

Open Data in the Study of Ancient History

MELANIE MEAKER LEHRSTUHL FÜR ALTE GESCHICHTE UNIVERSITÄT MANNHEIM

Structure

- 1. Open Science and Open Data in Classics
- 2. Problems in the field of Classics
- Introduction to our database "Cynisca: Documenting Women and Girls in Ancient Greek Athletics"

Open Science in Classics

- DOAJ lists more than 180 Open Access journals

- implementation of open access and open data repositories tailored to the needs of Classicists

German Examples :

open access repository: Propylaeum-DOK (https://www.propylaeum.de/home)

- open data repository: IANUS Forschungsdatenzentrum Archäologie & Altertumswissenschaften (https://ianus-fdz.de)

Some Problems

1. Competitive ethos in Classics

- 2. Anti-Open-Science-mentality
 - See, e.g., "Why Open Access makes no sense" by Prof. Robin
 Osborne published in *The Guardian*

(https://www.theguardian.com/higher-education-

network/blog/2013/jul/08/open-access-makes-no-sense)

3. Differences within the field

"Cynisca: Documenting Women and Girls in Ancient Greek Athletics"

Why women and girls in ancient Greek athletics?

Aims and anticipated benefits of the database

- 1. Research efficiency and new research questions
- 2. Higher visibility of the research conducted at MAFAS (Mannheimer Forschungen zum Antiken Sport)
- 3. Accessibility and outreach
- 4. Reproducibility

Problems

- 1. Copyright issues
- 2. Data selection



Bronze girl found in modern Kosovo dated ca. 550 - 500 BCE

(London, British Museum: 1876,0510.1)

Problems

- 1. Copyright issues
- 2. Data selection
- 3. We are not IT people!