

Kolloquium

«Zur neueren Forschung in der Alten Geschichte»

FS 2021

Veranstalterin: Sabine R. Huebner

9. März 2021 Audric Wannaz (Basel) Zur stilometrischen Signatur des Familienbriefes und ihrem Aussagegehalt für die Sozialgeschichte des griechisch-römischen Ägyptens

Papyrologische Fallstudien haben bereits gezeigt, wie lehrreich Familienbriefe bezüglich der sozialen Verhältnisse im griechisch-römischen Ägypten sein können. Doch kann mithilfe einer Typologie aller Familienbriefe mehr darüber gesagt werden? Wie kann eine solche Typologie überhaupt erzeugt werden? In diesem Beitrag wird argumentiert, dass Stilometrie, das Studium von statistischen Mustern in Texten, bei der Beantwortung dieser Fragen eine Schlüsselrolle zu spielen hat.

Thema: Kolloquium Alte Geschichte: Vortrag Audric Wannaz

Uhrzeit: 9.März.2021 06:15 PM Paris

Zoom-Meeting beitreten

<https://unibas.zoom.us/j/93114673241?pwd=WUhpdk5lTzVYL0NhTFRneWtOOW1WZz09>

Meeting-ID: 931 1467 3241

Kenncode: 205531

23. März 2020 Peter Arzt Grabner (Salzburg) “I haven’t yet not been unthinking of you, for I make obeisance for you every day’: Formulas and Their Special Use in Ancient Private Letters”

Soon after the sixth century BCE, from which the earliest Greek private letters have survived, letter writers began to develop various formulas and clichés to express some of their main intentions more briefly but still effectively. Their frequent use also helped the reader to recognize and understand the writer’s intentions. Some of these formulas are introductory, while others are transitional, concluding, or disclosing. Modern readers often tend to think of letter formulas as something “merely formal,” less authentic, less honest, or less serious. But this is far from accurate. Even for something as simple as the opening greeting, many a letter writer chose from a pool of variants and tended to modify a formula according to individual need or taste. This is all the more true for other formulas such as health wish, prayer report, remembrance motif, thanksgiving report, or report of joy. Some scribes even created their own personal and individual style, which nevertheless revealed the underlying pattern.

Thema: Kolloquium Alte Geschichte: Vortrag Peter Arzt Grabner Mein Meeting

Uhrzeit: 23.März.2021 06:15 PM Paris

Zoom-Meeting beitreten

<https://unibas.zoom.us/j/94622110821?pwd=elllT0xkci8yUW9iWVFLVk1UQnNYUT09>

Meeting-ID: 946 2211 0821

Kenncode: 026637

30. März 2021 Johannes Nussbaum (Basel) “Authorship Attribution der umstrittenen Paulusbriefe. Mit maschinellern Lernen auf der Spur von Mister X”

Authorship Attribution ist ein sich schnell entwickelndes Forschungsfeld am Schnittpunkt der Disziplinen Literaturwissenschaft und Machine Learning. Es geht darum, Ähnlichkeitsverhältnisse zwischen Texten zu erforschen, um empirisch einzuschätzen, von welchem Autor ein umstrittener Text stammt. In einem ersten Schritt werden Features gewonnen, anhand derer die Texte in eine Zahlenfolge überführt werden. Diese werden anschliessend mit mathematischen Verfahren, die unter dem Begriff «Machine Learning» subsumiert werden, miteinander verglichen. Je ähnlicher zwei solche Folgen sind, desto eher stammen sie vom selben Autor.

Die mathematisch-technischen Herausforderungen sind das Feature-Engineering und die Wahl des Algorithmus inkl. Parameter für die Klassifikation, sowie die statistische Validierung der Resultate. Aus der Sicht der Geisteswissenschaften ist es entscheidend, die Vorentscheidungen bei der Modellbildung zu reflektieren, und inwiefern die am Modell gewonnenen Erkenntnisse auf die Realität übertragbar sind. Ein weiterer Knackpunkt ist die Ausgestaltung des Studiendesigns.

Diese Fragen werden beleuchtet anhand einer vom Referenten durchgeführten Fallstudie zu den umstrittenen Paulusbriefen, die überraschende Erkenntnisse zutage förderte, die nun ein erstes Mal öffentlich vorgestellt werden.

Thema: Kolloquium Alte Geschichte: Vortrag Johannes Nussbaum (Basel)

Uhrzeit: 30.März.2021 06:15 PM Paris

Zoom-Meeting beitreten

<https://unibas.zoom.us/j/98795921811?pwd=Y3hXblZQbnpqTjM3aGVHODRCNXJzUT09>

Meeting-ID: 987 9592 1811

Kenncode: 885390

6. April 2021 Anne-Emmanuelle Veisse (Paris) “Female agency in late antique Egypt”

Over the last thirty years gender studies have profoundly renewed reflection on the place of women in ancient societies, but they have so far had only a limited resonance as far as Egypt is concerned. The gender approach is mainly concerned with two areas of research: the analysis of ancient discourses on gender difference, and the comparative study of the social roles of men and women. It is to this second aspect that this contribution will be devoted, by comparing men and women petitioning in Ptolemaic Egypt.

Thema: Kolloquium Alte Geschichte: Vortrag Anne-Emmanuelle Veisse (Paris)

Uhrzeit: 6.Apr..2021 06:15 PM Paris

Zoom-Meeting beitreten

<https://unibas.zoom.us/j/94944790433?pwd=WW1CUEZaU1lVYzVnRGVRN3NPQXZFUT09>

Meeting-ID: 949 4479 0433

Kenncode: 932440

4. Mai 2021 Brandon McDonald (Basel) “The Influence of Climate Change on Roman Pandemics”

Is it a coincidence that major shifts in climate coincided with the most devastating pandemics in Roman history? The science and the historical evidence indicate that the concurrence of events may be more than correlation; that volcanic eruptions followed by periods of climatic cooling and environmental change may have helped the diseases responsible for the Antonine (AD 165-190) and Justinianic (First Wave: AD 541-544) pandemics reach the Empire, where, thereupon, they caused sizable demographic and economic losses. In contrast, the evidence suggests that the Plague of Cyprian (AD 251-270) was probably not influenced by climate change. Using the most recent climate science, epidemiology, archaeology, and documentary and literary sources, this paper discusses potential explanations for apparent connections between climate change and two consequential pandemics of the Roman world.

Thema: Kolloquium Alte Geschichte: Vortrag Brandon McDonald (Basel)

Uhrzeit: 4.Mai.2021 06:15 PM Paris

Zoom-Meeting beitreten

<https://unibas.zoom.us/j/94513186338?pwd=b2Q4a1dORmN4c2s5VWdZSUNmRDlBdz09>

Meeting-ID: 945 1318 6338

Kenncode: 798148

6. Mai 2021 Andrew Monson (Basel/ NYU) “Workshop: Seeing Like a State: Fiscal Regimes in the Ancient World”

Tribute, rents, taxes, and credit, these are the means by which the state acquires the financial means to pursue its goals as an organization, autonomous from society. The historians Richard Bonney and Mark Ormrod constructed a typology of tribute state, domain state, tax state, and fiscal state and identified historical cases from early medieval to modern Europe. More recently, other historians have sought to extend and modify this framework with a global and deep historical perspective, including the ancient Mediterranean and Near East. In this workshop, we will identify what tribute, rents, taxes, and credit are, what corollaries they have for political organization in ancient societies, and what causes them to change. We will focus on case studies from Late-Period Egypt, classical Greece, the Hellenistic world, and Republican Rome.

11. Mai 2021 John Fabiano “The *plebs frumentaria* and the size of Rome’s Population in the 4th century CE, some new Economic and Demographic Considerations”

It has long been espoused that beginning in the mid-third century and extending into the fourth CE, Rome's population began a gradual but inexorable decline. Rome, we are told by this most pessimistic of observers, "saw a further diminution in numbers of residents" every year of the fourth century so that the population was a "dwindling" and "etiolated" body (Purcell 1999). Scholars that advance a similar position maintain that conditions of the late Empire were such that Rome could not have sustained its earlier population size, because new cities, the army, and an expanding clergy all competed for the limited human resources, while economic pressures and foreign hostilities challenged the very structures of the Empire and two earlier exogenous shocks caused large-scale demographic disruptions from which the City never recovered. I argue, to the contrary, that the evidence we do possess is more

consistent with a high population count in the fourth century. More importantly, the same evidence also suggests an increase in the size of certain sections of the population, particularly the so-called *plebs frumentaria* or those entitled to free food distributions. One important consequence of this argument is that a larger portion of population now possessed the opportunity to acquire wealth well above the level of subsistence. This lecture then will offer a critical reassessment of prevailing scholarly opinion and argue that, far from a "dwindling" and "etiolated" body, a larger section of Rome's population became well-placed in the fourth century to experience a certain level of economic vitality. In so doing, I aim also to demonstrate how by studying institutional change alongside disease regimes, food supply, and fiscal structures, we can illuminate socio-economic and demographic aspects of Rome's non-elite population.

Thema: Kolloquium Alte Geschichte: Vortrag John Fabiano (Toronto)

Uhrzeit: 11.Mai.2021 06:15 PM Paris

Zoom-Meeting beitreten

<https://unibas.zoom.us/j/91634188287?pwd=UEpaMHpTRWFRamRMa01IeG5CNHlkZz09>

Meeting-ID: 916 3418 8287

Kenncode: 514570

18. Mai 2021 Alexander Free (München) "Antinoupolis – a new Polis in Egypt. Some remarks on the development of the city in the 2nd and 3rd century AD"

Antinoupolis was founded in 130 AD by the Roman emperor Hadrian. He granted the new city both the status of a polis and a number of privileges to the new settlers. Within the province of Aegyptus, the city and its colonists therefore occupied a special position, which even competed with that of the Alexandrians. The paper will take a closer look at this implied status of Antinoupolis within the province and will ask how Hadrian's new foundation developed in the 2nd and 3rd century. In the 2nd century, the granting of privileges led to the Antinoites having a special position compared to all other inhabitants of the province, but nevertheless the new foundation does not seem to have fulfilled the expectations originally set for it. In the 3rd century, Antinoupolis then saw the gradual erosion of its privileges under a simultaneous increase in urban representation of the metropoleis of the nomes. Did the polis nevertheless succeed in maintaining its position within the province?

Thema: Kolloquium Alte Geschichte: Vortrag Alexander Free (München)

Uhrzeit: 18.Mai.2021 06:15 PM Paris

Zoom-Meeting beitreten

<https://unibas.zoom.us/j/99780258699?pwd=ZEkrQkJqWTRmZXBoNVJlZUFNclU3Zz09>

Meeting-ID: 997 8025 8699

Kenncode: 644414

25. Mai 2021 Andrew Monson (NYU/Basel) "The Limits of Despotism: Bureaucracy and Self-Governance in the Hellenistic East"

Since antiquity scholars have been fascinated by the apparent contrast between oriental despotism and ancient Greek (or later European) self-governance based on participation and consent. Hellenistic historians have developed both a liberal version, which identifies political and economic freedom with the spread and influence of the *polis* in the east after Alexander the Great's conquests, and a Marxist version, which emphasizes the continuity of an Asiatic or tributary mode of production under Macedonian rule; an offshoot of Marxist theory, articulated by Karl A. Wittfogel, traces oriental despotism to the bureaucracy of hydraulic irrigation. Despite all the counterevidence (e.g. local autonomy, private ownership, markets), this east-west political dichotomy remains remarkably resilient. In this paper, it is argued that the potential for non-despotic organization is not unique to ancient Greek or western culture but rests on what James C. Scott calls the "legibility" of society and its tax resources. Geographic and economic factors are not deterministic but they can illustrate the correlation between legibility and state domination. Bureaucracy helps reduce information asymmetry but where it fails societies achieve a greater degree of self-governance and the state depends on their consent for authority and fiscal capacity. Examining regional diversity as well as specific cases of participation by local councils or assemblies in the Hellenistic kingdoms, even within the royal domain, will add historical specificity and cultural context to this model.

Thema: Kolloquium Alte Geschichte: Vortrag Andrew Monson (NYU/Basel)

Uhrzeit: 25.Mai.2021 06:15 PM Paris

Zoom-Meeting beitreten

<https://unibas.zoom.us/j/96576237250?pwd=dnpGdVgxQ0FOVDRHTUI3RnpPcXRxQT09>

Meeting-ID: 965 7623 7250

Kenncode: 906007