The Monetary Supply of Late Antique Egypt: Local, Global and ‘Illegal’ Sources

Egypt has been widely recognized in scholarship as one of the most economically important provinces of the Roman Empire. However, it was not before the reform of Diocletian in 297/98 that non-Egyptian coins were officially allowed in the province, providing the first opportunity to analyze Empire-wide circulation patterns. An analysis of over 30,000 fourth-century coins prove that Egypt not only relied on outside and non-official coinage for its bronze monetary supply, but also that compared to other regions, it was a cash-positive province.

Irene Soto Marín
University of Basel, Switzerland

Thursday, October 25, 2018, 4:30 p.m.
Scheide Caldwell House, Room 103

Irene Soto Marín received her Ph.D. from the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World at New York University in 2018. Her thesis titled “The Economic Integration of a Late Roman Province: Egypt from Diocletian to Anastasius” analyzed the degree of economic connections between Egypt and the rest of the Roman Empire by studying the evidence from coins, ceramics, and textile trade. She is currently Wissenschaftliche Assistentin in the Department of Ancient History at the University of Basel, Switzerland. She is also a contributor to Oxford’s Coin Hoards of the Roman Empire project and has been working as a ceramicist for the excavations at Amheida by New York University since 2008.