



Talk:

The Dirt on Rubbish: What Discard Tells Us About Home Life in Roman Egypt

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This paper explores the ways in which activities of cleaning, disposing, and recycling represent key principles of social organization. Such activities help to reveal the complex life cycles of houses, which have typically been understood only as loci of consumption and production. Disposal practices at Romano-Egyptian settlements, such as Trimithis, Karanis, Soknopaiou Nesos, and Oxyrhynchus, are situated within the global context of rubbish disposal, thereby demonstrating that rubbish can tell us an enormous amount about identity, communal traditions, and dwelling as place-making.

Anna Lucille Boozer is an Associate Professor at Baruch College and the Graduate Center at the City University of New York (CUNY). Her research focuses on Roman Egypt, Meroitic Sudan, empires, and everyday life. She directs the CUNY excavations at Amheida (Egypt) and the Meroe Archival Project (Sudan).

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