

UNIVERSITÄT ERFURT
Max-Weber-Kolleg

MONDAY LECTURES | WISE 2026/27
IN RELIGIOUS, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES

RESEARCH BUILDING "WELTBEZIEHUNGEN" | C19.00.03 | 16:15 - 17:45

09.11.2026 | ELENA MUÑIZ-GRIJALVO

THE EMPEROR IN PROCESSION. EXPERIENCING POWER IN THE ROMAN EMPIRE (I): HOW TO APPROACH THE EXPERIENCE OF THE ROMAN EMPEROR IN PROCESSION

What ideas did the inhabitants of the Roman Empire have about the emperor? Most of them never saw the emperor in person. The formation of these ideas involved a multitude of factors—sensations, emotions, memories, and prior knowledge—that interacted with one another to shape their experience of the emperor.

In this first talk, I will be discussing the common subject of these lectures: the processions in which the emperor's image was paraded (which, for the sake of brevity, I will call "imperial processions"). I will explain why I think that experiences associated with processions may offer a valuable perspective for investigating how ideas about the emperor were shaped, and how I intend to approach this process through the sources.



In short: how did imperial processions work to make their subject known to their audiences?

Reconstruction of an imperial procession in Italica (Baetica).
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ALL GUESTS WELCOME.
NO REGISTRATION NECESSARY.