

Roman Republican Themes:

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This short lecture series uses the institution of the census to explore a number of key themes in Roman Republican history. The census was a counting exercise to enumerate the total of adult male citizens; but it also encoded socio-economic differences, and was thus a key means of structuring Roman society into a hierarchy which reflected increasing wealth and status; this segmentation in turn was tied to differential expectations in terms of political rights, military duties and fiscal obligations. In addition, the censors were charged with moral oversight of the populace at large, and members of status groups (senators, *equites*) in particular – the actions of the censors thus tell us about Roman value systems in action. Finally, the censors issued public contracts, which were vital for management of state assets and finances (including taxation), army supply and the building of public infrastructure. The partnerships which handled these contracts, the groups of *publicani*, allow a revealing analysis of the upper echelons of the equestrian order, and of Roman public finance at home and in the provinces, the latter intimately connected with Roman imperialism.

The lectures will be on:

1. The census and censors: what, when, how, whom?
2. State finance, contracting and the *publicani*
3. The *publicani* and Rome imperialism
4. Counting the Roman People: a bluffer's guide to republican demography

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