

Aarhus Seminars in Classical Antiquity

PROGRAM FOR KLASSISKE STUDIERS SEMINARRÆKKE EFTERÅRET 2017

Fredag 3. november, kl. 15.00 -16 Barbara Borg (University of Exeter)

Family matters: the long life of Roman tombs



Plautiernes grav, Via Tiburtina G. B. Piranesi, ca. 1761

Following eminent scholars such as Fernand De Visscher, Max Kaser, or Richard Saller and Brent Shaw, it is widely believed that across all social classes the family unit that was relevant in funerary contexts was the nuclear family; that each new generation preferably established its own new tomb; and even that this focus on the nuclear family reflects a decline of the relevance of the family clan in Roman society more generally, and a growing individualism within the lower classes. I argue that this is a misconception based on fundamental methodological flaws. Discussing a range of examples, I demonstrate that tombs were normally founded to proudly present long family lineages, both in the senatorial class and among the sub-élite.

Seminarerne afholdes i Antikmuseet, bygn. 1414, Victor Albecks Vej 3. Alle er velkomne!

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