

## **ROMAN DISCUSSION FORUM**

Wednesday 18th November at 1pm

Lecture Room, Institute of Archaeology, Oxford University

36 Beaumont Street, Oxford

**Dr Olga Karagiorgou, Academy of Athens**

*Masons' Marks from Amorium: A Case Study*

Archaeological work at Amorium (present-day Hisarköy) has brought to light a fair number of architectural elements with masons' marks. Eight of these (one fragment of the lower part of a column and seven Ionic impost capitals) form a particular group, as they all bear the same mason's mark, consisting of the Greek letters T, P and Y in ligature. The same mark has also been recorded on building material used mostly in 6th century secular and ecclesiastical architecture in Constantinople, Parentium, Ravenna, Latrun and Amrit. A closer examination of its afore-mentioned occurrences suggests, however, that the mark in question should be connected to the production of a mason's workshop that was active not in the 6th, but in the second half of the 5th century. If this is correct, then the TPY in ligature can act as a useful terminus post quem for building phase(s) incorporating architectural elements that bear it, while the date it indicates for the Amorium capitals calls for a reconsideration of the existing views concerning the evolution and decoration of Ionic impost capitals.