

## The military and long-distance trade along the eastern Roman frontier

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It is now well understood that the Roman military presence along the eastern frontier did not only have a defensive function but instead was motivated by several needs, including the control and policing of trading activities. The relationship between the military and long-distance trade has become increasingly visible in the archaeological record of the southern Levant. This is most evident at sites such as Khirbet al-Khalde in the Wadi Yitm or Moyat 'Awad in the Negev, where caravanserais are situated next to forts. Surveys and excavations are contributing to a better understanding of those living in and passing through these sites, but more remains to be done to cast light on the relationship between the military and caravans along these routes.

The aim of this session is to explore the relationship between the military and long-distance trade in Roman borderlands. Papers in this multidisciplinary session will investigate this topic and present new and original research through the study of the archaeological record or ancient written sources. While focused on the eastern frontier between the Roman and Late Antique periods, comparative case studies from elsewhere in the Roman World are also welcome.

In bringing together international experts on this topic, this session aims to address the following questions:

- To what extent can the archaeological and historical record contribute to casting light on the interaction between long-distance trade and the military?
- What are the main problems that archaeologists have to face when dealing with this topic?
- How did this interaction change over the *longue durée*?
- How did global trends and geopolitical transitions affect this interaction?