

Day 1: May 21 2024

9:00 Welcome and Coffee

I: Ancient Egypt (Panel Chair: Sabine Huebner)

9:30–10:00 Yehia Z. Gad (NMEC)

Ancient DNA research in Egypt: past and current activities

10:00–10:30 Verena Schünemann (Basel)

Diseases in ancient Egypt: first insights from ancient pathogen genomics

10:30–11:00 Doaa Elalfy (Basel)

Erasistratus and Herophilus: Pioneers of Medical Innovation at Egypt's Crossroads of Knowledge and Disease

11:00–11:30 Coffee

II: Roman Egypt (Panel Chair: Brandon McDonald)

11:30–12:00 Sabine Huebner, Sara Baldin (Basel)

Plagues and Pestilence in Papyrus: A Comprehensive Reevaluation and Redating of Infectious Disease References in Egyptian Papyri from the Roman Period

12:00–12:30 Edward Tang (Oxford)

Moving Letters of Roman Oxyrhynchus: Seasonality of Movement and Communication (1st-2nd century AD)

12:30–13:00 General Discussion

13:00–14:00 Lunch

14:00–14:30 Francois Blondel (Geneva)

Between local and imported wood: the place and use of wood in Roman Egypt

14:30–15:00 Mohamed Kenawi (Leicester)

The Western Desert Oases: Some notes on the Roman Archaeology and Trade Networks

15:00–15:30 Colin Elliott (Indiana)

Plagues and Prices in Second and Third Century Roman Egypt

15:30–16:00 Coffee

16:00–16:30 Irene Soto Marin (Harvard)

Aksumite Activity in Egypt and Arabia in the Third Century CE

16:30–17:00 General Discussion

19:00 Dinner

Day 2: May 22, 2024

III: Late Antique and Byzantine Egypt

(Panel Chair: Markus Stoffel)

9:00–9:30 Jeremy Simmons (Maryland)

When do we end “Indo-Roman” trade? Egyptian Proxies for Ancient Global Connectivity

9:30–10:00 Brenda Baker (Arizona State University)

The Bioarchaeology of the Middle Nile Valley in late Meroitic to medieval period

10:00–10:30 Brandon McDonald (Basel)

A Radical Sea: The Fruits and Ills of the Roman Red Sea

10:30–11:00 Coffee

11:00–11:30 Kyle Harper (Norman, OK)

John of Ephesus and the First Stages of the Justinianic Plague

11:30–12:00 Lauriane Lequette (Paris)

The Justinianic plague in the Late Roman Egypt: the burials of the “garage Lux” (Alexandria)

12:00–12:30 Marcel Keller (Bern)

Hic sunt pestes? Egypt and the unmapped territories of the First Plague Pandemic

12:30–13:00 General Discussion

13:00–14:00 Lunch

IV: Medieval Egypt (Panel Chair: Sara Baldin)

14:00–14:30 Philip Slavin (Stirling)

Death on the Nile: Spatio-temporal Contours of Plague Spread in Later Mamluk Period, c.1363-1517

14:30–15:00 Tim Newfield (Georgetown)

Cholera Looming: The Place of Egypt in Histories of Premodern Disease and the Shadow of the International Sanitary Conferences

15:00–15:30 Final discussion

19:00 Dinner



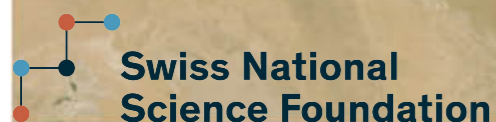
Egypt at the Crossroads: People, Products, and Pathogens



International Conference, Switzerland May 21/22, 2024

SNSF-Project: The Roman Egypt Laboratory
Climate Change, Societal Transformations, and the
Transition to Late Antiquity

Institute of Ancient History, University of Basel



Egypt at the Crossroads: People, Products, and Pathogens

Since ancient times, Egypt has connected various regions and empires, serving as a nerve centre for the passage of goods and people. It was after Rome brought Mediterranean civilizations under its dominion that Egyptian-based production and commerce saw its greatest growth, with Roman officials and merchants prompting the new province to export and import goods at a magnitude not yet seen in history; after which, Egypt became crucial to Mediterranean connectivity and commerce. Trade also stretched southward via the Nile and eastward from ports along the Red Sea coast, forming trade contacts with areas of Central and East Africa, Southern Arabia, and South Asia. Moreover, Egypt stood and still stands today at the intersection of different climate zones: the north enjoys an Eastern Mediterranean climate with hot and dry summers and rainfall in the winter, but middle and upper Egypt have an extremely arid climate belonging to the dry subtropical belt of the great African desert, while southern Egypt touches on the tropical zone of Inner Africa. Finally, the Nile, with its annually fluctuating floods which make agriculture possible in the middle of the desert – the so-called lifeline of Egypt – is dominated by the East African monsoon.

Organization

Organizer:
SNSF-Project «The Roman Egypt Laboratory
Climate Change, Societal Transformations, and
the Transition to Late Antiquity»
(PI: Sabine R. Huebner)

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Ancient Civilizations, University of Basel
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Registration:
Attendance via Zoom is possible, please
register with Sabine Huebner to receive the
link.
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Location:
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