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## Brothels and Prostitution at Pompeii

When: Thursday, 18 April 2019 7:30 P.M.,  
Where: Center for the Fine Arts, Room 110 (“Round Room”)  
Knox College, Galesburg, Illinois



What “urban legends” did the ancient Romans tell about prostitution in their own culture, and to what extent did that actually reflect reality? By examining the one structure from Roman antiquity that all scholars agree was a brothel—Pompeii’s (in)famous purpose-built brothel—we can begin to understand the reality of Roman prostitution. We will uncover a world in which the brothel’s male and female prostitutes resisted their exploitation and marginalization by proclaiming themselves as sexual agents, and where clients from all walks of life, from slaves to elite men, could act like free men.

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