

Reuse in Post-Roman Societies: Christian and Islamic Attitudes Towards Ruins and *spolia*

The study of recycling and reuse in Late Antiquity and Early Middle Ages has been a subject of long-standing enquiry. Throughout the decades, traditional approaches have been reconsidered and recycling and reuse of Roman material are no longer seen as passive responses to lack of resources and a declining economy, but rather characterized by a high degree of organization, with power, skills, knowledge and legal concerns also playing a role. Scholars have also stressed that reuse implies sometimes a process of appropriation, conversion or reidentification that turns ancient and foreign objects into attractive, valuable and meaningful vestiges in the present.

In this workshop we would like to discuss theoretical as well as practical aspects of reuse and perception of ancient ruins in Post-Roman societies, attending to cases of reuse and spoliation across the Mediterranean Sea, both in Christian and Islamic context, bringing together comparative and transcultural studies into a broader historical and more contemporary perspective.

Contact

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Location

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Alexander von Humboldt
Stiftung / Foundation

Funded by
DFG Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft
German Research Foundation



RomanIslam
Center for Comparative Empire
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Dec. 5-6, 2022, Universität Hamburg



© Madinat al-Zahra Archaeological Site (CAMaZ), Sarcophagus of Meleager, III century A.D. Reconstruction.

Monday Dec. 5, 2022

Warburghaus, Heilwigstraße 116, 20249 Hamburg

- 15.00 h **Dr. Jorge Elices Ocón** (Humboldt Fellow, Universität Hamburg)
Prof. Dr. Sabine Panzram (RomanIslam Center, Universität Hamburg)
Welcome and Introduction

Chair: **Dr. Jorge Elices Ocón** (Humboldt Fellow, RomanIslam Center, Universität Hamburg - Federal University of Sao Paulo)

- 15.30 h **Prof. Dr. Benjamin Anderson** (Cornell University)
Alexander and the Boar: An Episode in the History of Statue Magic

16.15 h Coffee Break

Concepts, Practices and Comparatives Approaches on Reuse

Chair: **Prof. Dr. Sabine Panzram** (RomanIslam Center, Universität Hamburg)

- 16.45 h **Dr. Simon Baker** (Universiteit Gent)
The Role of Reuse in the Statue Practices of the Late Roman Empire



Visigothic Pilasters reused at the Cistern of the Alcazaba of Merida. IX century A.D.

- 17.30 h **Dr. Anna Marie Sitz** (Universität Heidelberg)
Word and Image: Differing Ontologies of Reused Statues and Inscriptions in Late Antiquity
- 18.15 h **Prof. Dr. Michelina Di Cesare** (Sapienza Università di Roma)
Solomon's Flying madīna: Interpreting Monumental Ruins in the Early Islamic Period
- 19.00 h **Dr. Jorge Elices Ocón** (Humboldt Fellow, Universität Hamburg -)
"Those who Recall the Antiquities". Agents and Practices of Spoliation in Islamic Societies
- 20.30 h Conference Dinner

Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2022

Warburghaus, Heilwigstraße 116, 20249 Hamburg

Reuse in North Africa: From Rome to Islam

Chair: **Nathalie Klinck** (RomanIslam Center, Universität Hamburg)

- 9.00 h **Dr. habil. Stefan Altekamp** (Independent Scholar)
Appropriation of Roman Material Culture in Ifriqiya
- 9.45 h **Dr. Amel Boudier** (RomanIslam Center, Universität Hamburg)
The Deities in Roman Africa During Late Antiquity, Between Veneration and Execration
- 10.30 h **Dr. Anis Mkacher** (CNRS UMR 8546 – AOROC)
Les auteurs arabes médiévaux face aux «traces écrites» antiques: le cas de l'Afrique du Nord
- 11.15 h Coffee Break

Reuse in the Iberian Peninsula: From Rome to Modernity

Chair: **Dr. Jorge Elices Ocón** (Humboldt Fellow, Universität Hamburg)

- 11.45 h **Dr. Begoña Torre Miguel** (Universidad de Oviedo)
Antiquity Sarcophagi Reused in the Middle Ages in the Iberian Christian Kingdoms
- 12.30 h **Dr. Paloma Martín-Esperanza Montilla** (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid)
Reuse and Abuse of Roman Architecture During the Pontificate of Alexander VI
- 13.15 h **Dr. Jorge Elices Ocón** (Humboldt Fellow, Universität Hamburg)
Prof. Dr. Sabine Panzram (RomanIslam Center, Universität Hamburg)
Conclusions
- 13.30 h Lunch



Monumental Entrance Portal at the Ribat of Sousse, flanked by two reused columns. IX century A.D