Urban life and the built environment in the Roman world

Leiden, 7-9 December 2016

This conference builds upon recent and ongoing discourse in the study of Roman urbanism to explore the relation between architecture and society in the Roman world. While recent decades have seen spectacular developments in the theories and concepts that inform the study of Roman urbanism, not all spheres of urban life have profited equally, a lot of discourse has gravitated around a limited number of showcase sites (particularly Pompeii and Ostia), and there have been relatively few attempts to draw links with the world beyond Central Italy. This conference focuses on four spheres of activities—religion, politics, commerce, and movement—and brings together specialists focusing on several parts of the Roman world, with a particular focus on the more densely urbanized regions in the Mediterranean. Approaches will vary between micro-scale and more wide-ranging, and issues on the agenda will particularly include the identification of regional trends, and the impact of the built urban development on local communities.

WEDNESDAY 7 DECEMBER
Gravensteen (Pieterskerkhof 6), Room 1.11

I. Urban life between theory and practice

Chair: Eric Moormann, Radboud University
14:15 – 14:45   *Introduction: Urbanism, urban space, and urban life*
                Miko Flohr, Leiden University
14:45 – 15:30   *Multisensory approaches to Roman urban space*
                Eleanor Betts, Open University (UK)

16:00 – 16:45   *Emotion and the City: the example of Pompeii*
                Annette Haug, University of Kiel
16:45 – 17:30   *Rome – the Moving City: Approaches to the Study of Urban Space*
                Simon Malmberg, University of Bergen

THURSDAY 8 DECEMBER
Gravensteen (Pieterskerkhof 6), Room 0.11

II. Urbanism and the sacred

Chair: Tesse Stek, Leiden University
10:00 – 10:45   *Urbanizing the sacred landscape. Rural sanctuary complexes in Asia Minor*
                Christina Williamson, Groningen University

11:15 – 12:00   *Religion in the urbs: Defining the special case of Imperial Rome beyond the political centre*
                Marlis Arnhold, University of Bonn
12:00 – 12:45   *The Economy of the Sacred*
                Elizabeth Fentress, Rome.

Lunch break

III. Landscapes and Citizens

<u>Chair</u>: Luuk de Ligt, Leiden University
14:00 – 14:45 *Topographical permeability and dynamics of public space in Roman Minturnae*
                Patric-Alexander Kreuz, University of Jordan, Amman
14:45 – 15:30 *Statues and public life in the cities of Roman Greece: Athens, Corinth and Messene*
                Chris Dickenson, University of Oxford

16:00 – 16:45 *Political space and the experience of citizenship in Republican Rome: monumentality, interpellation, and performance*
                Amy Russell, Durham University
16:45 – 17:30 *Female Citizens and Cityscaping in Africa Proconsularis*
                Cristina Murer, Free University, Berlin

FRIDAY 9 DECEMBER
Gravensteen (Pieterskerkhof 6), Room <u>0</u>.11

IV. Landscapes of Interaction

<u>Chair</u>: Nathalie de Haan, Radboud University Nijmegen
09:30 – 10:15 *The urban borderscape as an arena for social, political and cultural interaction.*
                Saskia Stevens, University of Utrecht
10:15 – 11:00 *I risultati delle recenti indagini in una zona suburbana di Pompei. Per una rilettura del dato topografico*
                Sandra Zanella, Université Montpellier, Labex Archimede.

11:30 – 12:15 *Roman roads as indicators of urban life: the case of the Via Appia near Rome*
                Stephan Mols & Eric Moormann, Radboud University Nijmegen
12:15 – 13:00 *The commercial landscape of Roman ports*
                Candace Rice, University of Edinburgh

Lunch break

<u>Chair</u>: Tyler Franconi, University of Oxford
14:00 – 14:45 *Urban workshops in Roman Africa: location, ownership and management*
                Touatia Amraoui, Casa de Velázquez, Madrid
14:45 – 15:30 *Fora and commerce in Roman Italy*
                Miko Flohr, University of Leiden

V. Concluding Remarks & General Discussion

<u>Chair</u>: Tyler Franconi, University of Oxford
16:00 – 16:20 *Concluding Remarks*
                Andrew Wilson, University of Oxford
16:20 – 17:00 General Discussion

17:00 –   Drinks

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Abstracts

I. URBAN LIFE BETWEEN THEORY AND PRACTICE

Introduction: Urbanism urban space and urban life
Miko Flohr (Leiden)

In this brief introduction I will discuss the rationale behind this conference from the perspective of current debates on Roman urbanism, urban life and urban space, and outline some of the challenges that may be good to keep in mind during the conference. Particularly, I will highlight three issues: the nature of the evidential base that dominates current discourse, the role of time and chronological development, and the processes of urban life covered, suggesting how this conference might help us moving things forward.

Multisensory approaches to Roman urban space
Eleanor Betts (Open University)

The multisensory body is the locus of human identity, experience and memory, and the body in motion gives meaning to space and place. Bringing these perspectives together, this paper applies sensory methods and approaches to Roman urban landscapes, with a particular focus on the cities of Rome and Ostia. It argues that the senses played a central role in the recognition, understanding and use of Roman urban space. Consideration will be given to the impact sensory stimuli (via architecture and material culture) had on the perceptions and experiences of inhabitants of Rome and Ostia, and the distinctive cultural, social, political and economic activities which affected those participants. A key question addressed is the extent to which sensory stimuli helped characterise particular locales and activities, and how evaluating sensory data alters our perceptions of the use of Roman urban space.

Emotion and the City: the example of Pompeii
Annette Haug (Kiel)

The talk will approach the topic of emotion in the city from a twofold perspective. On the one hand, the concept of urban 'atmospheres' will be used to describe the effect of buildings on their users and perceivers. Atmosphere is thus considered to emerge from the interaction of built space and social agents. On the other hand, urban agents will form a point of departure to question how urban spaces are 'flooded' with individual 'feelings'. One key aspect to approach emotion within ancient cities is the concept of 'home'.

Rome – the Moving City: Approaches to the Study of Urban Space
Simon Malmberg (Bergen)

Recently the study of the ancient city has experienced the paradigm shift known as the "spatial turn". To this spatial turn, the study of motion should be added, to ensure that human action, and not primarily the built environment, takes centre stage. Movement allows us to link structures and spaces according to different uses and movement patterns, varying according to time, status, gender, profession etc. In this paper three different models of urban space-motion analysis will be discussed. The first is the mental maps approach championed by Kevin Lynch, and here applied to the Subura area in Rome. The second is the edge city model suggested by Spiro Kostof and Joel Garreau, with Rome's urban edge on the Esquiline as the case study. The third is the serial vision concept developed by Gordon Cullen, and applied to the Tiberscape of Rome.

II. URBANISM AND THE SACRED

Urbanizing the sacred landscape. Rural sanctuary complexes in Asia Minor
Christina Williamson (Groningen)

This paper examines how urban 'pockets' were created at outlying ('extra-urban') sanctuaries in Asia Minor. The extension of the peristyle to encapsulate space, inherent to Hellenistic urban design, was also widely imposed on older regional cult centers, now turned into inter-civic ('panhellenic') sanctuaries. These were arenas where the polis put itself on display, and often promoted its relations with Rome, via festivals and contests. These internalized spaces represent a new conceptualization of cult place in the Greek world that will be explored in this paper through case-studies (e.g. Pergamon, Stratonikeia, Pisidian Antioch) and approaches drawn from spatial syntax (Lynch), game theory (Chwe), and place-making (e.g. Wortham-Galvin).

Religion in the *urbs*: Defining the special case of Imperial Rome beyond the political centre
Marlis Arnhold (Bonn)

The contribution analyses cults and sanctuaries in the city of Rome during the Imperial period beyond the major monuments of the political centre with the Forum Romanum, the Imperial Fora, the Capitoline Hill, and the Campus Martius. So far, mithraea and some other cult-sites, such as the so-called Sanctuary of the Syrian Gods or the Fountain of Anna Perenna received attention in scholarship as individual monuments or under the notion of specific cults. Their integration into urban religion, however, has hardly been discussed. Furthermore, one must ask which other cults were present in the city of Rome which after all provided an extraordinary density and composition of population that in some way or the other was reflected in a multitude of cults. The worship of the gods of Jews and Christians spring to mind but only form two examples out of more that certainly existed and played a role in urban life. How visible, how perceivable were these in the city?
Which role did these cults play in urban life and communication (i.e. representation, creation of social identities)? How did various cults work together? Thus changing the perspective on urban religion, not only an eye is cast on the *urbs* beyond its well-known political monuments but also the question is raised anew, what makes Rome special as a city? Or do we find, in the end, the same patterns of urban space as elsewhere in Central Italy?

The economy of the sacred
Elizabeth Fentress (Rome)

We tend to think of temples like other monuments, part of the city furniture, frequented by worshipers, but without any real economic aspects of their own besides their treasuries. In this paper I discuss the economic significance of activities related to temples – their construction, of course, but also the various trades that depended on them, like flower-growing and garland- making, sacrificial animals or the production of votives. Many temples in North Africa, particularly those of Mercury or Serapis, were directly connected with markets, sanctifying the transactions that took place there: architecturally, this could lead to the curious phenomenon of markets built to resemble temple courtyards. I argue that it is thus more difficult than it seems to separate the mundane from the religious.

III. LANDSCAPES AND CITIZENS

Topographical permeability and dynamics of public space in Roman Minturnae
Patric Alexander Kreuz (Amman)

The forum of Minturnae provides us with a classic example of a Roman small city's public center. The locations and buildings established in the forum area allow insights into the development of the local monumental topography. But Minturnae's cityscape was also influenced by the Via Appia passing through the city - and its forum area -, making this overland route a crucial part of the local topography. Minturnae therefore offers an opportunity to study the local interplay between a small city's public space and a main overland route. In addition, recent research in the forum and adjacent areas has brought to light traces of a multitude of honorary statues, railings, and small installations introduced at different times into the local monumental cityscape. The variety of these diverse and sometimes interconnected installations and locations sheds additional light on the complexity and dynamics of local urban public space.

Statues and public life in the cities of Roman Greece: Athens, Corinth and Messene
Chris Dickenson (Oxford)

Under the Roman Empire the poleis of Greece were setting up honorific statuary monuments with increasing frequency. Statues of emperors and members of the imperial family, of local politicians and benefactors are attested in all areas of public space from agoras to bathhouses, from gymnasia to theatres. Older statues too continued to stand in these spaces and served as focal points for remembering, or reinventing, local history and identity. There is a tendency in modern scholarship to see the impact of all these statues on public space in negative terms – monuments of emperors advertised foreign oppression; monuments for members of the local elite signaled the end of democracy; both took up space where day-to-day activity had once taken place; and the survival of old historic monuments transformed civic centres into museum-like spaces for backward looking introspection.

This paper will challenge this vision and explore the role played by public statues in defining relations of power both vis-à-vis Rome and within the polis at the local level. It will make the case that examining the spatial setting of monuments and looking at the interplay of meaning - both intended and fortuitous – between different types of statue in the same spatial setting adds new layers of understanding regarding their political significance. Three case studies will be compared using archaeological, epigraphic and literary evidence, Athens, Messene and Corinth. These cities' very different backgrounds as, respectively, an old Classical city, a Hellenistic foundation and a Roman colony, make them ideally suited for thinking about the range of ways in which monumental space could be used to shape political realities in Greece under the Empire.

Political space and the experience of citizenship in Republican Rome: monumentality, interpellation, and performance
Amy Russell (Durham)

How was Roman citizenship expressed, performed, or understood in urban space? In this paper I argue that Roman monumental architecture positions (in Althusserian terms, 'interpellates') the viewer as citizen, and go on to explore how various responses to Althusser's work and its application to modern urban architecture could nuance the picture. How can we integrate the multiple calls on the viewer's attention that must arise in a vibrant, unplanned city? I draw primarily on the scholarship on modern urbanism and the interpellation of the viewer as consumer to help shed light on the many ways in which the built environment constituted city-dwellers' subject positions in Rome and beyond.

Female Citizens and Cityscaping in Africa Proconsularis
Cristina Murer (Berlin)

In Roman cities of Italy and the Latin West also female citizens were involved in the embellishment of towns, by financing public buildings. Especially from the Province of Africa Proconsularis preserved building and honorific inscriptions do inform us, that female citizens (belonging to local or supra-local acting elite families) financed the erection of theatres, bath buildings and especially cult buildings. These prominent benefactresses were sometimes even honoured with honorific statues set up in public. This paper shall investigate, what kind of local historical backgrounds could lead to frequent benefactions by women and why some of these honorific statues for women could even be erected in the forum. Furthermore, it shall be discussed, in how far these archaeological sources should be consulted with great care, when taking about public presence of women in Roman cities.

IV. LANDSCAPES OF INTERACTION

The urban borderscape as an arena for social, political and cultural interaction.
Saskia Stevens (Utrecht)

This paper focuses on the urban borderscape, an important interactive zone at the city's edge, and analyses its role in the urban landscape. The urban borderscape was a product of the city itself and reflected the local political, social and cultural conditions. It was an area where the urban and non-urban mixed, enabling the coexistence of features that would have been impossible inside cities. Roads were crucial for the borderscape's development, as they directed the spread of urban conceptions; simultaneously, arteries directed structured and incidental movement in, and out of the city, modelling and enhancing the relationship between city and borderscape.

Roman roads as indicators of urban life: the case of the Via Appia near Rome
Stephan Mols & Eric Moormann (Nijmegen)

In our contribution we investigate the changing role of the 'city of the dead' along the roads of ancient Rome, from the third century BC until the fourth century AD, and its relationship to the city of the living. Our starting point is the Via Appia, and especially the part that is studied in the multidisciplinary research project 'Mapping the Via Appia', between the modern roads Via di Erode Attico and Via di Casal Rotondo, i.e. part of the Fifth and Sixth miles of the oldest Roman road.

I risultati delle recenti indagini in una zona suburbana di Pompei. Per una rilettura del dato topografico
Sandra Zanella (Montpellier)

Le recenti ricerche focalizzate sulle botteghe a nord di una delle strade più importanti che immetteva nelle città di Pompei, la via dei Sepolcri, ci hanno permesso di precisare la storia evolutiva del settore. I risultati finora ottenuti, oltre a permetterci di osservare alcune delle attività artigianali che si svolgevano nel 79, hanno permesso di capire l'importante cantiere di costruzione di quest'insieme. Il chiaro progetto unitario da cui nascono questi edifici rileva di una riformulazione a livello urbanistico dell'area che ha sconvolto la topografia precedente. Proprio questo carattere programmatico col quale la città gestisce la sua immediata periferia conferma l'importante ruolo di quest'ultima nella ridefinizione urbana. Senza poter ancora avere dei risultati decisivi sulle ricerche ancora in corso, il mio intervento cercherà di mettere in prospettiva questi dati per interrogarci sull'impatto che un tale cambiamento ha potuto avere sulla percezione e sul l'approccio degli antichi a questa riformulazione spaziale.

The Commercial Landscape of Roman Ports
Candace Rice (Edinburgh)

Port cities were the interface between land-based production and maritime distribution. As such their efficacy was crucial to Roman transport and trade. The necessity of not only individually operative ports, but also that of an integrated port network across the Empire is clearly attested by the widespread construction of new harbours and the improvements made to existing harbours during the Roman period. Much research has focused on the size and technology of harbour basins and while a safe harbour was the first and foremost concern, the basin was simply the first step in creating an efficient and well-functioning port. This paper examines the wider infrastructure required in Roman ports such as warehouses, water supply, lighthouses, cranes, commercial facilities and inland transport networks. Through this examination, this paper aims to shed light on the commercial development of Roman port cities and provide new ways of analyzing the placement and function of individual ports within the wider Roman port network.

Urban workshops in Roman Africa: location, ownership and management
Touatia Amraoui (Madrid)

Excavations in the Roman cities of Africa and Mauretania revealed the presence of several different types of craft activities within urban areas. To understand the modalities of their development and their insertion in cities between the third and fifth century AD, the location of these urban workshops must be investigated at various levels. The analysis should first focus on their location at the level of the urban topography as a whole, then concentrate on their setting-up in their direct environment, and, finally, on the architectural context in which these spaces of production were integrated. This will make it possible to subsequently consider the question of the property and the management of these urban workshops, in combination with an assessment of the textual and epigraphic data from these regions of the Southwest Mediterranean.

Fora **and commerce in Roman Italy**
Miko Flohr (Leiden)

If commerce was a fundamental element in the everyday urban landscapes of Roman Italy, it is essential to understand the agents involved in the construction of commercial facilities, and their strategies: who built shops and workshops, and what impact did they have on the urban commercial landscape? While scholarship has tended to emphasize the role of private parties, and the association of shops and workshops with houses, this paper will look at the role of the public authorities, and its impact on urban commercial landscapes, particularly by focusing on the historical development of the *forum* and its direct environment.