

“RITES OF TRANSITION AND ETHNIC IDENTITY IN CARTHAGE:

CHILDHOOD, MOTHERHOOD AND VOTIVE OFFERINGS
IN THE *TOPHET* PRECINCT”

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10
5:00–6:30 P.M.**

**FOSTER AUDITORIUM,
102 PATERNO LIBRARY**

Rituals performed at the open-air precinct dedicated to Baʿl and Tinnit in Carthage (the so-called *tophet*) are among the most studied yet least understood components of their society. This single precinct has produced more than 90 percent of the entire Phoenician-Punic epigraphic corpus, due to its trove of enigmatic votive inscriptions set above infant burials, which some modern scholars have used to imagine a Carthaginian identity based upon supposed rituals of infant sacrifice, while others clear them of all such allegations—an intractable and polarizing debate.

In this presentation, Garnand focuses instead on the role that rituals related to motherhood and infancy play in the formation of cultural identity and their relation to this precinct.

BRIEN GARNAND

Co-director, ASOR Punic Project;
Visiting Researcher at the Nederlands
Instituut voor het Nabije Oosten (NINO)



DEPARTMENT OF
**CLASSICS AND ANCIENT
MEDITERRANEAN STUDIES**

CO-SPONSORED BY
Jewish Studies Program
Religious Studies Minor



PennState
College of the Liberal Arts

This publication is available in alternative media on request. Penn State is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to providing employment opportunities to all qualified applicants without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability or protected veteran status. Penn State encourages qualified persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation or have questions about the physical access provided, please contact Anna Zuckerman at (814) 863-1908 or acz5079@psu.edu, in advance of your participation or visit. Our events and programs are open to all students regardless of sex, gender, sexual orientation, race, or any other protected class. The College of the Liberal Arts is committed to building a community of belonging for all. UBR CLA 25-467