

## **The Spectacle of Everyday Life: Sport and *Spectacula* in Roman Social Practice and Material Culture**

Symposium Campanum in Cuma, Italy  
October 22-24, 2020

The construction, design, and patronage of buildings for mass entertainment in the Roman Empire rightfully remain a major focus of modern scholarship, especially as new structures continue to be discovered and attest to the centrality of spectacles in public life across the full extent of the empire. This symposium seeks to shift focus from the structures to the ways in which the embodied experience of these events insinuated themselves into the everyday social practices of Romans, especially as seen through visual, material, and epigraphic culture. Inspired by Michel de Certeau's *The Practice of Everyday Life* (1984), this symposium will look at the diverse social strategies or "ways of operating" by which Romans individualized mass culture within the framework of their own lives. This might include inscribing graffiti, purchasing objects such as lamps or figurines, or commissioning curse tablets or works of art for one's household, among other activities.

On account of the extraordinarily richly-preserved remains from around the Bay of Naples and the location of the symposium there, the organizers encourage papers that treat evidence from that area. However, since we seek to offer broad coverage of this phenomenon as it manifests itself across the empire, studies of particular regions or categories of evidence (e.g., inscriptions, objects) are welcome as well. For instance, contributions might look at the numbers, kinds, and contexts of references to spectacles in inscriptions, visual and material culture (e.g., coins, statuettes, funerary memorials, household decoration), and literary testimonies from around the Bay of Naples and/or beyond. In addition, they might also consider the strategies adopted by the "consumer" (e.g., partisanship, magic ritual, propaganda, etc.).

### Keynote speaker:

Katherine Dunbabin, McMaster University

### Confirmed Speakers:

Anne Bajard, University Bordeaux-Montaigne  
Eleanor Betts, The Open University  
Boris Burandt, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt  
Maria Letizia Caldelli, Università di Roma "La Sapienza"  
Michael Carter, Brock University  
Kimberly Cassibry, Wellesley College  
Veronique Dasen, Université de Fribourg  
Manuel Flecker, Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel  
Frederik Grosser, Antikensammlung–Altes Museum Berlin  
Christian Mann, Universität Mannheim  
Harry Morgan, Harvard University  
Jocelyne Nelis-Clement, Institut Ausonius (Bordeaux)  
Maggie Popkin, Case Western Reserve University  
Charlotte Rouché, King's College, London  
Claire Rowan, University of Warwick  
Jerry Toner, Cambridge University  
Steven L. Tuck, Miami University

### Co-organizers:

Sinclair Bell, Northern Illinois University  
Nathan T. Elkins, Baylor University