

## **Decline and fall? Social and cultural dynamics in the Low Countries in the Late Roman empire**

This project under supervision of prof.dr. Nico Roymans analyses the transformation of Late Roman society in the Low Countries and tries to formulate a new explanatory framework for the specific social and cultural dynamics in this region, including the ethnogenesis of the Franks.

## **Discourse phenomena in Latin narrative texts**

This line of research under the supervision of prof.dr. Caroline Kroon involves empirical and theoretical linguistic study of the various modes of presentation in Latin narrative texts (both poetry and prose), concentrating on discourse phenomena like tense, anaphoric reference and discourse particles. The work in this field is characterized by the application of insights from modern (discourse) linguistics to the literary, rhetorical and stylistic analysis of Latin texts.

## **Functional Discourse Grammar**

Theoretical research carried out by prof.dr. Caroline Kroon concerning the problems involved in the expansion of the theory of Functional Grammar from a sentence grammar into a discourse grammar.

## **Interactions between Greek, Romans and indigenous people in southern Italy**

Since the 1970s VU University carries out research in southeast Italy, funded by the VU Faculty of Arts, NWO, Royal Netherlands Institute in Rome and the European Research Council. Parts of the project take place in collaboration with the Soprintendenza ai Beni Archeologici della Puglia, Scuola di Specializzazione di Archeologia Classica e Medievale – Università degli Studi Lecce, and Università degli Studi di Salerno. The project comprises excavations and surface surveys executed in a great number of sites and regions, geo-archaeological and geo-physical research, and material studies of pottery, coins, etc. Points of focus in this long-term project are the impact of the foundation of Greek settlements and the Roman conquest on the indigenous populations. The archaeological investigation at and around L'Amastuola are part of this larger project. [link to page 3e: 'Fieldwork'] Principal investigators are prof. G.-J. Burgers, dr. Jan Paul Crielaard and prof. Douwe Yntema. Over the years project has also produced a number of PhD dissertations and postdoc studies.

## **Latin Particles**

This research involves a long-term project, supervised by prof.dr. Caroline Kroon (VU) with dr. Rodie Risselada (UvA) and dr. Josine Schrickx (VU/The Thesaurus Linguae Latinae, Munich), which has a handbook of Latin particles as its ultimate goal.

## New Perspectives on Ancient Pottery

In 2007 a new and innovative research project has started at the Amsterdam Archaeological Centre (University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands). The research concerns the ancient pottery of a Dutch excavation in Italy (Satricum) and Dutch excavations and surveys in Greece (Halos, Zakynthos and Methone). Pottery from fieldwork in other regions will be included as well. The main aim of the project is to develop new methodologies in archaeological pottery studies that will increase the quality and quantity of the information that can be derived from this basic dataset. Perspectives from a range of traditions in pottery studies will be combined and integrated, such as technological, stylistic and geological approaches. Data from several regions in Greece and Italy will be used and compared. Thus, we expect to increase the proportion of diagnostic material. We plan to apply the results of our material studies to specific research questions regarding the cross-regional production, distribution and use (consumption) of pottery.

## PAN: Portable Antiquities of the Netherlands

*Portable Antiquities* are mobile archaeological finds like pottery sherds, coins, brooches, hairpins, etc. The PAN project, funded in the framework of NWO Large Investments, is aimed at the documentation of collections of metal artefacts, gathered by members of the public using a metal detector as a leisure activity on arable fields and construction sites. The scientific potential of these collections is enormous, but so far they have not been systematically documented and made available, and are therefore hardly known in professional circles.

In the PAN-project a large number of partners will participate: University of Leiden, University of Groningen, National Heritage Agency of the Netherlands (RCE), De Nederlandsche Bank operating the NUMIS database, the Allard Pierson Museum of the University of Amsterdam, the province of Noord-Brabant, the province of Gelderland, Landschap en Erfgoed Utrecht, and of course the metal detector associations *De DetectorAmateur*, *Coinhunter Company*, the website bodenvondstenwereld.nl and countless individual metal detector users.

The Pan project will start in September 2016.

Contact: Prof. dr. N.G.A.M. Roymans and dr. S. Heeren

## Sculptures from Hatra

This project conducted by Dr. Lucinda Dirven (UvA) aims to provide an overview of all sculptural remains from this Parthian city in north Mesopotamia.

## The mithraeum of Dura-Europos

International project that sets out to create a final report of the mithraeum that was found in Dura-Europos (Syria). Dr. Lucinda Dirven (UvA) is responsible for the part on the paintings and the iconography.

## The villa of Hoogeloon and the settlement at Riethoven. Key-sites in the Roman rural landscape of the Lower Rhine frontier zone between limes and loss

NWO funded project (2009- ), supervised by prof. Nico Roymans (VU). Aim of the project

(which includes several subprojects) is to present a full publication of the Roman villa complex excavated at Hoogeloon, and to formulate a model of the development of the settlement system in the peripheral sandy landscapes of North Belgium and the Southern Netherlands.

## **The “Zilverakkers Project”: Archaeology and long-term habitation history of the Kempen landscape**

The municipality of Veldhoven develops an area of 400 hectares, and enables us to explore and study the great number of archaeological sites discovered in this area. The project offers us a unique possibility to test current hypotheses and ideas on the habitation history of this region.