

Patterns of Migration in the Eastern Mediterranean

c. 400 BCE – c. 100 CE

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This paper explores the evidence of funerary markers left behind by the non-citizen populations of two major population centers and trade hubs, Athens and Rhodes, as evidence for the movement and permanent resettlement of people from across the eastern Mediterranean and beyond.

A first section discusses the methodological challenges involved in studying funerary epigraphy in bulk and potential biases and distortions in the material. Other local epigraphic dossiers, it is argued, such as ephobic lists and subscription lists provide points of comparison that allow us to check for distortions as does comparison between the Athenian and Rhodian material.

The second section analyzes the Athenian and Rhodian data sets of funerary markers and compares results with existing research based on funerary markers. Migration, it is argued, was mainly regional with neighboring poleis accounting for a significant share of settled migrants. For Athens and Rhodes this trend is balanced by the presence of large contingents of migrants from other major trade hubs in the Mediterranean suggesting that migration followed existing trade routes. In addition, it is argued, political factors such as alliances and imagined kinship can be isolated as contributing to increased migration.



Christian A. Thomsen is associate professor of ancient Greek history at the University of Copenhagen. He is the author of the book *The Politics of Association in Hellenistic Rhodes* and has published on various aspects of social and political organization in the Classical and Hellenistic world, especially private associations. He is co-editor of *Private Associations in the Public Sphere*. He is the Principal Investigator on the Copenhagen based research project *Migrants and Membership Regimes in the Ancient Greek World* funded by Independent Research Fund Denmark (*Sapere Aude*).

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