



New Approaches to Slaving and Slave Trading in the Ancient and Medieval Mediterranean

April 15 - 17, 2026 · Department of Classics · University of Toronto



**NEW APPROACHES TO SLAVING AND SLAVE-TRADING
IN THE ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL MEDITERRANEAN**

APRIL 15, Jackman Humanities Building, 1st Floor Conference Room

4:00 – 6:00 Remarks followed by opening reception

APRIL 16, Day 1, Lillian Massey Building, Room 220

Historical and Archaeological Approaches

9:00-9:30 Conference Introduction: Elizabeth Fentress, “How do we know they were slaves?”

9:30-10:00 Sarah C. Murray, “People as Property in Prehistoric Greece”

10:00-10:30 Bettina Arnold and Manuel Fernandez-Götz, “Slavery in Iron Age temperate Europe”

10:30-10:45 Discussion

10:45 - 11:00 Coffee break

11:00-11:30 David Lewis, “Syria and the Hellenistic Slave Trade”

11:30-12:00 Adam Rabinowitz, “The elusive Black Sea slave in the Greek world: a portage around the historiographical rapids”

12:00-12:30 Seth Bernard, “Complexity Science and the Origins of Roman Slavery”

12:30-1:00 Discussion

1:00 – 2:30 Lunch

2:30-3:00 Christer Bruun, “New insights on slaving in the Roman Empire from Epigraphy”

3:00-3:30 Rebecca Redfern, “Bioarchaeological perspectives on captive taking and enslavement in the Roman empire”

3:30-3:45 Discussion

3:45-4:15 Eduardo Manzano, “To what extent were early Islamic societies based on slavery?”

4:15-4:45 Craig Perry, “Slaving, State Formation, and Political Economy in Northeast Africa and the Islamic Middle East”

4:45-5:30 Discussion

APRIL 17, Day 2, Jackman Humanities Building, 1st Floor Conference Room

The Role of Archeogenetics

- 9:00-9:30 Ben Raffield, "Slavers from the North: The Dynamics of Raiding, Slaving, and Trading in the Viking World"
- 9:30-10:00 Hannah Moots and Maanasa Raghavan, "Slavery in the Roman, Late Antique, and Medieval Mediterranean: Insights from Interdisciplinary Ancient DNA Research"
- 10:00-10:15 Discussion
- 10:15-10:45 *Coffee break*
- 10:45-11:15 Eugenia D'Atanasio, Ileana Micarelli, Beniamino Trombetta, "What ancient DNA can and cannot tell us about past mobility and slavery: examples from Medieval Italy"
- 11:15-11:45 Samantha Cox, Margaret Andrews, Francesca Candillio, Elizabeth Fentress, and David Reich, "The genetic background of infant burials from the slave barracks on the Imperial estate of Villa Magna (Italy)"
- 11:45-12:00 Discussion
- 12:00-12:30 Zuzanna Hofmanova, "Ancient DNA and Mobility in Early Medieval Europe: Implications for the Study of Slave Trading"
- 12:30-1:00 Michael McCormick, Response on Archaeogenetics and Ancient Slavery: "Thinking about the enslaved in a time of discovery"
- 1:00-1:15 Discussion
- 1:15-3:00 *Lunch*

3:00-5:30 Roundtable, Closing Discussion:

Michael Dietler

Kyle Harper

Alice Rio

Paul Lovejoy