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Sights, Sounds and Smells of War: A Multisensory Approach to Ancient Egyptian Battles and Their Representations



This lecture will explore ancient Egyptian battle representations from a multisensory perspective, first by identifying the sights, sounds, and smells of war as attested in these sources, and then by reflecting on how they depict and distort reality. The sights of carnage and the humiliation of enemies and captives; the sounds of Egyptian trumpets, roaring armies, galloping horses, and grieving women and children taken as prisoners of war; the smells of blood, dead bodies, severed hands and phalli piled as trophies, and burned rebels and captives, all work together to produce a synaesthetic experience that differentiates between victors and the defeated.

Donnerstag, 4. Dezember 2025, 18:15
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