

**Thursday 26th May, 2011**  
**Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science  
and the Arts (KVAB)**

Academy Palace, Hertogsstraat 1, B-1000 Brussel  
Atrium & Ockeghemzaal

9:00 : *Welcome*

9:30 : General Introduction (organizers)

**Session I. Agriculture & elite wealth: the fruits thereof...**

9.45 Paul Erdkamp: Agriculture and the various paths to economic growth

10.05 Annalisa Marzano: The varieties of villa exploitation, from agriculture to aquaculture

10.25 discussion

10.55 *coffee break*

**Session II. Availability and accessibility of natural resources**

11.15 Colin Adams, Moving Natural Resources

11.35 Jordan Pickett, Construction and the Roman Economy: Five Logistical Case Studies from Roman and Late Antique Cappadocia in Comparison

11.55 Ray Laurence, State and Road Building in the Roman Empire

12.15 discussion

12.55 *lunch*

**Session III. Organisation and modes of exploitation**

**Agrarian economy**

14.00 Daniel Hoyer, Diverse crop harvesting and the Maghrebi agrarian economy

14.20 Hilali Arbia, Rome et l'agriculture en Afrique.

L'aménagement de l'espace et la gestion des ressources naturelles

14.40 Julia Hoffmann-Salz, The local economy of Palmyra –

Organizing agriculture in an oasis environment

15.00 discussion

15.40 *coffee break*

**Animal husbandry**

16.00 Tony King: Regional factors in production and consumption of animal-derived food in the Roman Empire

16.20 Michael McKinnon, Changes in animal husbandry as a consequence of changing social and economic patterns

16.40 discussion

17.10 *end of sessions*

**Friday, May 27th 2011**  
**Free University of Brussels (VUB)**

Campus Etterbeek, Pleinlaan 2, B-1050 Brussel,  
Auditorium D

**Session IV. Ownership and control of natural resources**

**Elite property**

9.30 Kyle Harper, Patterns of Landed Wealth in the Long Term

9.50 Elio Lo Cascio, The development of imperial property

10.10 Laurens Tacoma, Imperial wealth in Roman Egypt. The Julio-Claudian *ousiai*

10.30 discussion

11.10 *coffee break*

**Law and landed property (I)**

11.30 Eva Jakab, Property and profit in Roman law and economy

11.50 Dennis Kehoe, Property Rights over Land and Economic Growth in the Roman Empire

12.10 discussion

**12.40 POSTER PRESENTATIONS / lunch**

**Law and landed property (II)**

13.45 Peter Temin, Roman land sales

14.05 Egbert Koops, Absentee landowners and bailiffs: the legal framework

14.25 discussion

14.55 *coffee break*

**Water (I)**

15.15 Christer Bruun, Ownership and legislation concerning water resources

15.35 Adam Rogers, Controlling waterscapes. A study of towns and water in Roman Britain

15.55 discussion

16.25 *coffee break*

**Water (II)**

16.45 Toni Naco del Hoyo & Dario Nappo, When the waters recede.

Economic recovery and public policies after the AD 365 tsunami and some earlier precedents

17.05 Yuri Marano, Management of water resources in Ostrogothic Italy (end of the 5th - first half of the 6th century A.D.)

17.25 discussion

17.55 *end of sessions*

**Saturday May 28th 2011**  
**Free University of Brussels (VUB)**

Campus Etterbeek, Pleinlaan 2, B-1050 Brussel  
Auditorium D

**Session V. Exploitation and processing of natural resources**

**Natural resources (I)**

9.30 Shawn Graham, Areas of logging and agent-based models of resource extraction

9.50 Isabella Tsigarida, Salz in der Provinz Asia. Eine Untersuchung staatlicher Interessen an der Ressource

10.10 discussion

10.40 *coffee break*

**Natural resources (II)**

11.00 Alfred Hirt, The Roman Army, Imperial Quarries and the Emperor

11.20 Fernando Lopez Sanchez, The mining, coining and obtaining of gold in the Roman Empire

11.40 Discussion

12.10 *coffee break*

**Exploitation of local resources**

12.30 Saskia Roselaar: The role of Italians in local economies of the late Roman Republic

12.50 Sophia Zoumbaki: The exploitation of local resources of Western Greece by Romans and Italiote Greeks

13.10 discussion

13.40 *end of sessions*

The economic performance of the Roman Empire is impressive. Living standards were raised for the population at large and the empire showed strong resilience and ability to overcome economic crises. Recent work in Roman economic history has placed particular stress on the analysis of economic performance to explain this remarkable success. Yet – despite important recent studies by various scholars – the economic foundation of Roman society, viz. agriculture and natural resource exploitation, has not yet received the attention it deserves.

This conference aims at studying the varied ways in which Romans exploited their land and natural resources, how they reflected on these usages, and how this contributed to the economic development of the empire.

'Land and natural resources' is taken in a broad sense, ranging from the exploitation of uncultivated lands (e.g. hunting and gathering), techniques to bring new land under cultivation, types of farming, mining and quarrying, to the harnessing of the power of wind and water and techniques of irrigation.

Wider economic and ideological developments are included, in particular changes in agricultural structure (concentration of land, management of holdings, attitudes of landowners etc.), changes in the market (supply, demand, nature of trading channels) of agricultural goods and natural resources, and changes in state structures (local differences, the role of the tax system, the role of large landowners such as the church). The question is raised how these impacted on the exploitation of land and natural resources. Ideological factors, such as the idealization of agricultural labor in Roman society, may have had a considerable impact on the exploitation of the land.

The conference thus does not wish to study the exploitation, processing and distribution of various natural resources (agricultural and non-agricultural) in isolation from each other, but in their interaction with each other. We believe this integrative approach will greatly enhance our understanding of the foundations of the Roman economy

## **Roman Society Research Center**

Ghent University – Free University of Brussels – University of Kent

### **International Conference**

# **Land and Natural Resources in the Roman World**

**Brussels, 26-28 May 2011**

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FWO – Flanders Research Foundation  
Free University of Brussels, Faculty of Letters & Philosophy  
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