

People and Spaces in Roman Military Bases

This study uses artefact distribution analyses to investigate the activities that took place inside early Roman imperial military bases. Focusing especially on non-combat activities, it explores the lives of families and other support personnel who are widely assumed to have inhabited civilian settlements outside the fortification walls. Spatial analyses, in GIS-type environments, are used to develop fresh perspectives on the range of people who lived within the walls of these military establishments, the various industrial, commercial, domestic and leisure activities in which they and combat personnel were involved, and the socio-spatial organisation of these activities and these establishments. The book includes examples of both legionary fortresses and auxiliary forts from the German provinces to demonstrate that more material-cultural approaches to the artefact assemblages from these sites give greater insights into how these military communities operated and to demonstrate the problems of ascribing functions to buildings without investigating the full material record.

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Preface

I was first introduced to the world of Roman military studies when I taught Professor Keith Branigan's courses at the University of Sheffield in 1997. To me the study of the north-west provinces seemed overwhelmingly concerned with soldiers and the military, somewhat at odds with my Mediterranean Romans and their domestic spaces. At the same time there was much shared material culture between these different contexts of the early Roman Empire. I became interested in reconciling my concerns for the material culture and social contexts of Roman urban domestic space with that of Roman military bases during the first and second centuries CE.

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