



Tales from the Crypt: Interactions between the Living and the Dead in the Ancient Mediterranean

**Thursday,
February 20
7 – 8:30 pm**

**Claudia Cohen Hall
2nd Floor Lounge**

The Philadelphia Seminar on Christian Origins invites you to its monthly seminar exploring domestic spaces in antiquity.

Ancient Mediterranean societies practiced various customs for the removal of the dead from the world of the living. Once the dead were established in their new

‘homes,’ the boundaries between the living and the dead were far from fixed. Drawing on archaeological evidence from the Bronze Age and Roman worlds, this presentation compares approaches to the excavation and interpretation of ancient burial practices. How do we make sense of disturbed, damaged, and fragmentary bodies and burials? What do we learn about the living based on how they treated the dead? A comparative approach to ancient funerary practices sheds light on how the same mortuary activities can vary between regions and cultures, and it challenges us to reflect on the methods that we use to write narratives of the past.

Liana Brent

Mellon Post-doctoral Fellow, Wolf Humanities Center

Melissa S. Cradic

Fellow, Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies

Liana Brent received a PhD in Classics from Cornell University. Her current project, *Corporeal Connections in Roman Burial Practices*, considers how relationships between the living and the dead and kinship are expressed in Roman burials.

Melissa S. Cradic received a PhD in Ancient History and Mediterranean Archaeology from UC Berkeley and is currently working on a book based on her dissertation, “Transformations in Death: The Archaeology of Funerary Practices and Personhood in the Bronze Age Levant.”

All members of the university and broader academic community are welcome to attend.