

FORVM ANTIKE

Forschungsschwerpunkt Kulturen des euromediterranen
Raumes und Altertumswissenschaften

Dr. Marja-Leena Hänninen (University of Helsinki, Tampere University)

‘Oriental’ cults in urban landscape and society of ancient Ostia

- Datum: 04. Dezember 2019
- Zeit: 17:15 Uhr
- Ort: Übungsraum | Institut für Alte Geschichte und Altertumskunde, Papyrologie und Epigraphik | Universitätsring 1, 1010 Wien

“Oriental” cults in urban landscape and society of ancient Ostia

Ancient Ostia in the imperial era is characterized by the ethnic variety of its population. The variety of different religious cults is also conspicuous. Traditionally, a rather sharp distinction has been made between the so-called traditional cults and newcomer cults, often labelled as “oriental” cults. Furthermore, it has been supposed that “oriental” cults were favoured by women and lower classes and were, thus, coloured by social marginality. In my lecture, I am asking if there are more nuances in this picture. I'll discuss the cults of Magna Mater, Attis and Bellona as well as Egyptian cults and the cult of Mithras in Ostia from the point of view of such concepts as marginality, isolation, exclusivity and inclusion. What was, after all, the place of these cults and their rituals in the urban landscape, society and social life of Ostia? Who were people involved in these cults in Ostia and what was their role in the society of the colony? The paper will mainly be based on epigraphical evidence and considerations of the topography of Ostia.