WORKSHOP: Feeding the city

Organised by the Global Historical Ecology cluster and Urban Societies cluster, Department of Archaeology and Ancient History, Uppsala University.

Uppsala, November 3, 2021, 13.00–ca. 17.00

Lokal: 7-0043, Engelska parken

Urban areas often quickly outgrow their own ability to produce enough food for the local population. Consequently, these settlements have to rely on other means to feed its inhabitants, such as its surrounding countryside and the import of foodstuff from further afield. The organization of urban food supplies is essential for the creation of a sustainable city. However, how these urban food systems are organized is particular to the time period and location and influenced by constraints and opportunities of the local environmental and societal circumstances.

During this workshop, we would like to discuss how urban areas achieved (and often later on failed) to create sustainable food systems by offering different case-studies through time and space. How did local governments but also households secure food? What is the relationship between the ‘producing’ countryside and ‘consuming’ city? Can we foresee predictive factors for success or failure? How can we archaeologically attest food security? And how can the textual sources help?

To foster discussion, we will have brief informal and thought-provoking presentations by colleagues with a varied background, all from within the department. One aim is to see how broadly relevant the topic is within the department to gauge the possibility for future activities and also future department-wide projects.

We will limit the number of participations to ease discussions and this will mostly be an in-person event! Please let us know if you want to participate: filmo.verhagen@antiken.uu.se or erika.weiberg@antiken.uu.se.

Schedule

13-13.15  Introduction to the workshop
13.15-13.30  Anneli Ekblom, Urban history for urban sustainability
13.30-13.45  Eugene Costello, Feeding urban-industrial centres in early modern times: a periphery-centred research framework
13.45-14.00  Dominic Ingemark (Zoom), Wandering hams
14.00-14.15  Mini-discussion/break
14.15-14.30 Filmo Verhagen, Rome’s suburbium - between urbe and rus
14.45-15.00 Anton Bonnier (Zoom), Agricultural strategies, trade and food security in the ancient Athenian economy
15.00-15.15 Kerstin Höghammar, Starvation and death? Urban food supply at times of food crises in the Greek city-states c. 400-200 BC according to the epigraphic sources
15.15-15.30 Martin Finné (Zoom) and Erika Weiberg, Land use and food security in Mycenaean Greece
15.30-15.45 Break
15.45-17.00 Discussion

For inspiration, a talk by Greg Woolf on the sustainability of cities in the Roman Mediterranean:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4fEUJtstQ4w

For more inspiration see:

