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Forschungsschwerpunkt Kulturen des euromediterranen Raums und Altertumswissenschaften



# Forum Antike

Auch Online



Mittwoch, 22. November 2023 | 17:00 s.t. (MEZ)

Übungsraum Alte Geschichte, Hauptgebäude der Universität Wien (TP)

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## **Olbian *euergesia* and the Titles of Benefactors according to Epigraphic Data**

The main aim of our contribution is to examine the causes and ways in which *euergesia* spread in Olbia, identify the role of the elite in the structure of the civic society, and the relationship between the tradition of charity, customs and local identity during the period between the Hellenistic era and the transitional period of the Roman military presence. The issue of separating *euergetic* behavior toward the community from the more general and pervasive phenomenon of personal patronage is a difficult one. The Olbian elite very often employed practices, largely related to charity, which were passed down from generation to generation and continued until the end of Olbia's existence.

During the Hellenistic period, *euergesia* reflected the social dignity and evaluative guidelines of Olbian civic society. In the period of the early empire, public charity reached the state of an honorary institution associated with the granting of titles ('*euergetes*', '*pater tes poleos*'). A significant part of the city benefactors, mentioned in honorary decrees, were its magistrates, which became a characteristic feature of the civic life of Olbia in the first centuries CE.

The lecture will focus on the style, typical formulas of honorific decrees that praised Olbian benefactors, and an analysis of the terminology associated with the title of *euergetes*. The elements of prosopographical reconstruction of the representatives of Olbian elite on the basis of honorary decrees and separate graffiti will also be discussed. A careful study of these texts will allow us to draw conclusions about the extent of the spread of *euergesia* in the Olbian polis, about its dynamics and importance in the formation of values and structure of the civic society.