



# Forum Antike

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***Atlas patrimonii Caesaris, a digital atlas of the properties of Roman emperors:  
methodological choices and representativity of the sources***

With more than 4500 documents and 4500 places, the Atlas Patrimonii Caesaris represents the geographical distribution of imperial properties for the entire Roman world. Far from being a simple directory of geolocated data, the atlas raises a series of methodological questions about how to account for the uncertainties in our documentation: which sources do really matter? Is the data representative? Is the absence of documentary evidence an evidence of the absence of properties? The answer depends on the scale that one chooses (the whole empire or a relatively small area), but also on which region is chosen as case study. Through the lens of three examples (Asia, Africa proconsularis, Gaul), we will see that the representativity of the sources has to be understood in relation to the specific characters of each region.