



Universiteit
Leiden
The Netherlands

Rethinking Ostia : a spatial enquiry into the urban society of Rome's imperial port-town

Stöger, J.J.

Citation

Stöger, J. J. (2011, December 7). *Rethinking Ostia : a spatial enquiry into the urban society of Rome's imperial port-town*. *Archaeological Studies Leiden University*. Leiden University Press, Leiden. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/18192>

Version: Not Applicable (or Unknown)

License: [Licence agreement concerning inclusion of doctoral thesis in the Institutional Repository of the University of Leiden](#)

Downloaded from: <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/18192>

Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

Cover Page



Universiteit Leiden



The handle <http://hdl.handle.net/1887/18192> holds various files of this Leiden University dissertation.

Author: Stöger, Johanna

Title: Rethinking Ostia : a spatial enquiry into the urban society of Rome's imperial port-town

Issue Date: 2011-12-07

Acknowledgements

This thesis would have been impossible without the academic, practical and moral support from colleagues, friends and family. My first depth of gratitude is to John Bintliff, my supervisor at the University of Leiden, who remained a great inspiration throughout the development of this doctoral thesis, and first drew my attention to Space Syntax. I am also indebted to Bouke van der Meer, my co-promoter, who pointed me firmly to Ostia when I was looking for a field of research, and kept his watchful ‘eagle-eyes’ over the progress of my thesis. I also owe my deepest gratitude to Hans Kamermans, my co-promoter, who made available his support in many ways, not only in his field of computer archaeology but also in a number of fieldwork campaigns in Ostia. I am also most grateful to Janet DeLaine, since this work would not have been possible had she not shared her expert knowledge on Ostia and lent her support and critical thoughts. A special debt of gratitude is owed to Bill Hillier, whose work has been a source of immense inspiration to me, while he has also offered great personal support to my ongoing research. An additional word of thanks is due to Miguel John Versluys and Natascha Sojc for their constant support and lively interest in my research.

The basic fieldwork was carried out over several visits to Rome and Ostia between 2004 and 2010, first with the support of the Koninklijk Nederlands Instituut te Rome (KNIR) and later with the generous help of Barbara Steindl and Francesco Francisci whom I cannot thank enough for allowing me to stay at their place in Rome. My sincere thanks go to the KNIR and to the then director Marjan Schwegman, and to the successive archaeologists in residence Natalie de Haan and Gert-Jan Burgers, and to all the staff. My thanks are due for their help and encouragement and their continuous interest in my work.

My study would not have been possible without the co-operation of the Soprintendenza at Ostia. My greatest debt is to the former Soprintendente Anna Gallina-Zevi and I also owe gratitude to later successive directors, foremost Angelo Pellegrini, and to all the colleagues at the archives and the library in Ostia: Paolo Olivanti, Paola Germoni, Stefano Stani, Marco Sangiorgio, Simona Pannuzi, Elvira Angeloni, Manuela Seno, and Grazia Pettinelli, and above all to Enrico Rinaldi who has helped me with many invaluable discussions, and to Jane Shepherd, who remained interested in my work and read some of the original chapters and made many useful suggestions.

I am indebted to many colleagues at the Faculty of Archaeology in Leiden, special thanks are due to Annelou van Gijn and Roswitha Manning for their critical thoughts and moral support. I also wish to thank Erik Dullaart who set up the Access database used by this study, and Tjaco Mast who helped with countless computer problems. I am also most grateful to Joanne Porck who helped prepare the images and photographs for this publication, and to Tom Breukel for his help with InDesign. I thank too all colleagues in the faculty’s administration, especially Claudia Regoor, Olga Yates, Ilone de Vries, Jaap Hoff and Erik Stavleu for their kindness and help in many practical ways. A special word of thanks is due to all my fellow PhD researchers at the Leiden Graduate School, especially to Diane van de Zande, Tatiana Ivleva, Noriyuki Shirai, Kyryakos Savvopolous, Chiara Piccoli and Eva Mol. Some have received their doctorate before me, others will follow later, but all in their ways helped to make research enjoyable. Special thanks are due to Chiara Piccoli for translating the summary into Italian.

This work on the whole profited from many discussions and from a stimulating exchange of ideas. I would particularly like to mention Erik van Rossenberg who not only alerted me about new

publications but also shared critical thoughts and helped with useful advice. My warmest thanks go to Jolanda Lee for her patience and limitless help with producing the maps in ArcGIS and organising the field work data. I also received support from Stijn Arnoldussen who helped with MapInfo, and from Akkelies van Nes on questions related to Space Syntax and wish to thank her for sharing her expertise and enthusiasm. There are many colleagues and friends to whom I owe gratitude, I wish to single out Gertrudis Offenbergh, Andrew Ricca, Hue Wang and Carien Creutzberg and wish to thank them for their kindness and help.

My research was partially supported in its early stage by a travel grant from the Stichting Philologisch Studiefonds Utrecht, several travel grants from the Koninklijk Nederlandse Instituut te Rome, the Faculty of Archaeology in Leiden, and the Leids Universiteits Fonds.

Finally, I wish to thank my husband Mario Damato and my daughter Samira Damato for their patience and support during these years between Ostia and Leiden. I hope they still bear with me since 'Rethinking Ostia', is not a closed book. The title invites a discussion and implies an ongoing process which encourages a continuous re-evaluation in the light of new evidence, new methods of investigation, as well as different interpretations. New answers will lead to new questions and will constantly require serious 're-thinking', however, ultimately all these processes are part of our ongoing search for knowledge of the past.

Curriculum vitae

Johanna (Hanna) Stöger graduated from the department of Archaeology and Classics at the University of Malta, with a major in Archaeology (B.A. hons., November 1999). Her thesis was entitled “*Albert Mayr: A Legacy of Pioneer Work in Maltese Archaeology*”, and was supervised by Prof. Anthony Bonanno. In 2001-2002 she successfully completed a taught Master of Arts programme in Classical and Mediterranean Archaeology at the University of Leiden, The Netherlands. She graduated in October 2002 (M.A. *cum laude*) specializing in Roman Urbanism, with a thesis on *Monumental Entrances of Roman Ostia*, supervised by Prof. John Bintliff and Dr Bouke van der Meer.

She continued her studies at Leiden University as a PhD researcher (2004 to 2010), and developed a keen interest in the spatial dynamics of urban sites and the application of methods of spatial analysis (Space Syntax) to Roman towns. She submitted her PhD thesis in March 2011. Her dissertation was supervised by Prof. John Bintliff, Dr Hans Kamermans and Dr Bouke van der Meer. This book, *Rethinking Ostia: A Spatial Enquiry into the Urban Society of Rome’s Imperial Port-Town*, is the result of her PhD research.

Since September 2010 she is a post-doctoral researcher within the EU-funded project ‘Archaeo-Landscapes’, and a part-time lecturer at the University of Leiden.

Hanna Stöger has worked as a field archaeologist in several excavations and survey projects in Malta, Germany, Italy, Greece and The Netherlands. She was a founding member of the Archaeology Service Co-Operative, (ASC) Malta, where she carried out rescue excavations and survey projects (rural and urban) for the documentation of heritage in Malta. She has also been a constant member of the excavation team of the University of Malta working at the multi-period site of Tas-Silġ (Malta). She has published on spatial aspects of Roman Ostia and organized several sessions at International conferences (EAA and TRAC), and workshops organized by the Leiden Graduate School. Apart from her main research interest in Roman urbanism and spatial analysis, her areas of interest include urban history, city development and today’s methods of urban planning.

