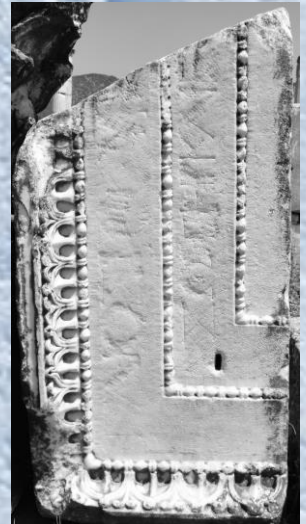


**Classical Antiquity and its Heritage
and the Centre for the Study of Antiquity and Christianity (C-SAC)**
Joint Research Seminar

Anna Sitz, Heidelberg
***Making and Erasing the Gods:
The Fates of Ancient Statues and Inscriptions in Late
Antiquity (4th-7th Century)***

The Roman/Late Roman habit of *damnatio memoriae* frequently targeted both the images and inscriptions of emperors or officials who had fallen out of favor. Likewise, the early Christian modification or destruction of statues of the old pagan gods has been well-documented. But what about the inscriptions naming pagan gods? In this paper, I document the fate of several ancient inscriptions bearing pagan dedications in late antique cities or converted sanctuaries. Most were left untouched in late antiquity, but a few were erased or otherwise modified. I first outline the “risk factors” that played a role in whether an inscription suffered erasure or not. By closely examining the process of erasure itself, including tool marks and the grammar of erasure, it becomes clear that such modifications were usually not carried out spontaneously by fanatics, but were planned actions on the part of cities or ecclesiastical authorities. Finally I consider ontologies of both inscriptions and statues in late antiquity to tease apart the different modes of interacting with pagan words and images in this period.



Friday 4 December 15.01-16

Zoom (Register with Jakob Engberg for access)

Organisers:

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