



## Session Proposals Limes Congress 2021

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### Brickyards of the Roman Army

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**Session Abstract:** The Roman army was not only an effective military machine, it was also a highly important economic force. Especially in newly conquered regions, the sapper units of the legions established new infrastructure or made improvements to the existing one (roads, bridges, buildings, and even entire settlements). The raw materials and products required were mined or produced by the army itself. Brickyards, set up and operated by military units on a large scale, formed an important branch of production in this context.

Brick stamps and the remains of the brick yards themselves provide essential information with regard to the structure and organisation of the military production of architectural ceramics. Thanks to these studies we are able to understand and analyse an important aspect of the imperial economy in the Roman provinces.

During the proposed session, brickworks of the Roman army from western and eastern provinces of the Imperium Romanum will be presented and discussed. Especially in recent times, more and more attention has been paid to these workshops. We hope that some of the current research on the topic will be presented in the session. The following topics will be important/relevant:

- Topographical position (of the workshops) and relations to nearby settlements
- Infrastructure (working areas, kilns etc.)
- Production range (form and type of bricks, production of other goods like pottery)
- Questions of chronology
- Distribution (trade routes, organisation of trade, civilian or military consumers)
- Operators (legionary or auxiliary)