



LOEWE

Exzellente Forschung für
Hessens Zukunft

www.konfliktloesung.eu

Vortragsankündigung

Dr. Benjamin Kelly

(Associate Professor York University, Toronto, Canada)

Resolving and Prolonging Disputes in Roman Egypt: The Role of the Justice Process

Montag, 10.03.2014, 17:00-19:00 Uhr

Campus Westend, IG-Hochhaus, Eisenhower-Saal (IG 1.314)

The hundreds of petitions and reports of proceedings from Roman Egypt surviving on papyrus give us an important window into the role that the justice process played in dispute resolution in this Roman province. These sources illustrate various institutional arrangements and features of administrative culture that would have made it difficult for litigants to obtain a final adjudicative decision which brought an end to their dispute. At the same time, there are frequent hints in the documents that disputing parties dragged (or threatened to drag) their opponents into this legal labyrinth in order to force them into private settlements. Several groups of documents, which mostly come from private archives, also show how petitioning and litigation were used as tactics of harassment and intimidation in prolonged disputes that essentially amounted to feuds. This phenomenon highlights the point that we must study the justice process of this Roman province not just in terms of its capacity to resolve disputes and foster social cohesion, but also in terms of its potential to have disruptive and dysfunctional impacts.