

Einladung zum Gastvortrag

Parasites in the Roman World

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We have evidence for a broad range of parasites affecting people across the Roman empire. These range from ectoparasites such as lice and fleas, intestinal worms such as roundworm and whipworm, protozoal parasites that cause dysentery, and blood borne protozoa such as malaria. In this session we will discuss how we can detect these parasites, how common they were, the health impacts upon the population, what medical practitioners of the time thought of these parasites, and the role of the ectoparasites in the Plague of Justinian. It can be seen that knowledge of parasite life cycles improves our understanding of broader issues of Roman period life such as sanitation, hygiene, diet, medicine, trade and migration across the Roman World.



The Roman Latrines at Ostia, Italy
(Foto: Piers Mitchell)

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