



MSAC (Münster School of Ancient Cultures) - OIKOS (Onderzoeksinstituut Klassieke Oudheid Studiën) - IDA (Interdisziplinäres Doktoratsprogramm Altertumswissenschaften Bern - 12-14 February 2025 Landhaus Rothenberge / Münster

Call for Papers

Minority Groups in the Ancient World

In our (Western) societies topics connected with the theme 'diversity and inclusion' are a hot issue, often also involving polarized points of views of the participants in the debate. The Ancient World's societies, also, were characterized by diverse populations and the coexistence of diverse (majority and minority) groups. Minority groups may be based on ethnicity and race, religion, gender & sexuality, legal status, enslavement, (im)migration, etc. How did this diversity and (self) identities assumed by the various groups influence, for instance, the material culture or the language situation in the region in question? What was the social, cultural or power relation between the majority and minority group? How did the various societies deal with this phenomenon? What do we know of the position and living conditions of minority groups in (a part of) the Ancient World?

The focus of this workshop, organised by the Münster School of Ancient Cultures ([MSAC](#)) and [OIKOS](#), the National Research School in Classical Studies in the Netherlands, and the Interdisziplinäre Doktoratsprogramm Altertumswissenschaften ([IDA](#)), Bern, lies on minority groups in prehistoric and ancient Mediterranean and Middle Eastern societies, on their position, (self) identity, and relations with the majority group or other minority and/or marginalized groups.

The contributions to the workshop will trace the various phenomena of minority and/or marginalized groups in specific societies or in prehistoric or ancient societies in comparison or in general in the Mediterranean and the Middle East in local, regional as well as global contexts, covering as broad an interdisciplinary tableau as possible. This methodologically as well as theoretically open cut "beyond borders" invites case studies on a wide range of topics and questions about minority groups, e.g. in philosophy, myth and religion, language and texts, material culture, including innovation and change, their role in culture and identity etc. These and other phenomena can be studied from literary, linguistic, material, topographical-geographical, socio-political, historiographical, economic, sociological, religious and/or technological-historical perspectives. We encourage participation from doctoral candidates of different disciplinary backgrounds in order to ensure a variety of perspectives and inspiring comparative discussions. Participants who work with texts in original ancient languages are requested to add translations, since not every participant will perhaps have sufficient skills in the language in question.

Contributions consist of presentations of 25 min, followed by 25-30 min discussion.

The three-day workshop will be held **12-14 February 2025** at the Landhaus Rothenberge of the Universität Münster ([Landhaus Rothenberge](#): Rothenberge 83A, 48493 Wettringen). Accommodation will be provided, the cost of meals is 70 EUR p.p. (Travel from Münster can be organized if necessary). Travel costs will be (partly) reimbursed - contact your doctoral school.

The organizers ask interested parties to submit abstracts (in English, maximum 500 words – bibliography not included in the word count) by **November, 30th** to the following address:

msac@uni-muenster.de (for members of MSAC and of IDA), or

oikos@rug.nl (for OIKOS PhDs or advanced research master students).

There is room for a maximum of 20 participants. If necessary, we will make a selection. Before the end of 2024 you will be informed whether or not your application is accepted.

If you have any questions, please contact one of us.

With best wishes,

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