

CALL FOR PAPERS RAC 2020

The RAC 2020 Executive Committee is pleased to announce the Call for Individual Papers for the Fourteenth Roman Archaeology Conference in Split, which will run from Thursday 16th to Saturday 18th April 2020, with excursions on Wednesday 15th and Sunday 19th April.

The Conference will address a range of important topics and themes relating to the archaeology of the Roman world. We are inviting proposals for Papers that will present new discoveries or ideas in the field of Roman archaeology through 40 themed conference sessions.

Paper proposals that extend beyond these thematic areas will also be considered. For more information about the RAC 2020 themed sessions, see below.

Paper proposers should note the following:

- Presentations should last no longer than 30 minutes
- Speakers should leave sufficient time at the end of their papers for questions from the audience
- The official conference languages are English, French, German, Spanish and Italian
- Unfortunately, RAC cannot cover the costs of speakers' travel and accommodation to attend the Conference
- *This is a participative conference where more than half the delegates are speaking, so all delegates are expected to pay the conference fee. This helps keep the fees as low as possible and also maximises participation and engagement*

Proposals for papers must include the following information:

- Title of the Paper
- Name, affiliation, postal address and email of the proposer(s)
- Title of the themed session in which they would like to offer a Paper (or 'General' if outside a themed session)
- A short description of the theme or subject area of the Paper (not more than 200 words)

Session organisers should also note the following:

- They will need to instruct the speakers included in their original submission to send in their Paper proposals and abstract
- Additional Papers are likely to be offered for all sessions. The final list of speakers at the Conference will be decided by session organisers, with advice from the Executive Committee
- RAC cannot cover the costs of speakers' travel and accommodation to attend the Conference

The deadline for the submission of Paper proposals is **15th November 2019**.

Submissions should be sent by email to the RAC Executive Committee: rac2020split@gmail.com
AND to the lead organiser of the session the Paper is intended for.

PLEASE NOTE THAT RAC 2020 IS ALREADY VERY FULL, SO WE CANNOT GUARANTEE THAT ALL PAPER PROPOSALS WILL BE ACCEPTED

The full Conference schedule will be announced in December 2019

RAC 2020 SESSIONS

Contents

1. TERRA MARIQUE: ECONOMY, SPATIAL MANAGEMENT AND TRANSFORMATION AT THE ANCIENT ADRIATIC / TERRA MARIQUE: ECONOMIA, GESTIONE E TRASFORMAZIONE DELLO SPAZIO NELL'ADRIATICO ANTICO)	4
2. APPROACHES TO ROMAN POTTERY USE: NEW PERSPECTIVES AND NEW TECHNIQUES	5
3. RIVERS IN THE ROMAN WORLD: MOVING BEYOND TRADE AND TRANSPORT	6
4. BOARD GAMES AND GAMBLING IN THE ROMAN WORLD: ENTERTAINMENT BEYOND CIRCUSES, AMPHITHEATRES AND THEATRES	7
5. THE OTHER BARBARICUM. THE NORTHERN BLACK SEA REGION IN ROMAN TIMES: ROMAN IMPORTS, RELATIONS AND CONNECTIONS	8
6. 'THROUGH A GLASS, DARKLY': EVALUATING EARLY EXCAVATION RECORDS FROM ROMAN CARTHAGE	9
7. EPIRUS IN THE ROMAN WORLD	10
8. VALENTINIAN I, THE CROATIAN EMPEROR: THE MAN AND HIS AGE	11
9. MAKING AND SHAPING THE LANDSCAPE: INTEGRATED APPROACHES TO ROMAN LAND USE	12
10. THE HIGH RESOLUTION GROUND PENETRATING RADAR SURVEY OF TWO ROMAN REPUBLICAN CITIES	13
11. RITUAL AND RUBBISH IN ROMAN RIVERS	14
12. THE MATERIALITY OF LITERACY: OBJECTS OF WRITING AND WRITTEN OBJECTS	15
13. RECENT RESEARCH AT PORTUS	16
14. FROM THE ROMAN TO THE LATE ANTIQUE BALKANS: CHANGES IN THE TOPOGRAPHY, FORM AND FUNCTION OF "ILLYRIAN" AND "THRACIAN" CITIES BETWEEN EAST AND WEST	17
15. ALT-BORDERS: BETWIXT, BELONGING, AND TRANSCULTURATION IN ROMAN BORDERLANDS	18
16. ISOTOPES...AND MORE! APPROACHES TO MIGRATION IN THE EARLY AND LATE ROMAN PERIOD	19
17. MATERIALISING ROMAN EMPRESSES	20
18. AT THE CROSSROADS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN: MALTA AND THE CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN DURING THE ROMAN PERIOD	21
19. PROJECT BURNUM – ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH FROM 2003. TO 2019.	22
20. APPROACHING THE PORTABLE IMAGE	23
21. CHEDWORTH (UK): ONE VILLA, MANY APPROACHES	24
22. NEW ARCHAEOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES ON ROMAN WINE PRODUCTION, STORAGE, AND TRANSPORT	25
23. THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXTS OF RIVERINE FRONTIERS IN THE ROMAN WORLD	26
24. THE NETWORKS OF ROMAN CRETE	27
25. CHARACTERISING ROME'S EARLY MILITARY DEPLOYMENT IN THE WEST: THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF MILITARY SPACES	28
26. IN RESPONSE: EXPLORING PROVINCIAL IDENTITIES UNDER ROME'S GLOBALISING EMPIRE	29
27. WHAT GODS DO YOU PRAY TO? BETWEEN GODS AND MEN, WORSHIPPERS IN ROMAN ILLYRICUM	300
28. GOING BEYOND FUNERARY ANOMALIES: BURIAL MANIPULATIONS AS SIGNS FOR THE INTERPRETATIONS OF INTERACTIVE AND DYNAMIC SOCIAL IDENTITIES	31

29.	<i>LOOKING TO OUR OWN DEFENCES? ‘NON-MILITARY’ LATE ANTIQUE RURAL FORTIFICATION IN THE WESTERN EMPIRE</i>	32
30.	LOST ARCHITECTURE - THE ROLE OF ARCHAEOLOGICALLY EPHEMERAL BUILDING MATERIALS, PROCESSES, AND LABOUR.....	33
31.	HYBRID ECONOMIC PRACTICES IN THE ROMAN WORLD.....	34
32.	COINAGE, CULTURE AND SOCIETY IN THE ILLYRICUM AND THE DANUBIAN PROVINCES: NEW THOUGHTS AND PERSPECTIVES	35
33.	THE ARCHEOLOGY OF ROMAN FORCES. THE CASE OF LEGIO VII CLAUDIA PIA FIDELIS IN TILURIUM AND VIMINACIUM.....	36
34.	DRESS AND IDENTITY IN ITALY AND THE PROVINCES.....	37
35.	THE LATE THIRD CENTURY ABANDONMENT OF CIVIL SETTLEMENTS OUTSIDE FRONTIER FORTS	38
36.	DALMATIA IN THE LATE REPUBLICAN PERIOD: NEW FINDS AND APPROACHES	39
37.	ROMAN TOWNS ALONG THE LIMES (1ST – 3RD CENT. AD)	40
38.	PYRRHUS 2300: THE CAREER OF PYRRHUS OF EPIRUS ON THE 2300TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS INVASION OF ITALY	41
39.	DURA-EUROPOS AT 100: CURRENT AND FUTURE RESEARCH ON A CITY OF THE HELLENISTIC, PARTHIAN AND ROMAN EMPIRES	Erreur ! Signet non défini.
40.	ROMAN BRITAIN.....	43

1. TERRA MARIQUE: ECONOMY, SPATIAL MANAGEMENT AND TRANSFORMATION AT THE ANCIENT ADRIATIC / TERRA MARIQUE (ECONOMIA, GESTIONE E TRASFORMAZIONE DELLO SPAZIO NELL'ADRIATICO ANTICO)

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The focus of this session is on various forms of human interventions made to the environment of the ancient Adriatic and the consequences they had for both economy and society. Points of interest are land and maritime resources, their exploitation and management, as well as landscape transformations occurring due to such human interventions. The latter include settlements, cemeteries, port structures and installations, production and trade facilities, and other types of human-environment correlations, but also the impact that the exchange of goods and persons had on both societies of origin and destination.

2. APPROACHES TO ROMAN POTTERY USE: NEW PERSPECTIVES AND NEW TECHNIQUES

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Pottery remains constitute essential evidence for investigating the socio-cultural practices throughout the Roman world – their geographical and status variations. They can provide major insights into everyday and habitual practices and their social, cultural and political significance. However, much focus on Roman pottery has been concerned with its production and distribution and its chronological significance for dating Roman sites and for investigating trade networks. Such studies have focussed on vessel fabrics, while interest in vessel morphology has been concerned mainly with identifying typological sequences rather than vessel use.

Despite its potential, there are often major barriers to using the wealth of Roman pottery to address questions concerning its use, or its consumption. It is often the very extensiveness of these remains and current time-consuming processes for classifying, collating and analysing these truly 'big data' that are limiting their usefulness for such investigations. That is, they are often recorded selectively and summarily, rather than comprehensively and consistently to permit consumption-oriented investigation. Approaches to identifying the uses of Roman pottery have often been, at best, common-sensical in their reliance on morphological differentiation, or vessel labels taken from textual sources that are assumed to apply to individual shapes. There is a lack of sophisticated methods for identifying, collating and analysing these vessels and a lack of appropriate conceptual frameworks which more interdisciplinary approaches can offer for their socio-cultural interpretation.

The AHRC research network 'Big Data on the Roman Table' brought together archaeologists, mathematicians, and computer scientists to explore ways of investigating Roman finewares for such socio-cultural interpretation. This session will take up some of these explorations, and other comparable studies, to demonstrate recent approaches to the consumption and use of Roman pottery and to the evidence they provide for social practice.

3. RIVERS IN THE ROMAN WORLD: MOVING BEYOND TRADE AND TRANSPORT

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The importance of rivers for the understanding of various aspects of Roman society, including the dynamic interrelationship between rivers, economic activities, and the military during the Roman period, has been highlighted by scholars such as Campbell (2012), Franconi (2017) and Jones (2005), to name a few. Rivers provided important networks for the trade and transport of both materials and people; they acted as arteries for the transportation of soldiers and supplies and demarcated physical regions, as well as provincial and imperial boundaries. Although rivers are often viewed as highways for transport, a variety of cultural and social interactions occurred as a by-product of trade and exchange. Rivers were often so important that they became synonymous with the people who lived near them. The Nile, for example, was famously depicted in Roman art and literature as a trope for all of Egypt and its people. Thus rivers “contributed to the preservation of the identity and history of communities and regions” (Campbell 2012, 81).

This session will present papers dealing with human-river interactions in the ancient world. It will address a number of ways in which humans interacted with these natural features and how in turn fluvial networks helped in the creation and transmission of identity. Moreover, the session will highlight the role of rivers as agents in the spread of trends and ideas throughout the Roman Empire. Suggested topics include, the role of rivers as barriers and boundaries in the landscape, their role in the development and spread of artistic styles and ideas, depictions (and meanings) of foreign rivers in Rome, religious activities and the river, the river as recreation, and rivers and the creation of identity. Overall, this session will focus not on fluvial networks as mechanisms for trade but on the cultural role that rivers played in Roman society.

4. BOARD GAMES AND GAMBLING IN THE ROMAN WORLD: ENTERTAINMENT BEYOND CIRCUSES, AMPHITHEATRES AND THEATRES

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The enjoyment of leisure time and recreation is an important part of human experience. While much attention has been paid in Roman archaeology to top-down mass entertainment such as amphitheatre games or races in the circus, gaming and gambling, a more ad hoc and, in many ways intimate, type of leisure activity, has received comparatively little attention. Past work, drawing on literary evidence, explores the kinds of games played in the Roman world and examines social attitudes to gaming and gambling. This scholarship often references material remains, such as board layouts or inscriptions, but textual sources remain in the forefront. Some recent research into, for example, the phenomenological experience of dice-rolling, the transmission of games within the Roman world and the connection between gaming, gambling and literacy, has emphasised the valuable insights to be gained from interrogating the material evidence on its own terms, underlining the potential for archaeologically-informed contributions.

The literary focus has, however, led to the materiality of games and gaming being underexplored; further consideration of the material evidence has potential to provide new outlooks on the social value of this aspect of entertainment in the Roman world. This session invites papers focusing on any aspect of the material culture of gaming and gambling from across the Roman world, with a special focus on dice, dice cups/towers, counters and boards which survive in the archaeological record – whether these items are specially manufactured or created from recycled material. Papers focusing on the more ephemeral effects of materiality on the gaming experience, such as availability, portability, and the creation of such objects are also welcome, as are those exploring the distribution patterns and chronological changes relevant to gaming and gambling.

5. THE OTHER BARBARICUM. THE NORTHERN BLACK SEA REGION IN ROMAN TIMES: ROMAN IMPORTS, RELATIONS AND CONNECTIONS

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The session focuses on the material remains of the Roman Period in the cultural context of the Northern Black Sea Region. The specific feature of the regional context was determined by the barbarian nomadic lifestyle and the presence of ancient cities and their *chora*. The Roman Period is marked by the convergence of the Greek and the local nomadic population, which is unusual for the earlier which occurs primarily in this time period. The session aims to analyze and interpret Roman finds related to different elements of this process: the barbarian elite and non-elite burial-mound necropoleis (cf. paper by A. Simonenko), a recently excavated necropolis of a rural settlement of “Alexander Scaly” (cf. paper by I. Rukovishnikova and D. Beylin), a rural settlement (cf. paper by Y. Vinogradov), and an elite suburban villa (cf. paper by A. Butyagin). The comparison will help to understand the wider picture of both regional development and the evolution of Roman-barbarian relations.

The significance of the session is determined by two factors: first, the material from the Northern Black Sea region is well examined by Russian-speaking scholars, but it's nonetheless not a well-known topic within the European archaeology. Second, the session will help establish connections between Russian-Ukrainian and Western academic communities and thus widen the scope of RAC. The presence of researchers from both countries in this session proves that the political discontent can be overcome by the scholars (at least on a personal level).

6. 'THROUGH A GLASS, DARKLY': EVALUATING EARLY EXCAVATION RECORDS FROM ROMAN CARTHAGE

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Anyone interested in the archaeology of Roman Carthage must take into account the huge corpus of late 19th and early 20th century excavation records (published reports, magazine articles, notebooks, diaries, maps, drawings, photos, postcards etc.) produced, for the most part, by French excavators working in Tunisia during the colonial era. Today these records present a number of challenges to archaeologists working in Carthage. Inevitably they offer a view of Roman Carthage seen through a very different lens from today. The data they provide is highly selective and sometimes inaccurate, but they cannot be ignored. They reflect not just the archaeological conventions of their time but also the political and cultural climate in which their authors worked. The aim of this session is to bring together a group of scholars whose current investigations of Roman Carthage have necessitated a re-examination of some of the earliest excavation records from the site, and to suggest ways in which these early records can be of value to contemporary researchers. Papers will include studies of monuments and materials, some now far removed from their original contexts, for which the records of late 19th and early 20th century investigators provide a unique, if often inadequate and flawed, source of data.

7. EPIRUS IN THE ROMAN WORLD

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With the end of the third Macedonian war, north-western Greece entered the sphere of the Roman world. The region entered the provinces of Macedonia (II BC) and Achaia (I BC) before Trajan established the province of Epirus. The most recent archaeological research shows the different political, economic and social dynamics that this meeting has produced in the various centres. Some cities of the coastal and northern Epirus seem in fact to thrive even after the Roman conquest, while other centres suffer abrupt destruction. The degree of adherence to Roman culture can be perceived through the analysis of urban development, funerary ritual, material culture: the luck or abandonment of the various centres is reflected in the analysis of these aspects.

8. VALENTINIAN I, THE CROATIAN EMPEROR: THE MAN AND HIS AGE

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Next year (2021) will be the 1,700th anniversary of the birth of Valentinian I in Cibalae, Pannonia (modern Vinkovci, Croatia). During Valentinian's eleven years as emperor (AD 364-75) he energetically held the empire together, successfully defending the frontiers against a series of invasions by the Alemanni across the Rhine. He fortified the Rhine/Danube frontier and prolonged Britain's position as a Roman province by sending Count Theodosius to repel the so-called 'Barbarian Conspiracy'. He was also known for his toleration of religious identities, both pagan and Christian, throughout his reign, unlike his brother Valens in the east.

This session will invite contributors to explore the period of Valentinian's life, either in terms of those aspects of the empire with which he was directly or indirectly involved (e.g. the strengthening of town defences in Britain) or the archaeological and material culture evidence that characterises the middle part of the fourth century AD. Although Valentinian spent much of his reign in Gaul on campaign, what was his impact on his home province of Pannonia? And who should we believe about his character - Ammianus Marcellinus, who portrays him as angry, cowardly and superstitious, or Jerome, who portrays him as brave, tolerant and responsible?

Valentinian I was one of a number of emperors that hailed from the Balkans region in the fourth century. This session will therefore provide the opportunity to also explore themes related to this important group of powerful men who shaped the empire and its legacy in late Antiquity.

9. MAKING AND SHAPING THE LANDSCAPE: INTEGRATED APPROACHES TO ROMAN LAND USE

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Field survey and study of site distribution have been instrumental to understanding of settlement dynamics and patterns of change through time. However, such methods offer limited information on the interaction between a location's inhabitants and the landscape. Understanding of this interaction, in terms of agricultural and land-use strategies, is not only crucial to interpretation of settlement dynamics, but also responses to broader climatic and socio-economic change. Reaction to positive/negative pressures will depend on location of a site, but especially on its agricultural strategy and the potential offered by the surrounding environment. Environmental exploitation took many forms throughout the Roman Empire, with differing impacts on the landscape. Moving beyond broad-brush descriptions of land-use (e.g. 'Mediterranean polyculture', 'pastoralism'), to specific patterns of exploitation, is therefore necessary to interpret change in the Roman period.

This session aims to provide a more precise view of Roman land use and agricultural strategies, through papers that offer integrated approaches to environmental exploitation. Contributions combine data from various streams of evidence – field survey, sediments, pollen, plant and animal remains, isotopes, etc. – to address land use in the Roman world. These methods allow for investigation of the topic at different scales, from the global (ice cores), to regional (pollen, fluvial sediments), and local (agricultural processing tools, plant and animal remains), and for consideration of topography and cultural traditions alongside climatic factors. Studies drawn from different regions highlight the ecological context of decision-making, but also the particular socio-economic situation in which developments took place. Through contributions that take an integrated approach, this session aims to offer a more nuanced picture of Roman land exploitation and human responses to it.

10. THE HIGH RESOLUTION GROUND PENETRATING RADAR SURVEY OF TWO ROMAN REPUBLICAN CITIES

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In the last decades the geophysical survey of Roman towns (principally using magnetometry) has become commonplace, with substantial new topographical information emerging as a result. However, such surveys have been limited by the techniques used, with the result that it has been difficult to understand complex urban topography in three-dimensions. Recent developments in GPR survey, hitherto only used on a very small scale, have enabled much larger areas to be surveyed at very high resolution, offering the potential for producing high resolution 3-D images of whole Roman cities. Since 2016, a collaborative project between the universities of Cambridge and Ghent has surveyed the whole of two Roman Republican towns in Italy (Falerii Novi and Interamna Lirenas) at high resolution (with measurements taken every 12.5cm across the sites). The results offer entirely new insights into the two cities. In this session the methods, and the results of the surveys will be presented by the team, and there will be a discussion about their broader historical and archaeological implications.

11. RITUAL AND RUBBISH IN ROMAN RIVERS

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Over the past 100 years, a large number of Roman objects have been discovered in riverine contexts, particularly at bridges and river crossings. These include material from the Thames at London, the Mosel at Trier and the Rhine at Neupotz. Although a ritual motivation for the deposition of objects in water is commonly suggested for prehistoric objects (e.g. Bradley 1990; 2016), these assemblages have usually been interpreted as the accidental losses of travellers or raiders, or as rubbish deposits revealed by fluvial erosion (e.g. Künzl 1993; Painter 2015). This session will review the evidence for riverine deposition in the Roman period, building on existing, now rather out-dated, surveys (e.g. Torbrügge 1971). Through a series of case-studies we will examine whether the binary opposition between rubbish and ritual is appropriate, reflecting on the character and composition of selected assemblages (e.g. complete weapons vs. fragmented personal adornment). We also intend to move beyond focusing solely on processes of deposition and will therefore combine thinking about *how* these objects were deposited with an investigation of *who* was involved in their deposition. Detailed analysis of the range of Roman material culture found in riverine assemblages should enable us to detect the presence of different groups and identities, including soldiers, women and foreigners. By taking this original approach, our session aims to provide new perspectives on the religious, social and cultural significance of rivers in the Roman landscape and on the identities of the people who lived alongside them.

12. THE MATERIALITY OF LITERACY: OBJECTS OF WRITING AND WRITTEN OBJECTS

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It is still commonly accepted that Roman literacy was relatively low, despite an increasing amount of evidence showing that Roman society was full of writing and written objects. Following on from a successful panel on aspects of literacy as evidenced in administration held at the Celtic Classics Conference in 2018, this session aims to show the breadth and depth of new finds in writing objects and to explore the meaning of these objects when considering issues of literacy. Through an exploration of the range of objects involved in writing, from styli and tablets to representations of writing such as those in Pompeii, we will address questions about the use, level, and spread of writing and literacy, touching on issues of globalisation, imperialism, agency and identity.

The perspective of the session is twofold, including both the tools and objects used to produce writing, and the written product itself. Although the methodological approach is strongly contextual and multidisciplinary, for the sake of comprehension and unity, literary texts are not the primary evidence, and we advocate a material turn focusing on objects instead. This is with the ultimate aim to explore issues of literacy beyond the so-called literary elite, looking at a diversity of social groups including but not limited to slaves, women, rural and provincial populations.

Speakers would include epigraphers archaeologists, but also scholars working on graffiti, economy, and literacy more generally. Taking a multidisciplinary approach is fundamental to providing a more nuanced evaluation of the evidence for literacy, with an aim to increasing the development of literacy studies in preparation for publishing the proceeds of these panels.

13. RECENT RESEARCH AT PORTUS

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Much research has been undertaken into the layout and development of Roman ports and harbours in recent years, greatly improving our understanding of their role in Roman Mediterranean commerce. Concrete infrastructure, harbour sediment sequences and shipwrecks have all been used as proxies for understanding how they were used within the context of the broader port. This session draws upon the results of recent inter-disciplinary approaches to the subject at the Portus Augusti, the maritime port of Imperial Rome, which has become one of the most intensively studied ports in the Mediterranean, and which holds out important implications for other major Roman ports. The research presented in the session is a timely reflection that coincides with the re-opening of the Museo delle Navi di Fiumicino by the Parco Archeologico di Ostia Antica in the autumn of 2020. It explores the functions of the Claudian basin within the broader context of the port through recent studies of character and development of the great harbour moles, the huge internal water spaces and the range and roles of ships that plied its waters throughout the Imperial period, and played key roles in supplying the City of Rome.

14. FROM THE ROMAN TO THE LATE ANTIQUE BALKANS: CHANGES IN THE TOPOGRAPHY, FORM AND FUNCTION OF “ILLYRIAN” AND “THRACIAN” CITIES BETWEEN EAST AND WEST

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The founding works of A.H.M. Jones, C. Lepelley and J.H.W.G. Liebeschuetz on cities in Late Antiquity have shown that their so-called decline and fall, defended by Fustel de Coulanges, were rather corresponding to profound changes in terms of topography, forms and functions, than to an actual disappearance. It is undeniable that the Roman classical model one day ceased to be, but it was not by leaving room for nothingness. There was indeed a lively world of Late Antique and Early Medieval cities. The last centuries of Antiquity even saw the foundation of new cities, some of them having never been anything but Christian cities. Given the magnitude of the impact of the great invasions/migrations in this region, the three dioceses of Illyricum, Dacia and Thrace were among those, in the Late Roman World, which saw their civic system most shaken by wars and population movements between the third and the eighth centuries. This session proposes to re-evaluate and to illustrate this historical issue in the light of archaeological discoveries of an overlooked region, especially with regard to the spread of Christianity, by taking a look at the provinces that covered, in Late Roman times, the northern part of the Balkans.

15. ALT-BORDERS: BETWIXT, BELONGING AND TRANSCULTURATION IN ROMAN BORDERLANDS

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A borderland is usually understood as a geographical or political area that can be physically situated between multiple places. Equally, a borderland can exist as more of a conceptual area of overlap between two or more things. This session aims to address the Roman borderlands through the perspectives of transculturation, where neither dominant culture nor the oppressed one prevail, resulting in the emergence of conceptual places of the ‘in-betweenness’. We aim to move a discussion of the archaeology of Roman borderlands beyond their military aspects where the scholarship focuses on various military installations, the usage of space or that questions their individual purposes. Rather the session wishes to focus on the people of the frontiers that were stuck in betwixt various cultural forms. The social environment of the borderlands was multi-ethnic, an aspect that is sometimes forgotten due to research priorities focusing on the physical manifestations of a border. The borders were populated with a multitude of social groups consisting of indigenous peoples, Roman soldiers and their families, and traders from across the Roman world.

The session addresses the people and the objects that inhabited Roman borderlands, that moved through and across them, and their effect on the consequent creation of multiple cultural phenomena within the borderland communities. How did the convergence of cultures, forms of dress, languages and foodways contribute to the transcultural nature of the borderlands? Were the conceptual borders materialised within the borderland communities through preferences for specific jewellery types or eating and drinking habits? Can one talk about sub-cultures in a frontier setting? Papers will not be limited to the topic of physical mobility, however, but also focus on the mobility of ideas and concepts. The session aims to emphasise that such contested spaces as borderlands may have contributed to the rise of inter-identities and gender fluidity, or new, previously uncharted, human-object distinctions, entanglements and relationships.

16. ISOTOPES...AND MORE! APPROACHES TO MIGRATION IN THE EARLY AND LATE ROMAN PERIOD.

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Mirroring the stress that modern-day migration issues put on present societies, migration in the past has also come to the fore in archaeology again. The subject of migration has always been a thorny issue in archaeology due to methodological problems. The culture-historical approach using ethnic labels for identifications of material culture was widely practised in the 20th century. This was heavily criticised, mainly in the English-speaking theory-oriented archaeological tradition. One practical strand of argumentation, using the phrase ‘moving pots not people’ focused on the issue that material culture possibly spreads through networks and does not prove the long-distance movement of groups of people. Another more theoretical direction of research argues that identity is multi-faceted and overlapping, changes quickly and is therefore unlikely to be connected to pieces of material culture in a single meaning. These directions of research led to a ‘retreat from migrationism’, which spanned several decades. Migration studies resumed in the 21st century after strontium isotope studies had been introduced. For nearly a decade isotope analysis and migration studies were nearly synonymous, but it is now increasingly realised that strontium analysis offers true provenancing of individuals in only very rare cases. The only way to improve the results of various approaches to past migration is to combine them. One way forward is to return to anthropology to study the behaviour of migrants, and then focus on the archaeological visibility of these practices. When the visible elements are successfully combined with isotopically non-locals, and the material culture can be proven to come from distant areas, migration can be studied through archaeology once again.

The current session is devoted to the various approaches to Roman period migration, focusing on both scientific and traditional archaeological approaches and also covers neighbouring disciplines such as ancient history and anthropology.

17. MATERIALISING ROMAN EMPRESSES

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Building on the excellent biographies and portrait typologies established in recent decades, this panel refocuses on the archaeology of Roman empresses. In light of recent work to materialise Roman history (Van Oyen and Pitts, 2017), recover multi-sensory experiences (Betts, 2017), and acknowledge the lived experiences of ancient women (Budin and Turfa, 2016), we seek to build a more expansive account of the empire's most prominent women, one that is grounded in their material lives. How did they negotiate their identities through material culture, from textiles and jewellery to writing equipment? How did they reshape cityscapes through their architectural patronage? How might we recover their own experiences of architecture and of travel throughout the empire? How were their portrayals experienced by others, whether in statues, commemorative relief sculptures or coins? What material methodologies might we develop to comprehend the Roman empress as a local and a global phenomenon, whether in the provinces, Italy or Rome? How might digital technologies intersect with the archaeology of Roman empresses to expose changes and continuities over the *longue durée*?

18. AT THE CROSSROADS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN: MALTA AND THE CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN DURING THE ROMAN PERIOD

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According to Diodorus Siculus (V.12) Malta was an island blessed with many exceptional harbours, skilled artisans and opulent houses. Lying at the crossroads of the Mediterranean it was settled by the Phoenicians and became one of Rome's earliest overseas territories in 218 BC. Taking the new excavations of the Domus Romana in Mdina as its starting point, this session explores the context of the Domus Romana both within Malta and beyond. First discovered in 1881, the Domus is particularly noted for the quality of its decoration and its unique collection of Julio-Claudian statuary depicting the emperor Claudius, his daughter Claudia Antonia and the young Nero – that in turn have led to discussions concerning the identity of the owner of the domus and its function.

Despite its importance the Roman archaeology of Malta and Gozo has only recently begun to garner the attention it deserves. This session synthesises recent developments in the Roman archaeology of the islands as well as focusing upon the significance of the Domus Romana and its decoration. Reflecting the importance of new technologies in the excavation of the Domus Romana, several papers discuss the use of alternative approaches to the analysis and understanding of archaeological data.

19. PROJECT BURNUM – ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH FROM 2003. TO 2019.

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The archaeological site of Burnum is a place of rich and tumultuous past that hides beneath the surface the rich remains of elapsed life of Roman legionaries and their families. The site is situated in the vicinity of the present-day village of Ivoševci near Kistanje in the NP Krka, on a plateau on the right bank of the Krka River. Systematic archaeological investigations started in 2003 and are still underway. During the research, numerous architectural and construction elements of the amphitheatre and campus were found. A particularly interesting feature is the abundance of small archaeological finds, such as many potsherds, glass fragments, bone artefacts, game pieces, metal fragments of the military equipment, metal parts of the cavalry equipment, numerous fibulae and coins. This session will present some aspects of soldier life in the Roman military camp.

20. APPROACHING THE PORTABLE IMAGE

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While in exile on the Black Sea Ovid was sent images of the imperial family by a friend and patron; the objects inspired the poet to write *Ex Ponto* 2.8, which communicates the memories, nostalgia, imagery and ideas the iconography evoked. The poem was, arguably, facilitated by the inherent qualities of the portable objects Ovid was sent: images on small, portable items have no specific viewing context, meaning that associations with the image can transform from person to person, and from viewing to viewing.

This panel explores different approaches to understanding the ‘portable image’: images that were carried on small moveable objects (coins, tokens, lamps, gems, seals, stamps, weights, statuettes, etc), as well as images that moved from medium to medium (e.g. from pottery to coins to painting). What frameworks might we employ to best understand these images and their roles in Roman society? Does the recurrence of an image in multiple contexts increase or decrease its power over the viewer? How does ‘portability’ affect an individual’s interpretation of the meaning of an image? Are some images more popular on portable objects than others? What factors are behind the choice of images? Does ‘portability’ increase an image’s sentimental or emotional value, and how does this impact on how the object is perceived as a whole? What do portable images contribute to cultural and social life in the Roman world? This panel will approach these questions and others, highlighting different approaches to small finds.

21. CHEDWORTH (UK): ONE VILLA, MANY APPROACHES

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The Roman villa at Chedworth (Gloucestershire, UK) was first uncovered and reconstructed in the mid-1860s. The excavations were never published and no records have been traced relating to the Victorian protection and restoration works. Throughout the 20th century there have been further excavations and numerous campaigns of consolidation, cosmetic alteration and rebuilding of the remains.

In the aftermath of the mid-1860s work, a number of articles showed how the villa, its mosaics and the evidence for Christianity were integrated into antiquarian approaches to the interaction between ‘Roman’ and ‘provincial’. From the mid-20th century, with the development of stratigraphic excavation and dating, the conserved remains of the villa made it a key monument for the study of Roman Britain. Yet remarkably no comprehensive archaeological analysis of the site has been reachable until the last decade.

The speakers in this session have all been involved in various studies and in the preparation of the recently published Roman Society monograph. The session will bring to a wider audience the ways in which changes and advances in thinking about the villa have contributed to a re-evaluation of the site not only in the context of Britain but also as an example of the changes in villa studies in the wider Roman world over the last century and a half.

Fresh ways of interrogating the site through a programme of fabric survey and analysis, a reassessment of the material culture and new excavations have allowed a much more complex and layered narrative of the villa and of its reception since the Victorian era to be proposed. Many of these aspects can stand as metonyms for wider trends in villa studies.

22. NEW ARCHAEOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES ON ROMAN WINE PRODUCTION, STORAGE, AND TRANSPORT

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Archaeology offers enormous potential to advance our understanding of Roman viticulture and the movement of wine around the empire. A wide range of evidence is capable of illuminating the chronological and geographically changing patterns of Roman wine production and trade in different ways. The proposed session has, as its primary focus, recent physical evidence for production sites, storage facilities, distribution centres, and waterborne transport in Italy and the Roman provinces. In taking a comparative approach in this session, we hope to gain fresh insight into themes such as:

What was the process of setting up a winery and what resources for production and packaging could be mobilised?

Were the vessels for wine storage and transport made locally or were they imported and why?

What evidence exists for knowledge networks related to viticultural production and the expertise in vat construction and related practices?

What do we know archaeologically about the transport of quality wines and the bulk transport of standard table wines?

What provisions for storage facilities or warehouses were present in the ports and distribution points at the consumer end?

On what might the scale of production and degree of market-orientation have depended?

The session aims to explore these issues by presenting specific case studies, sites and artefact assemblages, primarily in the Mediterranean, Adriatic and Aegean.

23. THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXTS OF RIVERINE FRONTIERS IN THE ROMAN WORLD

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The Rhine, Danube, Euphrates and Nile all played significant roles in the frontier systems of the Roman Empire, providing not only barriers of flowing water to increase frontier defence, but also enabling fast and efficient transportation and communication as well. While much has been written about these frontier zones, the rivers themselves have rarely been addressed as dynamic elements of these border fortifications. In light of recent advances in both the climatic and environmental histories of the Roman Empire, it is time to apply this information on long- and short-term changes to the river systems that ringed the Roman world.

This session investigates how rivers were subject to hydrological changes brought about by both anthropogenic and climatic factors, and how these changes affected Roman frontier policies that so often relied upon these flowing obstacles. How did changing water levels affect the permeability of river frontiers? How did moving channels, differential freezing patterns, and changing flood patterns fit into Roman plans? How was the riverine experience different across the Empire, and were the Rhine and Danube utilized differently than the Euphrates and Nile? These questions offer new opportunities to understand Roman frontier systems as dynamic entities that depended as much on environmental processes as on State policies.

24. THE NETWORKS OF ROMAN CRETE

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Long outweighed by Minoan studies, research on Roman Crete has been increasing exponentially since Ian Sander's pioneering work, *Roman Crete* (1982), with heightened interest over the last decade, with the publication of several books and the organization of conferences and conference panels in this field.

In this session, we will explore the networks of Roman Crete. Once viewed as a provincial backwater, recent archaeological research on the island has promoted the island as an economically dynamic hub, highly connected to the rest of Empire.

While being the southernmost and biggest of the Greek islands, Crete occupies a central strategic place in the Eastern Mediterranean at the crossroads of maritime routes, linking the Syro-Palestinian coast to Italy (and further to the Western Mediterranean) and the Aegean to Africa. Indeed, with the Roman conquest of the island, this special political and economic link between Crete and Africa is confirmed by the unification of Crete and Cyrenaica in a single province. With the new *Pax Romana*, maritime traffic develops in the Eastern Mediterranean, where Crete plays a central role, which can be seen from the imports, exports and craftsmanship influences.

On an island-scale, towns were interconnected with independent city-states no longer fighting each other as they did in the Hellenistic period. They were now all part of a cohesive entity, with their imperial capital at Rome. With flourishing trade, settlement patterns evolved, witnessing a surge in coastal development. Harbours constituted nodal points within the larger imperial network. In the Late Roman period, with the advent of Christianity, churches played a similar role within the island's network.

25. CHARACTERISING ROME'S EARLY MILITARY DEPLOYMENT IN THE WEST: THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF MILITARY SPACES

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For the last ten years, research on Roman Republican conflict archaeology in the western Mediterranean periphery (the *Hispaniae* and southern Gaul) has seen a relevant impulse: specific projects in France, Spain and Portugal, innovative PhD dissertations, workshops and conferences and field work. As a consequence, the documentary base of this field of study (i.e. the Roman Republican military archaeology) has expanded exponentially, leading to the reinterpretation of the dynamics and the historical significance of the early Roman settlement in those territories.

However, the archaeological identification and characterisation of the Roman Republican (late 3rd c./mid 1st c. BCE) military or conflict spaces (e.g. battlefields, sieges, camps, forts, *officinae armorum*) has been the main bone of contention. The use of different archaeological criteria in categorising such spaces has often been controversial. The need for a more integrated approach combining material culture studies, bioarchaeology, spatial and landscape archaeology and historical sources or even IT modelling should be considered. The debate is still open.

Within this session, our aim is to enhance debate among researchers in order to develop methodological approaches to identify and characterise such spaces, and bring out new cases to discuss and advance research in this Western periphery.

26. IN RESPONSE: EXPLORING PROVINCIAL IDENTITIES UNDER
ROME'S GLOBALISING EMPIRE

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This panel will explore the impact of Rome's globalising empire upon identity in the provinces, particularly as it pertains to the realities of 'glocal' identities across the ancient Mediterranean. Across the Empire, individuals and/or groups were able to balance a duality of selves, dependent on their circumstances, needs, and circles, resulting in uniquely localised versions of Roman identity. Moreover, the interconnectivity promoted by Rome's globalising Empire facilitated the diffusion of peoples, ideas, and technologies, resulting in an Empire that was diverse and multicultural to its core. This panel treats this conclusion as a jumping off point. Each paper presents a different region of the Roman imperial state, investigating the impact Rome's globalising presence had on the formation, negotiation, and continuation of local identities through numismatic, epigraphic and textual evidence.

27. WHAT GODS DO YOU PRAY TO? BETWEEN GODS AND MEN,
WORSHIPPERS IN ROMAN ILLYRICUM

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In this session, the cults and/or religions in Illyricum will be approached as social and changing categories created to meet the spiritual needs of its inhabitants, but also with the potential purpose of expressing social affiliation or status. In this sense, both the cult and religion are an inevitable interface in the cultural contact between the indigenous population, and the Romans, i.e. the newcomers of ancient times. Since religion is also part of the political and ideological domain, we are looking for a clearer insight into the social aspects of the religious beliefs, traditions and practices, and their impact on the construct of identity. Specifically, we are hoping to provide an overview of the role of religion in shaping identity and its functions in the intercultural contact, integration, social inclusion and/or exclusion. Subsequently, it could be determined whether the affiliation to a particular cult served, inter alia, for regulating social relations, such as the relations of power or gender.

28. GOING BEYOND FUNERARY ANOMALIES: BURIAL MANIPULATIONS AS SIGNS FOR THE INTERPRETATIONS OF INTERACTIVE AND DYNAMIC SOCIAL IDENTITIES

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One of the most important traditions in archaeology is the interpretation of funerary contexts. In the last 40 years, the approaches to burial evidence have changed widely. Graves have been considered for some time the domain of impenetrable religious beliefs (1970s), direct reflections of socio-economic status or ethnic affiliation of the buried individuals (since early 1980s), and then, through a hermeneutic vision, as systems composed of elements holding a conscious and communicative value. Nowadays, approaches, although sometimes encapsulating elements of the previous ones and ethnographic additions, tend to stress the vision of burials as the result of dynamic and adaptive practices that we ought to reconstruct through a study of depositional details.

The newest successful interpretive framework provides a promising venue for investigating specific types of funerary evidence that, despite widely acknowledged in all case study, have traditionally been neglected or given a marginal role in the final social interpretations. Such evidence is accounted for as burial manipulation/reopening within Roman-period and early Late Antique cemeteries. However, behind this umbrella term lies a plethora of potential behaviours to which we can be led only following the details of such evidence. From the discussion promoted here are excluded case studies of secure bone-reductions, explained with the – universally applicable – practical reason of making space for a newer burial.

This session, rather, addresses scholars and students of Roman archaeology who have encountered – in any part and period of the Roman Empire – clearly manipulated funerary contexts that have not yet found a place within the site's interpretive narrative. The session invites to reflect on yet-unexplained burial manipulations (movement of bones/grave goods within the same grave or from grave to grave, grave goods) as gestures performed by specific communities/individuals in antiquity to interact with their past. It aims to stimulate a discussion around previously unexplained burial manipulations as potentially foundational moments, for the communities under analysis, in shaping their social identities via a physically visible contact with the materiality of their past.

29. *LOOKING TO OUR OWN DEFENCES? 'NON-MILITARY' LATE ANTIQUE RURAL FORTIFICATION IN THE WESTERN EMPIRE*

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From the second half of the 3rd century to the early 6th century AD, rural settlement in the Western Empire experienced a wide-ranging and well-studied phase of transformation. A significantly understudied element of this period of flux is the fortification of settlements and the development of new defended sites. Fortification takes a wide variety of forms, from the defence of hilltop sites such as the *Höhensiedlungen* and the development of *burgi* on villa sites to the heavily defended stone fortifications of villas in Pannonia. In some cases, classes of fortified settlement have been examined (Gilkes 1998; 2005), although in most cases little or no research has been undertaken to examine either typological form, such as villa *burgi*. Neither has any work been done to establish transnational regional and typological comparisons. The question of military involvement in their construction has been poorly examined, as is the role that these sites played for the local population and the dynamics and practicalities of defence in an unstable world. This session aims to bring together researchers from across the Western Empire to compare and contrast regional and typological variation at fortified rural settlements and address the clear research gap.

30. LOST ARCHITECTURE - THE ROLE OF ARCHAEOLOGICALLY EPHEMERAL BUILDING MATERIALS, PROCESSES AND LABOUR

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The Roman Empire expressed power through its monumental buildings. Augustus turned a city of bricks into one of marble. Yet swathes of Romans lived in timber and/or earthen structures, not concrete-domed, marble-clad villas, even in the heart of Italy and the Urbs itself. Although Vitruvius focused on brick and concrete, Pliny acknowledged the use and usefulness of sods, mudbrick, and wattle-and-daub. Whereas architectural history concentrates on high-end Roman architecture, comprehensive analyses of more ephemeral buildings and materials tracing their development, spread, and timeframe across the empire are rare. Even in Limes-Studies, where earth, turf and timber are crucial in defending and consolidating the empire, these materials are usually not considered from a technological perspective and their sourcing, procurement and structural abilities are only rudimentary understood. Associated with rural building and routinely assigned to a lower status if not poverty, earth, turf and timber are not only ephemeral in our archaeological records but also in our modern study.

Within this context, timber and mudbrick have seen modern research, in particular those architectures built from the latter in the areas where mudbricks were used since prehistory: northern Africa and the Near East. A new project – Earthen Empire – undertaken by the session proposers, is underway to re-analyse archaeological datasets of mass earth and turf constructions in the northwest provinces in comparison with their prehistoric pedigree.

This session wishes to explore these underexplored materials and calls for papers that consider non-“Classical”, ephemeral materials in domestic and military building(s). This can be via historical-textual approaches, traditional archaeological as well as experimental and comparative work, and can cover materials and properties alongside the processes associated with their procurement, construction and labour involved to gain a more comprehensive understanding of this understudied resource.

31. HYBRID ECONOMIC PRACTICES IN THE ROMAN WORLD

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One of the paradoxes of globalization is that the development or assimilation of foreign practices, objects or concepts reinforces self-identity at a local level. The concepts of ‘glocalization’, that is, the simultaneous occurrence of both globalizing and particularizing tendencies, and of cultural hybridity, have both helped to adjust our perception of cross-cultural contact in the ancient Mediterranean. Despite these recent challenges to the acculturation paradigm and the acknowledgement of colonial entanglement and negotiation, the prevailing historical vision tends towards a structural reductionism when it comes to economic practices, in which the catalyst for change lies exclusively in the macrostructures of economic power and the mechanistic articulation of modes of production (Pitts and Versluys 2015), with colonisation providing something of a *tabula rasa* for previous economic practices.

This session aims to move beyond dichotomous analytical constraints and reconceptualise the complex interweaving of different cultural and economic phenomena as coeval or contemporary, by incorporating the postcolonial notion of hybridity in the study of economic systems. Zein-Elabdin’s (2009) examination of economic patterns in modern Africa has been of particular inspiration. In her study, she argued against what she called a ‘double erasure of culture’: the conflation of modernity with development (modern/developed, traditional/underdeveloped) and an insistence on the possibility of understanding economic systems outside their cultural context. Building on this basis, we invite papers that try to interrogate not so much how certain forms, patterns or practices persisted beyond the baseline of the Roman invasion, but rather, how disparate economic and cultural phenomena intersect in the Roman world.

Pitts, M. and M.J. Versluys, 2015: Globalisation and the Roman World: perspectives and opportunities, in M. Pitts and M.J. Versluys (eds), *Globalisation and the Roman World: world history, connectivity and material culture*, 3-31, Cambridge.

Zein-Elabdin, E., 2009: Economics, postcolonial theory, and the problem of culture: institutional analysis and hybridity, *Cambridge Journal of Economics* 33 (6), 1153-67.

32. COINAGE, CULTURE AND SOCIETY IN ILLYRICUM AND THE DANUBIAN PROVINCES: NEW THOUGHTS AND PERSPECTIVES

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This panel aims to look at the economic and socio-cultural landscape of the eastern European regions that were part of the Roman world through the lens of coinage. The vast area stretches north of peninsular Greece, from the Dalmatian coast of the Adriatic in the west to the Black Sea in the east, encompassed a great array of cultural realities that came together under the aegis of Rome as a unified political entity for the first time. The encounter between Rome and the rich pre-Roman cultural background of this region can be well analysed, among other historical filters, also from the point of view of the coinages that were in use from the end of the Republic to the Late Roman Empire. One of the characteristics of this diversity in monetary terms is the coexistence and interplay between ‘foreign’ coins, mainly Roman, being introduced especially in the provinces where a civic monetary culture did not exist, and coins produced locally by civic mints, mainly (but not exclusively) in the provinces where Greek culture and institutions were more deeply rooted.

Within this scope, the panel aims to bring together a diverse range of speakers, both from eastern-European ‘numismatic schools’ (e.g. Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria) and from other European institutions, to discuss a number of case studies combining old and new data from excavations and museum depositories. Each speaker will be focusing on one sphere of the cultural and social life of these regions in the Roman period to interpret the combined evidence of imperial and provincial coinages in relation to other archaeological materials. These categories can be defined under broad headings as: a) cult/religious traditions; b) festivals/games; c) funerary practice; d) impact of the army; e) local production/imitative coinage.

33. THE ARCHEOLOGY OF ROMAN FORCES. THE CASE OF LEGIO VII CLAUDIA PIA FIDELIS IN TILURIUM AND VIMINACIUM

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During the Roman Empire, the Seventh Legion spent most of its garrison in the legionary fortresses Tilurium (Dalmatia) and Viminacium (Moesia). The remains of Tilurium are located in modern-day settlement of Gardun, near Trilj in Croatia, and the remains of Viminacium near modern-day Kostolac, Serbia. Both sites have been systematically studied and excavated for decades. Even though archaeological small finds related to these troops include metal, glass, bone and ceramic, as well as glyptic finds, the most scientific attention was raised by their tombstones. Tombstones of soldiers that served in the Seventh Legion are found in great numbers on both sites. In spite of the scientific interest sparked by these monuments and other finds, which are both published, no comparative analysis was conducted between them. The aim of this session is to comparatively analyze the small finds. This is crucial in understanding the logistic, social and economic changes taking place in the Roman army when relocating units to new provinces and legionary camps. This is indicated by the fact the departure of the Seventh Legion from Dalmatia to the Danube in Moesia leads to significant changes in form, style and iconography in tombstones.

34. DRESS AND IDENTITY IN ITALY AND THE PROVINCES

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The symbolic qualities of dress in human society are well-known and are being studied with increasing intensity. Dress operates at a variety of levels, including the official and the personal. With regard to the former, in Roman society dress codes were related to and conditioned by class, occupation and status affiliations. At the personal level, still broadly working within official frames, dress was a means of displaying one's constructed self-identity in terms of social relations. The study of dress in antiquity is dependent on the available evidence, at best often involving the juxtaposition of written sources with artistic renderings. There is still a great deal to be learnt from investigating dress as a means of exploring developments in ethnic, cultural and gendered identities in the Roman world, displayed through imitation, innovation and traditionalism. This session invites papers from scholars, both junior and established, on any aspect of dress in Italy and the Roman provinces that addresses the question as to how specific regions reacted to and accommodated – or not – Roman rule and incorporation into the empire.

Possible themes include:

- To what extent did regional identities exist before the Roman conquest, and did these change or disappear as a result of the conquest?
- Is there evidence of association with Roman or more empire-wide fashions and identities?
- Did gender play a role in the way that identities were expressed?
- What role did other social factors such as social class, age or occupation play?
- How do we account for our piecemeal evidence for dress? Do different source types (e.g. gravestones, dress artefacts, iconography, literary sources) provide conflicting information?

Preference will be shown to papers on the conference region of Illyricum (Roman Dalmatia and southern Pannonia).

35. THE LATE THIRD CENTURY ABANDONMENT OF CIVIL SETTLEMENTS OUTSIDE FRONTIER FORTS

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There appears to be a pattern in the abandonment of civil settlements outside forts in and around the 270s. This phenomenon has been recognised from Hadrian's Wall to the Middle Danube. The evidence for this will be explored and various possible reasons offered including the effect of the pandemic of the 250s and 260s.

36. DALMATIA IN THE LATE REPUBLICAN PERIOD: NEW FINDS AND APPROACHES

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In recent years the gradual progress of archaeological research has given new insights into the conditions on the coastal and hinterland area of Dalmatia during the Late Republican period. New finds have considerably changed or questioned our perception on urbanization, local production of Hellenistic pottery, circulation of coins, intensive trade and the nature of the early interaction between the indigenous population and the Graeco-Roman world. Consequently, today we can better understand the resulting process of cultural and economic transformation of heterogeneous entities on the Eastern shores of the Adriatic (with specific regard to Dalmatia) within the so-called Adriatic concept of a Roman-Hellenistic world. However, the discrepancy between these new indicative finds and the lack of corresponding interpretations about their historical context has never been bigger, more problematic or more difficult. There is a real need for a systematic presentation of current research, both archaeological and historical, indicating new approaches to old problems and led by experts in fields crucial to the topic of this session.

Therefore, this session intends to:

- address the state of current archaeological research in Dalmatia, its islands, hillforts and settlements, and, when needed, culturally and geographically corresponding areas with specific sites that have similar indicative finds (Liburnia, southern Illyricum etc.)
- emphasize new and significant archaeological finds in Dalmatia within the given historical framework and ask relevant questions how can we interpret these finds
- try to determine new historical source-based approaches in regard to these finds
- with an interdisciplinary approach try to assess the current state of problems up until when Dalmatia was integrated into the Roman system within the newly formed province of Illyricum.

37. ROMAN TOWNS ALONG THE LIMES (1ST – 3RD CENT. AD)

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The predominant perception of the Roman *limes* is that of a chain of Roman camps, fortlets and watchtowers whose aim was to guard and defend the border of the Roman Empire. Despite the significant research on the economic role of the imperial frontier, the *limes* is still mostly observed as a domain of the Roman army. Nevertheless, along the *limes*, Roman emperors founded many civil settlements, out of which many were autonomous towns. Their role within the Roman border system is often overlooked. Rare exceptions are towns that became important regional centres and in some cases imperial headquarters of the defence of the Empire.

The session invites papers whose aim is to explore the role of such border towns and to show recent developments in the research of urban centres within the imperial border zone. Possible themes include:

- the establishment of the new towns, their construction, planning and environmental positioning; also the role of the Roman army in the building and settling the borderline cities;
- the function of these urban centres along the *limes* within the frontier-system; more specifically their administrative, military, religious and economic position within the border zone;
- diachronic development of towns, with particular emphasis on the development of suburban areas; particularly the development of suburbia attached to the *limes* road and the traffic that went along it;
- relations with neighbouring civil and military dominated settlement areas (for example the *canabae legionis* or the military *vici*)

38. THE CAREER OF PYRRHUS OF EPIRUS ON THE 2300TH
ANNIVERSARY OF HIS INVASION OF ITALY

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Pyrrhus remains a very curious Diadochos who turned West, while his rivals focused on Greece and the East; he was related to Alexander but never actually met him. The Romans regarded him as a very worthy adversary and greatly took great pride in surviving three battles against him. The Romans also considered him a chivalrous opponent, in strong contrast to Hannibal, however the mainland Greeks considered him just another power-hungry Diadochos who would use almost any means to capture more territory. For good reason, Hannibal ranked Pyrrhus among the three greatest generals of history in the story (probably apocryphal) in Plutarch and Livy. We will in turn and in combination consider Pyrrhus through the historical tradition of Greek sources, the somewhat romanticized Roman version (smaller than the Alexander Romance, but still significant), art and archeology - especially numismatics, literature and ancient religion. Our international team of scholars will investigate Pyrrhus from a variety of disciplines to re-analyze his role in history and his important role in Graeco-Roman / East-West conflict.

39. DURA-EUROPOS AT 100: CURRENT AND FUTURE RESEARCH ON A CITY OF THE HELLENISTIC, PARTHIAN AND ROMAN EMPIRES

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On 4 May 1920, at the behest of American archaeologist James Henry Breasted, British-commanded Indian troops were digging in an ancient abandoned city by the Euphrates, known locally as Salhiyeh. Excavating defensive positions, they had stumbled on dazzling wall paintings, and Breasted wanted them to find more. That morning, they revealed a vivid scene of Roman military sacrifice: the officiant, clearly labelled 'Julius Terentius, tribune', was burning incense before a group of divine figures, one labelled the 'Tyche of Dura'. On that day, the almost forgotten Hellenistic-, Parthian- and Roman-era city, which Isidore of Charax had recorded as 'Dura... called Europos by the Greeks', was identified; soon the site was generally known by the new hybrid name, Dura-Europos. Excavations over the next two decades saw spectacular discoveries, especially from the city's final, Rome-dominated century, most famously its Mithraeum, synagogue and Christian building. Along with its wealth of artefacts, inscriptions and papyri, these treasures, preserved by its abandonment after a siege c.AD256, led to Dura being hailed the 'Pompeii of the East'. Since the 1980s, a new generation of scholars has been investigating the city, both through the old excavation archives, and new investigations at Dura itself. The latter were brought to a halt in 2011 by catastrophic civil war, which has seen looting of the site on a scale that may be termed the second destruction of Dura. As we approach the centenary of the identification of the site, what is the state of current research, much of which focuses on the Roman period? And what are the prospects for the future?

40. ROMAN BRITAIN

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Research into Roman Britain continues to furnish valuable new data with which to assess life both within and beyond the Empire's bounds. As our evidence base becomes broader, and the means by which we interrogate it more sophisticated, an ever more nuanced picture of continuity and change – for locals and incomers alike – is becoming apparent. From the interaction between occupiers and occupied, to the material impact of the Roman presence, Britain offers a spectrum of responses to the opportunities and adversity unleashed by imperialism. This session invites papers on any subject pertaining to the archaeology of Roman Britain. Subjects can range from wide-ranging studies to individual sites, and encompass surveys, structures, finds, osteology, environmental evidence, or any other specialist field. It is hoped that the papers will build up a picture of the rich variety of Romano-British studies, and simultaneously offer a snapshot of how we currently view the different lifestyles on offer in a divided land.