

Aarhus Seminars in Classical Antiquity

KLASSISKE STUDIER SEMINARRÆKKE F2022

Paul Christesen, Dartmouth College/AIAS
Leisure as Luxury in Ancient Sparta



Ancient Spartans have long been defined by their reputation for having lived a life of austere self-discipline in a city that resembled an army camp. I seek to radically revise our understanding of the Spartans by showing that Sparta was a community founded in and fanatically dedicated to a particular form of luxury: leisure. Spartan citizens (Spartiates), both male and female, young and old, were forbidden to engage in any kind of economically productive activity.

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Antikmuseet

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