

CALL FOR PAPERS: Networking in the Ancient World II: Tracing, Understanding and Interpreting Trade and Social Connections in the Ancient World

6th December 2018, University of Liverpool

Conference Organisers: Juliet Spedding and Kate Caraway

We are pleased to inform you about the conference Networking in the Ancient World: Tracing, Understanding and Interpreting Trade and Social Connections in the Ancient World taking place on 6th December 2018. We warmly invite postgraduate students and early career researchers in Classics, Archaeology, Anthropology, Egyptology, Near Eastern studies, and other related disciplines to submit abstracts.

CONFIRMED KEYNOTE: Professor John K. Davies

Following the success of the 2016 conference we revisit the topic of Networking in the Ancient World with this one-day conference under a revised focus on social and trading networks, showcasing current research on this dynamic and diverse topic across different time periods and ancient cultures.

The ancient world was intersected by a myriad of networks, criss-crossing and connecting individuals, communities and cultures. Snapshots into the extent and complexity of trading and the social networks that were integral to life in the ancient world are provided by text, archaeological finds, and scientific analysis. These are rich sources of evidence for analysing and exploring ancient networks, and when applied using interpretative models can yield a fuller understanding of the social, political, and economic interactions that characterised and shaped everyday life over both the short and long term.

Because networks are fundamentally about people, they can tell us about the macro and the micro. They facilitate the movement of goods and impact political landscapes, but also shape village dynamics and religious practices. We particularly want to explore:

- Methodologies for tracing networks through artefacts and texts
- Theoretical frameworks for conceptualising the connected past
- Implications of the interpretations of networks on our understanding of ancient cultures

Possible topics can be, but are not limited to:

- Tracing specific networks (of any sort e.g. economic, social, religious) through artefact analysis or texts
- The role and impact of networks in ancient societies
- The structure and conception of networks
- Practices involved in forming and maintaining networks, e.g. gift giving, eating and drinking, marriage alliance

Those wishing to present a paper of 20 minutes should submit an abstract of up to 350 words outlining the proposed subject of their discussion, no later than September 28th to k.caraway@liverpool.ac.uk. Please include your name, university affiliation, and brief biographical details (50 words) in the body of your email.