**Ethnicity and Ethnic Constructs
in the Long History of the Ancient Mediterranean and Black Sea**

University of Waterloo, ON
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**Participants**

Dr. **Richard Last**, *Kinship Diplomacy in Paul’s Letters*

He is Assistant Professor of Ancient Greek and Roman Studies at Trent University, Peterborough, ON, and received his PhD in ancient Mediterranean religions from the University of Toronto. His research focuses especially on Greco-Roman associations, ancient Christianity, and ancient Corinth. His recently published the books *The Pauline Church and the Corinthian Ekklesia: Greco-Roman Associations in Comparative Context* (Cambridge, 2016) and *Group Survival in the Ancient Mediterranean: Rethinking Material Conditions in the Landscape of Jews and Christians* (with Philip Harland, Bloomsbury, 2020)

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Dr. **Benjamin Kelly**, *Egypt in the Roman Ethnographic Imagination: The Case of the Nilotic Scenes*

He is Associate Professor of History, York University, Toronto, and received his PhD in Classical and Ancient Studies from Oxford University. His areas of research include Roman legal history, as well as courts, crime, and policing in the ancient world. His book publications include *Petitions, Litigations, and Social Control in Roman Egypt* (Oxford, 2011) and *The Roman Emperor and His Court: ca 30 BC -- 300 CE vols. 1 and 2* (ed. with A.G. Hug, Cambridge, 2022).

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Rabbi **Benjamin E. Scolnic**, *The Name Jason in Hellenistic Judaea, or: Caution! An Ancient Name …*

He is the spiritual leader of Temple Beth Sholom, Hamden, CT, and Adjunct Professor at Southern Connecticut State University. He received his PhD from the Jewish Theological Seminary, New York. He has published profusely on Biblical matters and Judaean-Hellenistic history, with a concentration on the period of the Maccabaean Revolt and the *Book of Daniel*. Together with Altay Coşkun, he hosts the [*Seleukid Lecture Series*](http://www.altaycoskun.com/seleukid-lectures) and writes for the creative platform [*Unheard Voices of the Past*](http://www.altaycoskun.com/welcome-to-the-unheard-voices), besides editing the new book series [*Seleukid Perspectives*](http://www.altaycoskun.com/sp-series).

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**Stone Chen** MA, *Ethnic Construct and Belonging on the Periphery: Evidence from Phokaia and Phokaian Colonies*

He is a graduate of the University of Waterloo and defended his [MA thesis on Phokaian colonization](https://uwspace.uwaterloo.ca/handle/10012/18971) in Dec. 2022, while holding an appointment as lecturer of Latin and Ancient Greek at the University of Guelph. His interests in history, politics, and geography range widely in space and time, including the mapping of the ancient world, which has resulted in the publication of several [historical maps](http://www.altaycoskun.com/maps).

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Dr. **Altay Coşkun**, *Ethnic Reconfiguration in Greek and Roman Foundation Legends – An Exploration of the Ethnic Identity Constructs of the Massaliotes*

He became Professor of Classical Studies at the University of Waterloo after receiving his PhD in Ancient History, Latin, and Ancient Greek (1999) and his Habilitation in Ancient History (2007) at Trier University. His interests range from Classical Greece to Late Antiquity, with recent concentrations on the citizenship studies, the Hellenistic kingdoms, and the Ancient Black Sea. His latest publications includes *Ethnic Constructs, Royal Dynasties and Historical Geography around the Black Sea Littoral* (2021). Together with Rabbi Ben Scolnic, he runs the [*Seleukid Lecture Series*](http://www.altaycoskun.com/seleukid-lectures), produces the creative platform [*Unheard Voices of the Past*](http://www.altaycoskun.com/welcome-to-the-unheard-voices), and has begun editing the book series [*Seleukid Perspectives*](http://www.altaycoskun.com/sp-series).

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Dr. **Joanna Porucnik**, *A Child Burial from Kerch: A Cross-Cultural Approach to Infant Mortality in the North Pontic Region*

After receiving her PhD in Classical Archaeology jointly from the Universities of Liverpool and Wrocław, she was research fellow at Wrocław before her appointment as Assistant Professor at the University of Opole, Poland. Her research interests concentrate on North Pontic archaeology and history as well as Greek epigraphy. Based on her PhD dissertation, she published *Cultural Identity within the Northern Black Sea Region in Antiquity* (Colloquia Antiqua 31), Peeters: Leuven, 2021.

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She is Senior Researcher in the Department of Jewelry Collections, where she is the Curator of the Greco-Roman and Barbarian Jewelry Collection. Her research interests include barbarians of the Roman period in the Northern Black Sea region and jewelry art of the Hellenistic and Roman periods.

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Dr. **Maia Kotrosits**, *Scythians as Heresy in Epiphanius, Bishop of Salamis*

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Dr. **Germain Payen**, *Warfare and Ethnic Constructs: the Heniochoi, a Nation of Pirates?*

He teaches Ancient History at Lille University and History, Geography, and French at a local High School. After gaining his PhD at the University of Sorbonne, Paris, and at Laval University, Quebec, he held postdoctoral fellowships at the University of Waterloo, ON and at the University of Cologne. His research interests cover the Hellenistic kingdoms, Anatolian geopolitics, Roman expansion in the eastern Mediterranean and the Black Sea, the Bosporan kingdom in the Roman Imperial period, Judean politics during Seleukid and Roman domination, as well as ancient piracy. His most important publication is *Les suites géopolitiques du traité d’Apamée en Anatolie* (Suppléments francophones de la Revue Phoenix 1, 2020).

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She is Professor of Religious Studies, Conrad Grabel University College, Waterloo, and received her PhD at the University of St. Michael’s College at the University of Toronto. Her research focuses on the material contexts of early Christianity, Christian origins, and the interpretational histories of early Christian texts. Her recent books include *Friendship and Benefaction in James* (SBL 2010/2017), *Dressing Judeans and Christians in antiquity* (co-ed. with Carly Daniel-Hughes, Ashgate, 2014) and *Dress in Mediterranean Antiquity* (ed. with Kelly Olson, Bloomsbury, 2021).

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