

Università degli Studi di Padova

MORTI - Money, Rituality and Tombs in northern Italy during Late antiquity

Charon's obol was a funerary custom widely practised throughout the Greco-Roman world. It was the placement of a coin in the mouth or near the body of the dead as payment for Charon, the ferryman of the underworld. The EU-funded MORTI project will explore Charon's obol and the evolution of post-classical mentalities over time. Specifically, the project will use record and statistical multivariate correspondence methods to analyse hundreds of coins from over 120 necropolis dated to between the 3rd and 11th centuries. This will shed light on the use and meaning of coinage in post-classical funerary practices. The project will also explore the relationship of coinage with the personal traits of the dead, from age, gender and social and religious affiliation.

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