaped by the everyday lives of those inhabiting and using it, we are missing out on some crucial evidence for understanding how Rome's society worked. The ERC-funded project IN-ROME aims to fill this gap by mapping different parts of the population and their varied activities onto the city's and its *suburbium's* landscape. The presentation will describe its research objectives in greater detail and how it will approach them through a combination of traditional as well as innovative methodologies. The latter include the unlocking of the enormous potential of inscriptions for our understanding of Rome's urban development and social fabric through virtual re-contextualisation and statistical analysis with the help of a newly created GIS system and map of 17th-20th-century properties and toponyms.

AI-Supported Vectorization in the IN-ROME project: A Scalable Approach to Historical Map Digitization

Michela Vignoli – Austrian Institute of Technology

Michael Seidl – Austrian Institute of Technology

The IN-ROME project employs advanced machine learning techniques for the vectorization of *Catasto Gregoriano* map sheets. The vectorization process commences with manual georeferencing of the map sheets, followed by the extraction of key features such as cadastral boundaries and building footprints. These extracted features are then converted into a GIS vector data layer. The project is developing an AI model, trained on a manually annotated subset of the corpus, to automate the vectorization of the remaining sheets. This machine learning approach involves the AI model learning to identify and differentiate between various types of features, thereby enabling the automatic extraction and vectorization of these features on the remaining map sheets. This innovative method promises not only significant time savings but also enhanced quality of results, as more time can be allocated for quality control and fine-tuning. The results of this process will be incorporated into the project's tailored WebGIS map and Gazetteer Database, enhancing its user-friendly interface. The progress made in this project demonstrates the feasibility and efficiency of using AI in the digitization of historical maps.

Digital infrastructures for the understanding of Roman archaeological landscapes

Julian Bogdani – Sapienza Università di Roma

Michael Seidl – Austrian Institute of Technology

Eleonora Iacopini – Sapienza Università di Roma

Michela Vignoli – Austrian Institute of Technology

The Digital Information System of the IN-ROME project is about creating a topographic connection between the historical cartography of the city of Rome and the inscriptions contained in the Epigraphic Database Rome (EDR database). The georeferencing of the epigraphic data, which currently amounts to around 50,000 specimens, will allow us to obtain an enormous amount of data, essential for a comprehensive understanding of urban and social development in space and time. This new geographical-epigraphic approach enables us to explore the distribution of human activities on the territory, and to develop new models with respect to the population and topography of the city. From a methodological point of view, the project involves cross-referencing the topographical data archived in EDR with those contained in the maps and documents of the *Gregorian Cadastre*. A web-based database system, desktop and web-based GIS platforms and a dedicated web-portal for the publication of the results will form the

infrastructure of the INRome project, as well as its main operative tools. Using this platform, the different data sources can be explored jointly via an interactive and modern interface, including real world mapped views of the historic cartographic material.

Villa dei Gordiani: some new epigraphic evidence

Chantal Gabrielli – Sapienza Università di Roma

The complex archaeological context of the 'villa dei Gordiani', located at the third mile of the via Prenestina, has recently been the subject of an in-depth publication, which has highlighted its topographical importance in the urban context, and where particular attention has been paid to the wide and heterogeneous epigraphic evidence (D. Palombi (ed), *La 'villa dei Gordiani' al III miglio della via Prenestina. La memoria e il contesto*, Monte Compatri 2019). The research conducted within the framework of the ERC Advanced Grant project 'IN-ROME: The INscribed city: urban structures and interaction in ROME', has increased the epigraphic texts from this archaeological area. A dossier of thirteen unpublished inscriptions, found in the bibliographic and photographic archive updating the 6th volume of the *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum* of the Institute of Latin Epigraphy in Rome, set up by Prof. Silvio Panciera, allows us to further increase our knowledge of the urban environment both on a social and prosopographical level.

New approaches to the study of the manuscript tradition of Roman epigraphs

Umberto Michele Soldovieri – Scuola Normale Superiore

To date, any attempt to re-examine the manuscript tradition of the epigraphs of Rome has essentially resulted in the study of a few *auctores* or the revision of a few collections. However useful it may be, this *modus operandi* has led to a more or less thorough and up-to-date knowledge of specific sections of the manuscript epigraphic tradition, which nevertheless continue to be largely unconnected. My communication aims to demonstrate with examples how a new systematic approach is needed and the potential of such a study. The results of a preliminary investigation of a number of important testimonies from the 16th to the 18th centuries will also be presented.

From the Euphrates to the Tiber: The Arsacids in Rome

Davide Maria Meucci – Scuola Normale Superiore

The Parthians have been documented in Rome since the first century BC, but their presence has never been studied in the context of the city's urban history. Modern analyses of Roman-Arsacid relations have often exaggerated certain episodes by taking them out of context, thus proposing celebratory interpretations sympathetic to the Romans. At the same time, they have failed to take into account the presence of the Arsacids in Rome, reducing them to extras in the history of the city. The partial nature of the documentation proves to be an obvious limitation in understanding the historical reality, which appears to be complex. In fact, the criteria used for interpretation assign to Rome the role of sole actor on a passive stage, relegating the Parthians to the status of mere extras. There is, therefore, a clear need to study the events with a multidisciplinary and egalitarian approach in order to place the Romans and the Arsacids on an equal footing. Therefore, this paper will attempt to analyse and study the presence of the Parthians in Rome, making them active "citizens" in segments of the city's urban history and not just "tourists".

Mapping ritual: towards a contextual understanding of religious practice in the Roman *Suburbium*

Consuelo Manetta – Scuola Normale Superiore

For the Romans who lived in a world full of gods, the rhythms of private, collective and public life were carefully articulated by ritual. Sacred installations represented a familiar and connotative element of both urban and rural landscapes throughout every period of Roman history, whether at the scale of monumental temples or more modest shrines and altars. These installations were stages for the rituals that maintained balance in diverse dynamics of daily life, e.g. in the forces of nature, or among families and other social structures including, ultimately, the state itself. They were also staging-grounds for the negotiation of identity through political self-promotion and cultural integration amongst the elites and other social groups. I will introduce my sub-project within the INROME project through the lens of a selected case-study. My goal here is twofold: to illustrate the distribution and nature of religious devotion and cults in the project area, and to begin to explore questions relating to patronage and cult-participation, based on analysis of epigraphical evidence within its archaeological and topographical context.

***Continentia* and *Suburbium*: the eastern periphery of Rome and its suburbs between the Servian Wall and the 9th mile**

Francesca D'Andrea – Scuola Normale Superiore

This paper provides an overview of the IN-ROME sub-project dedicated to the eastern suburbs of Rome. The main objective of this research is to gain a deeper understanding of the dynamics of development and functioning of the landscape extended eastward between the city boundaries (*continentia*) and the *suburbium* within the ninth mile. The investigation is predominantly concerned with the expansion of the city across the Servian Wall, the development of the Esquiline and adjacent areas over time and the question of how exactly the built-up area gradually faded into a more rural countryside. After a brief introduction to the history of the studies, the first part of the paper will introduce the research questions and the methodology used to achieve the objectives. The second part will present some case studies that are particularly relevant for a more comprehensive understanding of the eastern periphery of Rome. Particular attention will be paid to the Late Republican necropolis and the changes it underwent during the Imperial period, as well as to the distribution of monumental tombs and private residences on the outskirts of the city.



RAC General Session 2

Saturday 13th (PM)		Room 7 - C3.15
14:00	Is Necessity the Mother of Invention? Coal and Iron in Northern Roman Britain (<i>Elizabeth La Duc</i>)	
14:20	The sanctuary of NIDA/Frankfurt-Hedderheim: A sacred micro-scape (<i>Frederic Auth</i>)	
14:40	Sacred Shores: The Mythical Landscape of Sperlonga (<i>Parrish Wright, Rebecca Levitan & Matthew Naglak</i>)	
15:00	The view from the harbour: The religious scenography of early Imperial Alexandria (<i>Damian Robinson & Franck Goddio</i>)	
15:20	BREAK	
15:50	Caveat emptor! Using Bayesian modelling to redate Wroxeter (<i>Roger White</i>)	
16:10	Radiocarbon Dating of the Roman military presence in the Middle Danube region (<i>Balázs Komoróczy & Marek Vlach</i>)	

Is Necessity the Mother of Invention? Coal and Iron in Northern Roman Britain

Elizabeth La Duc – University of Cambridge

The occurrence of coal on Romano-British archaeological sites has been recognized for many years, but the evidence for how coal was actually employed was mostly circumstantial, based on the association of coal finds with artefacts. Recent excavations of a second century blacksmithing workshop at Aldborough (Isurium Brigantum), Yorkshire, have provided some of the clearest evidence for the use of coal for metalworking. Chemical and microstructural analysis has identified certain features in metal production debris particular to the use of coal as fuel, instead of wood-derived charcoal. Using this new methodology, metalworking remains from other Roman sites in Yorkshire, Lancashire, and Northumberland, including along Hadrian's Wall, have been analysed, proving the extensive use of coal in northern Roman Britain. This paper seeks to answer the question of which factors – environmental, ecological, or technological – led to the innovation of using mineral energy. Was necessity, in this case, a wood shortage caused by a fuel-hungry society, the mother of invention, or was the adoption of coal an active technological choice made by skilled blacksmiths? The importance of the innovation of coal use to the larger context of Roman technology will also be discussed.

The sanctuary of NIDA/Frankfurt-Heddernheim: A sacred micro-scape

Frederic Auth – Goethe-Universität

Beginning in 2016, excavations in the central parts of the civitas capital NIDA/Frankfurt-Heddernheim (Germany) unearthed a sanctuary, mainly dedicated to Iuppiter Dolichenus. This is the only known 'large-scale' sanctuary in the vicus, and due to its size must be considered a central hub for the whole of civitas Taunensium, reshaping our view of the sacred landscape in this part of the limes area. The sanctuary offers a new perspective on a phenomenon rarely known in the north-west provinces of the empire. More than 80 pits of varying sizes, usually grouped in clusters, are found throughout the site, forming a micro-scape within the sanctuary itself. The clusters group around archaeologically visible as well as invisible boundaries. The pits are filled with pottery and animal remains in large quantities. Preliminary studies suggest that some of the pits are connected through the deposited pottery, and due to the excavation documentation, conclusions about supposedly ritual acts can be drawn from the stratification and orientation of the finds. This contribution gives first insights into analyses of these findings of a sacred landscape on a micro level. The aim is to eventually shed a light on rituals that may have taken place in NIDA/Frankfurt-Heddernheim.

Sacred Shores: The Mythical Landscape of Sperlonga

Parrish Wright – University of South Carolina

Rebecca Levitan – University of South Carolina

Matthew Naglak – University of South Carolina

This paper reconsiders the famous statuary groups in the grotto of the maritime villa at Sperlonga within the spatial context of the gulf framed by Gaeta and Monte Circeo. Previous research has focused on the connections between Odysseus and the conjectured owner Tiberius (Stewart 1977, Champlin 2013); building on Weis (2000) and Squire (2007) we consider the Virgilian resonances which invite viewers to compare Odysseus and Aeneas inside and outside the grotto. The villa is located along a shore imbued with myth. In the Aeneid, Gaeta is the resting place of Aeneas' beloved nurse, and her pious burial contrasts with Odysseus' neglectful burial of Elpenor on Circe's island, Monte Circeo, visible from the grotto. This localization of mythology between art and the Italian landscape connects story and reality, playing up Aeneas' wisdom in comparison to Odysseus' challenges. The impact is intensified by

imagining Odysseus landing on those shores, or Aeneas sailing by. Viewing the remains of villa itself and the grotto within the sacred landscape along the coast of Latium demonstrates the layering of Roman and Greek myth. The villa represents a characteristically (imperial) Roman impulse to integrate the mythic Greek past into the Roman while incorporating public, sacred spaces into one that is private and political.

The view from the harbour: The religious scenography of early Imperial Alexandria

Damian Robinson – University of Oxford

Franck Goddio – Institut Européen d'Archéologie Sous-Marine

Sailing past the Pharos lighthouse into the Portus Magnus of Imperial Alexandria, the visitor would have been presented with a carefully curated religious scenography framing the view of the city before them. In the foreground stood the Iseum on Antirrhodos island, welcoming seafarers into the haven of the port. On the shore, a monumental landing stage with an altar heralded a plaza leading to the Caesarium, the temple to the Seafaring Caesars on one side of the Royal Port of Antirrhodos island and the temple to Poseidon on the other. While on the hill beyond the great Serapeum dominated the background. This paper will use recent archaeological work in the Portus Magnus by the Institut Européen d'Archéologie Sous-Marine (IEASM) to examine the planning and initial development of this religious landscape in the last years of Ptolemaic rule with its focus on the ruling dynasty and its queens as the goddess Isis, through its reimagining following the Roman annexation of Egypt in the service of the Imperial cult and divine protection of the *annona* fleet. What will be demonstrated is that maritime temples punctuated views from the water when journeying around the Portus Magnus and encoded meaning in them.

Caveat emptor! Using Bayesian modelling to redate Wroxeter

Roger White – University of Birmingham

Thirty years ago, at the conclusion of the post-excavation project on the excavation of the bath's basilica, Wroxeter, those involved were lamenting that scientific dating was unable to secure what was, in effect, a floating chronology, despite an abundance of material culture. Now, three decades of advances in radiocarbon dating have enabled a collaborative project to apply a comprehensive programme of AMS dating to the complex Roman urban stratigraphy at Wroxeter. The results will be explored in the presentation, alongside the wider implications of the potential for scientific dating to refine our understanding of conventional dating of Roman sites. It will also address the significant issues thrown up by calibration of ^{14}C dates, and the broader questions relating to the reliability of scientific dating in contrast to conventional approaches to dating using the abundance of material culture on Roman sites.

Radiocarbon Dating of the Roman military presence in the Middle Danube region

Balázs Komoróczy – Akademie věd České republiky

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The Roman-barbarian interactions along the Middle Danube Limes exhibit various forms, from peaceful contacts and trading activities to full-scale military conflicts. The direct evidence of the latter type of events represents a specific archaeological information source—generally called temporary camps. The regions of Moravia, W Slovakia and Lower Austria, which could be considered as a Marcomannic settlement territory, currently encompass 24 verified Roman military field installations. The specifics of these archaeological contexts and the present unsatisfactory state of knowledge have raised the necessity of approaching the given questions with advanced techniques, not least concerning their chronological position. Along with multiple methods and analytical procedures of relevant natural

sciences (geophysics and geochemistry, archaeobotany, microstratigraphy, etc.), radiocarbon dating has also been involved in establishing the chronological position of temporary camps further because the archaeological data provide limited possibilities in this respect. In multiple cases, the method has augmented traditional dating techniques and allowed a more secure establishment of the chronological position of the camps of the Roman army. Using a series of ^{14}C data and synchronizing it with other records obtained during the last years of an international research project, it has been possible to establish the dating of many camps on more solid ground. The data so far do not provide any dating support allowing the camps to be associated with the campaign against Maroboduus in 6 AD. On the contrary, in most instances, radiocarbon data contribute to their assignment to a group of Roman military structures from the period of the Marcomannic wars of the emperor Marcus Aurelius.

