

**Rachael Helen Banes, MA.**

**Main Research Interests:**

My core research interest is centred on graffiti in late antiquity, which is also the focus of my doctoral thesis. I am interested in the social implications of informal texts, and in particular how graffiti can inform us of late antique religious and cultural experiences. I am also interested in the relationship between epigraphy and space, and how the placement of texts would affect movement through the buildings and streets of the late antique city. I have a subsidiary interest in digital humanities, and how online tools can be utilised for the dissemination of historic data to a broad audience.

**Academic Positions:**

2021-Present: Prae-Doc researcher at the Austrian Academy of Sciences

**Education:**

2018-Present: PhD in Byzantine Studies, University of Birmingham

2017-2018: MA in Antiquity (Byzantine Studies Pathway), University of Birmingham.

2014-2017: BA (hons) Ancient History, University of Birmingham.

**Scholarships and Awards:**

2018-2021: Arts and Humanities Research Scholarship (PhD Funding)

2017-2018: Distinguished Alumni Scholarship (MA funding)

2017: Whitting Prize in Byzantine Studies

2016: Edes and Ravenscroft Travel Bursary

2015: Undergraduate Research Scholarship

**Conference and Workshop Papers:**

February 2021- Set in Stone: Commemoration in Graffiti in the Late Antique East c. 300-700 CE (*Oxford Byzantine Graduate Seminar, University of Oxford*)

June 2020- Debating Defacement: Scholarly Approaches to Graffiti in Late Antiquity (*CAHA Colloquium, University of Birmingham*)

November 2019- Churches, Brothels and Theatres: Representations of Buildings in Late Antique Graffiti C. 300-700 CE (*Ancient and Medieval Spaces Workshop, University of Birmingham*)

March 2019- You Can't Write that Here! Mapping Secular and Religious Graffiti in Aphrodisias c. 300-700 CE (*SPBS Spring Symposium, University of Cambridge. An extended version of this paper was given at Leeds IMC in July 2019*)

January 2019- The Interaction between Graffiti and Formal Imagery at Four Cult-Sites in Asia Minor and Palestine c. 300-700 CE (*Late Antiquity Network Workshop, Kings College London*)

**Outreach:**

April 2020- Appeared on the "Stories from Objects" Podcast.

**Other Activities:**

2019-Present: Specialist editor and copy editor for Rosetta Journal, a postgraduate journal in Classics, Archaeology and Ancient History.

2019-Present: Specialist editor for Diogenes Journal, a postgraduate journal in Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Greek Studies

July 2019: Organiser of *Writing on the Wall: A workshop in Historic Graffiti*, a workshop at the university of Birmingham in collaboration with the Norfolk Medieval graffiti project.

June 2019: Co-Chair of the Centre of Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Greek Studies Colloquium, University of Birmingham

2018-2020: Chair of Rosetta Forum, a postgraduate research seminar in Classics, Archaeology and Ancient History

July-August 2017: Attended the International Byzantine Greek Summer School, Trinity College Dublin.

June 2016: Independent research project at Mystras, centred on recreating photos from the David Talbot Rice archive. The project produced an online catalogue of Christian and Byzantine Art. (<https://www.flickr.com/photos/142760224@N05/albums>)

June-August 2015: Undergraduate Research Scholar with the Birmingham East Mediterranean Archive.

2015-2018: Curatorial Assistant with Research and Cultural Collections (University of Birmingham)