

THE IMPACT OF ROME IN THE EAST

CHANGE & CONTINUITY THROUGH THE LENS OF THE DEAD



FRIDAY APRIL 22, 2022

University of Groningen

The influence of Rome on the eastern provinces of its Empire has long been a subject of debate, and it is only relatively recently that more methodical and nuanced assessments of change and continuity are being applied to the region. Between indigenous identities, Hellenization, Romanization and the impact of colonization, how did the different regions of the Roman East experience their incorporation into the Empire?

This conference intends to explore this question by investigating evidence from a specific archaeological context – the burials. The mortuary record reflects the beliefs, customs and norms of the burying group, and as such offers insight into local culture and social organization. In addition, the funerary sphere was often used as a platform for the display of status, and the negotiation of power and social standing in the broader community. Within circumstances involving a new ruling entity and the emergence of local colonial elites, the examination of ancient graves sheds light on how foreign and local groups and individuals navigated this social restructuring.

The region in focus consists of the Near East and the Eastern Mediterranean during the period between the 1st c. BC and the 4th c. AD. Presentations will include case studies that tackle the osteological, material, epigraphic and historical evidence, and discussions will highlight how these different sources complement each other and provide a holistic understanding of the social and cultural characteristics of past populations in times of change.

Organizing Committee:

Vana Kalendarian; Paula Kalkman; Tamara Dijkstra

Further information:

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Friday, 22 April 2022

- Location: Expositiezaal Harmonie Building, University of Groningen
- Hybrid Attendance, link provided upon registration
- ARCHON students can earn credit through attendance and upon submission of a reflection report
- **Registration for physical and virtual attendance is required through the following [form](#):** The **deadline for registration** for physical attendance is on **Monday, 18 April 2022**. For virtual attendance, the deadline is on **Thursday, 21 April 2022**.

Programme

09.00 - 09.30 Registration, Coffee and Tea

09.30 - 09.45 Opening Remarks

09.45 - 10.15 **Voula Tritsaroli and Tamara Dijkstra**

Bones, Graves, Tombstones and Colonists: Mortuary Practices and Social Complexity in Roman Dion and Patras

10.15 - 10.45 **Eleni Tzoka**

Women's Isiac Funerary Monuments in Roman Athens: An All-embracing Trend or a Means of Differentiation from the Rulers?

10.45 - 11.15 Coffee and Tea

11.15 - 11.45 **Caroline van Toor**

(Non-)Roman Influence on Funerary Monuments from Hellenistic and Roman Thessaloniki

11.45 - 12.15 **Bilal Annan**

Traveling Coffins: Funerary Portraits on Imported and Local Sarcophagi from the Roman Near East

12.15 - 13.30 Lunch

13.30 - 14.00 **Jenny Schlehofer**

A Case-Study of the Necropolis at Tuna el-Gebel, Egypt

14.00 - 14.30 **Myrthe Sassen**

On the Silk Road to China: The Material Reach of Interaction between the Roman Empire and Han Imperial China

14.30 - 15.00 Coffee and Tea

15.00 - 16.15 **Keynote Lecture: Lidewijde de Jong**

Death in the Province: Mortuary Practices and Roman Imperialism in the Near East

16.15 - 16.30 Discussion and Closing Remarks

16.30 - 17.30 Drinks

18.00 - 20.00 Conference Dinner