

**UNIVERSITÄT  
ERFURT**

Max-Weber-Kolleg

# MONDAY LECTURES

Max-Weber-Kolleg  
Seminar für Religionswissenschaft

**16.10.2023 | 16:15**

**Forschungsbau „Weltbeziehungen“  
C19 00.02/03**

**MONDAY LECTURES: PENELOPE DAVIES**

## **Structural failure and resilience in ancient Rome: Ideologies and implications**

The first in the series of Monday lectures is a paper that explores Roman failure and its counterpart, resilience, in ancient Roman architecture and urbanism. Focusing on the years before the great fire of 64, it argues, perhaps surprisingly, that Romans faced constant architectural failure, which authorities carefully managed; and that even before the fire, failure analysis and resilience strategies were recurrent catalysts for architectural change, with their own powerful ideological charge. It concludes by returning to Nero's radical building legislation after the conflagration, which, against this new continuum, delivers even more radical repercussions than are usually recognised.

The speaker, **Penelope Davies**, is Professor of Roman Art and Architecture at the University of Texas, specializing in the architectural history of ancient Rome.