

Abstracts Book

The Household Religion refers to the religious practices that took place at home and aimed to answer the daily anxieties in the context of the family's life. Therefore, we see the field of action being reduced – from all the Egyptians to each one in particular and his family – and a specific definition of space of occurrence – the domestic space.

In the context of an investigation dedicated to the study of the Household Religion, it is intended to present this religious practice as another way of understanding the divine power in the context of the Egyptian civilization. We'll try to determine, based on the textual and material sources, but mainly the second ones, in which way the religion was part of a naturally profane space, the home, and how the transcendent interfered in each one's life.

Biographical Note:

Susana Mota is a Research Assistant at CHAM. She develops her research in Egyptology, having a MA on the subject of Justice in Ancient Egypt. Currently, she is concluding the research for her PhD on Domestic Religion in ancient Egypt. Her areas of interest are essentially culture and mentality, society and religion.

Jessica Alexandra Monteiro Santos

CHAM – Faculdade de Ciências Sociais e Humanas, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Universidade dos Açores

Title:

The children magical protection in ancient Egypt – the power of magic.

Keywords:

Protection; Children; Magic; Power.

Abstract:

In ancient Egypt, there was a significant amount of perils and obstacles to the children's survival. Those could manifest themselves either during pregnancy and childbirth, either during childhood. In some cases, they result in the death of the mother or child, contributing to the high maternal and infant

mortality rates. Therefore, and taking into account the importance and social roles of children, their protection consisted on one of the main daily concerns of the Egyptians, in particular of women, independently of the social status.

In order to overcome these misfortunes, the Egyptians developed a diversified set of magical and medical mechanisms for children's protection, which were complementary and could act side by side. Focusing on the former, the aim of this communication is to demonstrate how the Egyptians appealed to magic, an abstract dimension, to surpass real and concrete problems of daily life. Through this, we intend to demonstrate how the use of those magical mechanisms with the specific purpose in question is a powerful representation of magical power.

Biographical Note:

Jessica Alexandra Monteiro Santos is a Research Assistant at CHAM. Her main research interest is related to the theme of magical child protection during the early childhood in ancient Egypt, inserted in a broader area of interest, which encompasses the studies on the everyday life in general, and women and children in particular. Currently she is working on her MA dissertation, entitled «A Protecção Mágica da “Primeira Infância” no Egípto Antigo».