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SOCIAL NETWORKS IN BYZANTINE EGYPT

Social network analysis maps relationships and transactions between people and groups. This is the first book-length application of this method to the ancient world, using the abundant documentary evidence from sixth-century Oxyrhynchos and Aphrodito in Egypt. Professor Ruffini combines a prosopographical survey of both sites with computer analyses of the topographical and social networks in their papyri. He thereby uncovers hierarchical social structures in Oxyrhynchos not present in Aphrodito, and is able for the first time to trace the formation of the famous Apion estate. He can also use quantitative techniques to locate the central players in the Aphrodito social landscape, allowing us to see past the family of Dioskoros to discover the importance of otherwise unknown figures. He argues that the apparent social differences between Oxyrhynchos and Aphrodito in fact represent different levels of geographic scale, both present within the same social model.

GIOVANNI RUFFINI is an Assistant Professor in History at Fairfield University in Connecticut. Publications include *Ancient Alexandria between Egypt and Greece* (co-edited with William Harris, 2004) and *Ostraka from Trimithis*, volume 1 (co-edited with Roger Bagnall, forthcoming).

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Contents

<i>List of figures</i>	<i>page</i> vii
<i>List of tables</i>	viii
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	ix
<i>References and abbreviations</i>	x
Introduction	I
1 The centralized elite of Oxyrhynchos	41
2 The growth of the Apions	94
3 Aphrodito and the strong ties of village society	147
4 Quantifying Aphrodito's social network	198
Conclusion	242
Stemmata	255
<i>Bibliography</i>	257
<i>Subject index</i>	273
<i>Index locorum</i>	276

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Frontmatter
[More information](#)

For Maria Theresa and Leona Jane

Figures

I. Visualizing networks	<i>page</i> 27
2. Apionic toponyms and the Oxyrhynchite nome I	130
3. A random large estate and the Oxyrhynchite nome I	131
4. Apionic toponyms and the Oxyrhynchite nome II	136
5. A random large estate and the Oxyrhynchite nome II	137
6. Apionic toponyms extracted from the Oxyrhynchite nome	139
7. Toponyms new to the Apionic archive in the 540s	140
8. <i>P.Michael.</i> 45: Kollouthos, Victor and neighbors	164
9. <i>P.Michael.</i> 40: Ioannes and neighbors	167
10. Stemma of the Apion family	255
11. Abridged stemma of the Dioskoros family	256

Tables

1. The Oxyrhynchite's raw data	page 22
2. Aphrodito's raw data	23
3. Data entry for the Oxyrhynchite	24
4. Data entry for Aphrodito	24
5. A UCINET network	26
6. The payments in <i>P. Oxy.</i> 16.2020	103
7. The payments in <i>P. Oxy.</i> 16.2040	104
8. The sizes of the <i>pronoēsia</i>	109
9. Calculating the average <i>pronoēsia</i>	118
10. Attestations of the Apionic archive over time	122
11. First attestations of Apionic toponyms over time	123
12. Distribution of Oxyrhynchite ties I	133
13. Distribution of Oxyrhynchite ties II	134
14. Distribution of Oxyrhynchite ties III	138
15. First appearances of each Apionic <i>pronoēsia</i>	141
16. Measuring topographical centrality I	143
17. Measuring topographical centrality II	143
18. <i>Kephalaiōtai</i> in Girgis	183
19. The Aphrodito Girgis prosopography I	205
20. The Aphrodito Girgis prosopography II	206
21. The Aphrodito prosopography's largest component	207
22. Closeness and betweenness centrality I	212
23. Closeness and betweenness centrality II	212
24. Ties of strength greater than 1	228
25. First attestations of Aphrodito villagers by decade	232
26. Network characteristics of Aphrodito by decade I	233
27. Network characteristics of Aphrodito by decade II	234
28. Cutpoints in Aphrodito's corrected prosopography	237

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References and abbreviations

Abbreviations for journals and other standard works follow the conventions of *L'Année philologique*. Papyri and papyrological reference works are cited according to the conventions of John F. Oates, Roger S. Bagnall, Sarah J. Clackson, Alexandra A. O'Brien, Joshua D. Sosin, Terry G. Wilfong, and Klaas A. Worp, *Checklist of Greek, Latin, Demotic and Coptic Papyri, Ostraca and Tablets*, available online at <http://scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/papyrus/texts/clist.html>, December, 2005.