



Forum Antike

Mittwoch, 19. November 2025 | 17:00 s.t. (MEZ)

Übungsraum Alte Geschichte, Hauptgebäude der Universität Wien (TP)

Online: <https://univie.ac.at/j/69695813023?pwd=lfQH0fVkJGwxRvLFnp5sTPysxubiYvg.1>

Juliane SCHIEL (Universität Wien)

Comparative Approaches to Slavery Studies: Venice, the Mediterranean World and the “Slaves Across Time”

This talk uses Venice and the late-medieval Western Mediterranean as a laboratory to think comparatively about slavery across time and space. Building on the global turn in the field, the talk frames slavery as both a worldwide practice and a globalizing force that connected regions through warfare, trade, and forced migration. It juxtaposes household slavery in Latin Europe – marked by high female shares and ambivalent legal-social positioning – with Black Sea, Byzantine, and Roman supply zones and strategies, tracing pathways from capture to sale and manumission. Conceptually, the paper suggests distinguishing “four logics of enslavement” to compare output-oriented, complementary, conspicuous, and state/security rationales across Mediterranean contexts and periods, highlighting continuities and ruptures beyond the Atlantic paradigm. The talk speaks to recent reflections on the field’s expansion since the early 2000s and to current debates on how best to compare across eras without diluting analytical precision.