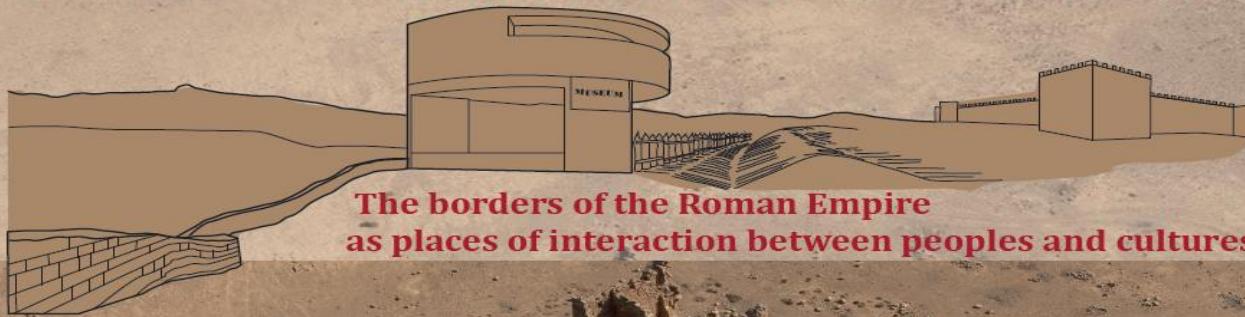


Frontier Museums and Frontiers as Museums:



The borders of the Roman Empire
as places of interaction between peoples and cultures



Qasr Bshir
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Rome 18-19 May 2023

Sapienza Università di Roma

Facoltà di Lettere e Filosofia, Odeion del Museo dell'Arte Classica

18 MAY

8.30-9.00: Registration

9.15-9.30: Institutional Greetings

SESSION 1 - Frontiers in Roman Britain

9.30-10.10: David J. BREEZE, Christof FLÜGEL

A United past: Re-Integrating Frontier Sites and Museums

10.10-10.30: Antony LEE

The Romans Walled out Humanity from us: Exploring Roman and Modern Identities through Museum Interpretations of the Hadrianic and Antonine Walls

10.30-10.50: Andrew GARDNER

Roman Frontiers in Britain: Towards New Comparative Understandings

10.50-11.10: DISCUSSION

11.10-11.40: COFFEE BREAK

11.40-12.00: Richard HINGLEY

Hadrian's Wall as Artscape: Connecting Frontiers in the Past and Present

12.00-12.20: Marta ALBERTI

Severan Vindolanda: New Evidence from a Unique Fortlet and Roundhouse Settlement on the Northern Frontier

12.20-12.40: Elsa PRICE, Jocelyn ANDERSON-WOOD

Uncovering Roman Carlisle

12.40-13.00: Francesca RUSSO

Bewcastle: a Roman Fort beyond Hadrian's Wall

13.00-13.20: Louisa CAMPBELL

Re-Experiencing the Antonine Wall: Living on the Edge of Empire

13.20-13.40: DISCUSSION

13.40-14.40: LUNCH

SESSION 2 - The European Frontier

14.40-15.00: Ian HAYNES

Diversity on the Frontier: Recent Archaeological Approaches

15.00-15.20: Gabriele RASBACH, Christoph RUMMEL, Sandra SCHRÖER-SPANG

Early Frontiers and Boundaries of Rome: Intangible Fuzz or Open Borders?

15.20-15.40: Saskia STEVENS, Gertjan PLETS

The Lower Germanic Limes as a Frontier

15.40-16.00: Angelina RAJČKOVIĆ SAVIĆ, Nemanja MRĐIĆ

Destination Viminacium. Where to Deliver Goods at the Roman Frontier

16.00-16.20: Ljuben TEVDOVSKI

The Political and Cultural Boundaries of the Roman Balkans through the Archaeological Collections of the Museum of the City of Skopje

16.20-16.40: George CUPCEA, Felix MARCU

Preliminaries for an Interpretation Framework of the Limes Dacicus

16.40-17.00: DISCUSSION

17.00-17.30: TEA BREAK

POSTER SESSION

17.30-18.30: POSTER DISCUSSION

9 MAY

9.15-9.30: Institutional Greetings

SESSION 3 - The Eastern Frontier

9.30-9.50: Robert H. BEWLEY

Aerial Archaeology and Rome's Desert Frontier

9.50-10.10: Ariel Samuel LEWIN

Milestones as a Museum of the Near Eastern Frontiers

10.10-10.30: Ramazan BOZKURTAN

A New Military Settlement in Osrhoëne: the Castellum of Kifri and its Territory

10.30-10.50: Laila NEHME

Frontiers beyond Frontiers in the Arabian Peninsula

10.50-11.10: DISCUSSION

11.10-11.40: COFFEE BREAK

SESSION 4 - Frontiers in Egypt and Africa

11.40-12.00: Paola BUZI

A Permeable Border, a Travelling Goddess and a Difficult Balance between Christianity and Classical Cults: the Egyptian Southern Limit in Late Antiquity in the Light of Coptic Sources

12.00-12.20: Victor GHICA

Limes Movens: State and Religion on the Western Frontier of Late Antique Egypt

12.20-12.40: Michel REDDÉ

Zeus Helios Megas Sarapis. An Egyptian God in the Roman Praesidia of the Oriental Desert of Egypt

12.40-13.00: Mara ELEFANTE

The Egyptian Border as a Crossroads of Cultures through the Analysis of Common Wares

13.00-13.20: DISCUSSION

13.20-14.30: LUNCH

14.30-14.50: Solène MARION DE PROCÉ

Border or not Border? The Southern Red Sea and the Roman Empire in the 2nd cent. CE as Revealed by the Site of al-Qusār

14.50-15.10: Arbia HILALI

Les interactions culturelles entre civils et militaires dans les zones frontalières de l'Afrique romaine

15.10-15.40: Paola ZANOVELLO, Jacopo TURCHETTO, Andrea MELERI

Interaction between Peoples and Cultures along the Roman Frontier: the Case of the Aures Mountains (Algeria)

15.40-16.00: Steven E. SIDEBOOTHAM

Temples and Shrines as Cultural Cross-Roads at Berenike, Egypt: Near Eastern, South Arabian, Sub-Saharan African, Indian and Other Religious Influences at a Red Sea Port in Roman Times

16.00-16.20: DISCUSSION

16.20-16.50: TEA BREAK

SESSION 5 - Other Frontiers and out of the Frontiers

16.50-17.10: Marco RAMAZZOTTI

Interaction between World Empires and Nomad Lands in South-Eastern Arabia, a Quick Glance

17.10-17.30: Dario NAPPO

Farasani and Muziris: Outside of the Empire, Inside the Roman World

17.30-17.50: Carlo Giovanni CERETI, Gianfilippo TERRIBILI

On the Other Side of the Limes. Study, Documentation, and Musealisation of a Sasanian Monument

17.50-18.10: Michael SOMMER

Pentimento. Roman Frontiers and Modern Borders

18.10-18.30: DISCUSSION

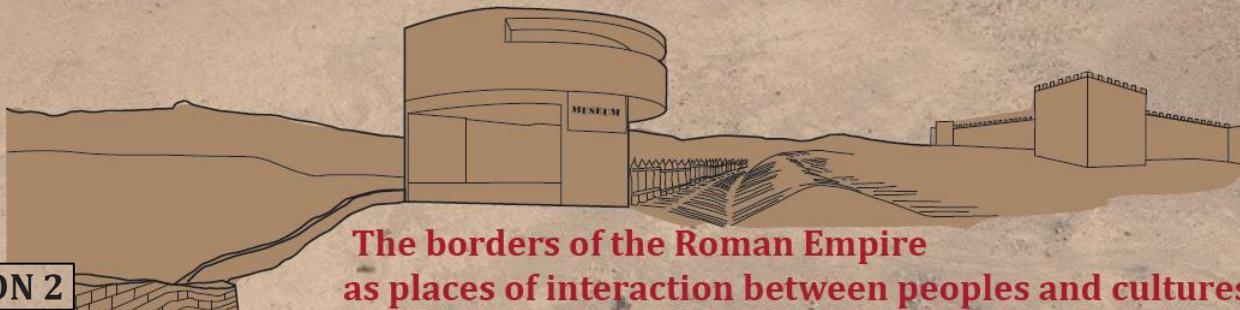
18.30-18.50: Emanuela BORGIA

Conclusions



SAPIENZA
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

DIPARTIMENTO
DI SCIENZE DELL'ANTICHITÀ



SESSION 2

The borders of the Roman Empire
as places of interaction between peoples and cultures

THE BORDERLAND CULTURE AND FRONTIER IDENTITY OF SKOPJE VALLEY DURING ROMAN TIMES

**The Political and Cultural Boundaries of the Roman Balkans
through the Archaeological Collections of the Museum of the City of Skopje**

Ljuben Tevdovski

Initiated in the first post-war years and established in 1949, the Museum of the city of Skopje, was envisioned to represent an important cultural core of the newly established Macedonian state. The museum of the new capital city, reflected on the identity of modern Macedonia and Macedonians deeply rooted on the classical narratives and traditions. With its rich archaeological collection, focused on the archaeological material from the ancient Roman city of Skupi, laying underneath the modern Macedonian capital, the museum still represents one of the most important archaeological and cultural institutions in the country.

Yet, despite its central position of a capital city museum, this institution also speaks of a local history, which is a history of borderlands and cultural interactions. Some researchers even relate the origin of the name of the city of Skopje with this identity, claiming that one of its historical variations *Skopia* is rooted in the function of this settlement as “watch-place” on the northern frontiers.

The area of Skopje, called Skopje valley, spreading over the two shores of the “wide-running”, “deep-whirling” river Axios, as Homer calls it, has been closely connected to the Mediterranean cultural influences for millennia. Yet, it also represents the most northern Axios (Vardar) valley and an area of the wider Aegean drainage basin that borders on the north the geographic and drainage divides, as well as the cultural borders of the continental Central Europe. Thus, throughout history, it represented true borderlands and a meeting point of diverse cultural influences from the Mediterranean and continental areas of Eurasia.

This paper explores the three elements of borderland culture and frontier identity of Skopje valley during Roman times and their treatment and impact over museum collections. It elaborates over the borderlands’ position and culture of this area in the first two centuries of the Roman presence in the Balkans. In addition, it reveals the position of this valley as cultural frontier between the prosperous and stable province of Macedonia and the militarized provinces of the Northern Balkans during the most prosperous period of the Roman empire (1-3c. AD). Finally, it presents the cultural transformations provoked by the process of approaching of the northern imperial frontier, that in the later empire reached the fringes of Skopje valley.

The paper suggests that despite the position of the Museum of the city of Skopje, as important cultural core of the whole country and its culture, as a local museum it has one more story to tell. An important story of a Frontier Museum that reveals through its archaeological record the complex interactions of various people and cultures over the political and cultural boundaries of the Roman world.

