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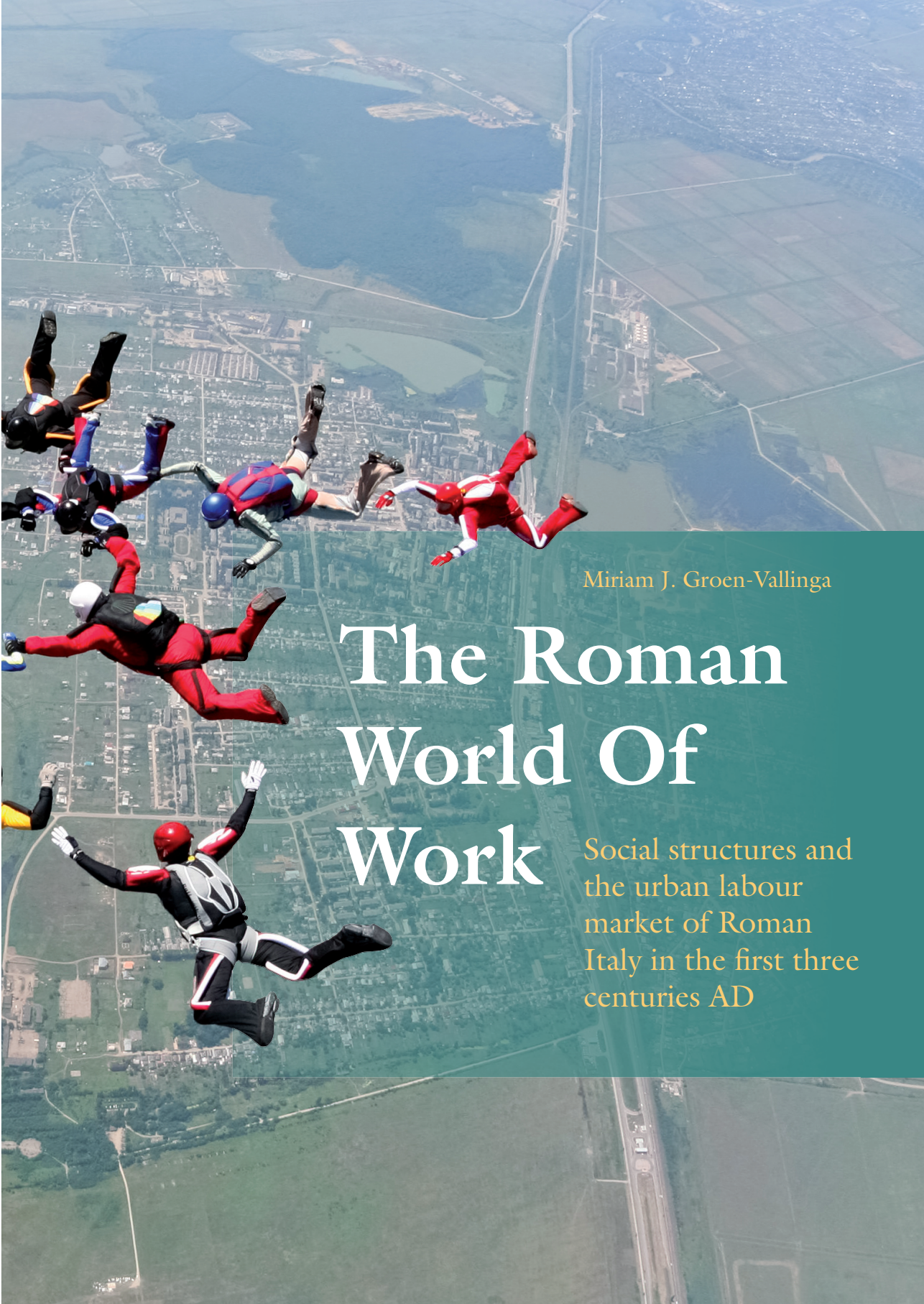


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Miriam J. Groen-Vallinga

The Roman World Of Work

Social structures and
the urban labour
market of Roman
Italy in the first three
centuries AD

THE ROMAN WORLD OF WORK

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Roman Italy in the first three centuries AD

Miriam Johanna Groen-Vallinga

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THE ROMAN WORLD OF WORK

Social structures and the urban labour market of
Roman Italy in the first three centuries AD

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In memory of Sven

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Chapter 1

Introductory chapter: aims, methods and sources

Inter artifices longa differentia est et ingenii et naturae et doctrinae et institutionis.

Dig. 46.3.31 (Ulpianus)

INTRODUCTION

This study focuses on the ways in which the urban labour market of Roman Italy functioned. The framework of the urban labour market is exploited with the intention of presenting a novel, integrated analysis of the Roman labour force in Italian cities in roughly the first three centuries AD. Pre-industrial working populations in general were not coherent bodies.¹ An inherent diversity is therefore a priori likely to have been characteristic of the Roman labour force. There is a need for a conceptual framework capable of accommodating this diversity.

There is a significant collection of scholarship about Roman labour. A number of more general monographs relevant to the subject have appeared over the course of the twentieth century. The legal background of labour and labourers has been extensively documented in Italian by De Robertis.² The language barrier made this work inaccessible to large proportions of the anglo-saxon world, however, which is also the problem with the work of Calabi Limentani.³ The scholarly world was better served by the monograph of Burford, *Craftsmen in Greek and Roman society*.⁴ Her book was based on an extensive knowledge of various sources ranging from material culture (the book opens with a potter's signature) to literary sources and Roman law. Burford's book remains valuable because of its meticulous collection of data, but its interpretive framework echoes the sentiments of the ancient writers, and is outdated. In line with the times, the *Aufstieg und Niedergang* of the Roman world coloured the perceptions of the influential work of Louis.⁵ There is much of merit here, but the ancient sources are secondary to the (invalid) narrative, which diminishes its use. Similarly, Mossé developed Finley's views about labour in the ancient world, in a strict universe of city states and consumer cities and is therefore of limited use to any of us who disagree (even in part) with Moses Finley.⁶ The value of many of these earlier monographs, then, lies predominantly in their integrated approach of the sources, but not in their overarching interpretations of the Roman empire.

1 Ehmer (2014) 105.

2 De Robertis (1963), also (1946). On *collegia*, idem (1971).

3 Calabi Limentani (1956), *Il lavoro artistico*, still helpful though limited in scope, focusing on the 'art' in artisan.

4 Burford (1972). Taylor (1979) reads like a useful, brief summary of Burford for a general audience of undergraduate and graduate students.

5 Louis (1927)=(1965²).

6 Mossé (1979).

Since the early 1980s, the debate on the nature of the Roman economy has moved on considerably, and this has freed the way for a novel interpretation of labour.⁷ Moreover, the continuous digital revolution starting in the 1990s has facilitated the analysis of large amounts of epigraphic and papyrological data to support a more wide-ranging view of work in the Roman world.⁸ In the meantime, significant progress has been made in the debate on the nature of Roman slavery and slave labour.⁹ Recent work has also shed new light on the exceptional position of freedmen in Roman society, and in the Roman economy.¹⁰ Similarly, the sizeable freeborn population of Roman Italy has received increasing scholarly attention within accounts of the Roman economy, with a particular focus on free artisans and craftsmen.¹¹

The broader subject of urban labour and labourers in the Roman world is revelling in scholarly attention, as the recent collections of papers edited by Laes and Verboven (2017), and by Wilson and Flohr (2016) may show. But the papers in them concern largely bits and pieces relevant to the broader picture: despite converging trends they do not present one coherent account. Even Hawkins' monograph, *Roman artisans and the urban economy*, 2016, is merely complementary to my own. It presents many new insights such as the major theme of unstable labour demand, but his focus is on the skilled artisan or craftsman, not on the unskilled mass of urban labourers.¹² A recent book with one coherent, integrated approach of the urban labour force, that also links up with the developments on the subject of the Roman urban economy in the early empire, is lacking.

Outline

The second chapter of this thesis defends the assumption that there was an 'urban labour market', arguing that this hypothesis is both plausible and useful to think with, provided that the specifics of the Roman case are kept in mind. The concept of a labour

7 See, e.g., Hawkins and Mayer eds (forthcoming); de Callataÿ, ed. (2014); Scheidel ed. (2012a); Temin (2013a); Bowman ed. (2009); Morris, Saller and Scheidel eds (2007); Scheidel and Von Reden eds (2002); the papers in Garnsey (1980) in my view formed an important turning point in Roman labour studies.

8 Joshel (1992) on individual labourers in CIL 6 is the first systematic study; see below.

9 Bradley and Cartledge eds (2011), particularly the overviews by Morley, and Bodel; Scheidel (2008); Bradley (1994) especially chapter 4 on slave labour; Harper (2011) on late antiquity has many valuable observations for the early empire.

10 Garnsey and De Ligt (2016), De Ligt and Garnsey (2012) on their numerical importance; Verboven (2012a) on the freedman economy; Mouritsen (2011a) provides a very full and useful account concerning freedmen, with chapter 6 (206–247) on freedmen in the economy.

11 Cf Their incorporation in the reference articles on labour and the labour market by Hawkins (2013) and Tacoma (forthcoming); also Brunt (1980).

12 Hawkins (2016) 14–15. This book is reworking of his 2006 dissertation. Due to constraints of time, I have retained many references to his 2006 manuscript.

market, as it is known in economic theory, is based on simple price theory: the law of supply and demand. This entails assumptions about labour in Roman Italy that need to be clarified at some length. It will become clear that the economic definition of a labour market should be expanded to an integrated approach of the social and cultural backgrounds of the society under scrutiny. Such an approach serves to highlight factors producing market imperfection and segmentation.

The way the urban labour market functioned is determined by structural factors in society of a social, cultural, economic and/or legal nature. In line with the basic tenets of New Institutional Economics, it is now commonly recognized among Roman economic historians that institutions are crucial determinants of how economies function. Roman labour and labourers did not exist in isolation. It is my contention that the position of an individual Roman in the labour market was decided largely by his or her position within (predominantly) social institutions. It will be argued that the most important of these institutions was the family. Family of birth largely determined future economic opportunity, expectations of marriage and childbirth were important in negotiating the position of women, and so on. Non-familial collectives, however, should also be factored in and were probably particularly influential for those (temporarily) not surrounded by their family, such as migrants, or widows.

The structure of this book is based on the importance of institutions for understanding the urban labour market. Having established first that Roman Italy did indeed have a functioning urban labour market, the focus of my attention shifts to structural determinants of its performance.¹³ Centre stage is reserved for two chapters on the social institution of the Roman family, in its various shapes and sizes. The division of the Roman family into two chapters is prompted by a fundamental difference between small-scale families on the one hand, and elite households on the other, in terms of their demographic make-up as well as their motivation for participation in the labour market. It is hoped that this binary classification can do some justice to that specificity.

The next chapter considers non-familial labour relations. The obvious example is the much-debated professional *collegium*. However, recent scholarship has made an important leap forward by placing the professional *collegia* within the context of private voluntary associations more generally.¹⁴ It is clear that here, too, the social and economic functions of associations were seamlessly connected. An analysis of what I have termed 'the economics of association', then, will highlight the role played by voluntary associations. Social ties and trust networks beyond the family must have been crucial in a society where much hinged on personal security and *fides*, something that was perhaps even more difficult to come by within an urban context than in the countryside.

13 Cf the volume edited by Laes and Verboven (2017).

14 E.g. the papers in Wilson (1996).

In the concluding chapter the argument is brought together and some of the implications drawn out. Roman labour did not exist in a historical vacuum: the contribution of the Roman case in the context of global labour history should be explicitly addressed. The global perspective may serve to highlight the particularities of Roman labour relations. The discussion of Roman labour relations, conversely, may help us to perceive the merits and deficiencies of existing models aiming at universality.

Method

The use of theory, models and comparison has become increasingly common in ancient history since the pioneering works of, among others, Moses Finley and Keith Hopkins, and needs no justification. Much progress in ancient history has been achieved through ever increasing engagement with other fields of research to develop new theories and models, particularly during the last one or two decades. Very few students currently working in the field of Roman socio-economic history have refrained from the application of economic concepts of, for example, transaction costs or social network theories. It seems that the editors of the *Cambridge Economic History of the Greco-Roman World* were not wasting their breath, when in 2007 they urged the ancient historian to continue “engagements with the social sciences” and “to pursue comparative analyses”.¹⁵

The current investigation thus conforms to a wider trend in ancient history. It takes its cue mainly from New Institutional Economics (NIE). The subject calls for a more multifaceted approach, however, and I will frequently resort to insights drawn from other socio-economic theories, from simple price theory of supply and demand, to human capital theory and family economics. Many of these theories were developed for the early modern or modern period, opening up various lines of comparison. There may be those who object to this methodological eclecticism. However, the merits of multiple models and comparanda far outweigh the deficits of in-depth knowledge of each. They are introduced mostly to develop models and hypotheses, or to illustrate the inherent (im-) plausibility of explanations offered. A full comparison is often unnecessary and beside the point. The same goes for applying only one theory in a rigid way.

The range of topics dealt with in this book in consequence is much wider than labour or the labour market, and includes the Roman family, associations, demography, price theory, slavery and more. It is my belief that Roman labour cannot be understood without taking into account such structural factors in Roman society. Conversely, an understanding of the urban labour market in Roman Italy is significant to an understanding of the complex web of correlations that was Roman society. What is more, ancient historians' exploration of other fields of study should ideally take place along a two-way street. The particularities of Rome have a contribution to make to the larger picture.

15 Morris, Saller and Scheidel (2007) 7.

Setting boundaries

The chronological scope of the analysis is the early empire, starting from the reign of Octavian Augustus (31 BC–14 AD), up to and including the reign of the emperor Diocletian (284–305), who issued the important *Prices Edict*. That is a period of a little over three centuries. Emphasis is on the structural continuity of the empire as the background for this analysis of the working population of Roman Italy. That is not to deny the fact that political change, social conflict, demographic shocks such as epidemics, and resulting potential market fluctuations, occurred in this period. Think only of the many changes which took place during the crisis of the third century. But the impact of conflict or epidemic disease, as well as long-term trends in demography, are virtually impossible to trace through the scattered and fragmentary data for prices and wages, and inscriptions that are not often securely dated. It seems appropriate to choose a structural approach that incorporates the evidence for the whole period.

The period coincides with the time frame for which ancient sources are most abundant, including the inscriptions that form the most important body of evidence for this thesis. The so-called epigraphic habit peaked in the late first, early second century AD.¹⁶ And although the epigraphic habit continued under Constantine and his followers, the body of epitaphs became more and more Christianized and demonstrates a significant change in labour ethics, evident in Christian perceptions of the family and the labour participation of women.¹⁷ For this reason, Christian inscriptions and other Christian sources are not taken into account. Other evidence for the Roman period is similarly concentrated in the Principate.

This study concentrates on Roman Italy, the core region of the early Roman empire. A high urbanization rate and an unprecedented degree of sophistication of the urban network had consequences for the development and the nature of the Roman Italian labour market. The population of the imperial heartland was more dense than in the provinces, and the wealthy elite was disproportionately based there.¹⁸ Moreover, Roman Italy was where the exceptional city of Rome was located: the capital functioned as an engine generating economic opportunity throughout Roman Italy.¹⁹ Socio-political circumstances in the Roman empire were also conducive to economic prosperity. Under the first emperors a relatively stable government was established. The *Pax Augusta* was firmly in place, and the population of Roman Italy in particular benefited from Italy's

16 MacMullen (1982). Here, the epigraphic habit refers to the overall output of inscriptions, whereas in the following analysis local and regional variation will certainly be taken into account.

17 E.g. Pleket (1988) 275 on the Christian doctrine of the dignity of labor.

18 Scheidel (2007a) 47 with table 3.1 on page 48.

19 Cf Morley (1996).

exceptional position through exemptions from taxation. From the perspective of NIE, then, prospects were particularly good for the Italian part of the Roman economy.

Because the scope of this work is considerable and impinges on many other topics, it is important to signal the boundaries of its reach. My focus is specifically on the non-elite. The elite was a relatively closed segment of the population. The boundaries between the elite and the subelite were nevertheless permeable. The elite probably needed a continuous influx of newcomers to sustain itself, both in terms of numbers and in terms of wealth; freedmen may not have been allowed in, but their descendants were.²⁰ But the resulting elite was engaged in a very distinct 'labour market', for magistracies, priest-hoods, and the like. The elite therefore features mainly on the sideline of this work, so to speak, as employers, investors, and specifically as heads of household. Much that will be said about elite *domus* holds true as well for that one very particular household, the *familia Caesaris*. But as the imperial household grew into the bureaucracy of an empire, the specific nature of the *familia Caesaris* deserves the more detailed separate treatment that it has received elsewhere.²¹

Most Romans were engaged in agriculture and, to a lesser extent, the exploitation of other natural resources: Roman society had an organic economy.²² Scheidel's educated guess is that "there is no good reason to believe that more than one person in eight would have been permanently or predominantly engaged in non-agrarian labour".²³ Hence, it could easily be argued that a focus on the urban labour market largely ignores the majority of the population, but this is not strictly speaking true. Roman Italian cities survived on the products from the land that surrounded them. Some craftsmen lived in the countryside and some farmers lived in the city. Farmers sold their surplus in the urban market, and potentially hired extra labourers there for the harvest. Conversely, many city-dwellers must have been migrants from the countryside who moved to the city for seasonal labour, or who settled their more permanently. The distinction between the urban and rural population was not clear-cut.²⁴ But a focus on city dwellers in the context of labour is justified by the fact that labour differentiation as a rule takes place in an urban environment, and occupational inscriptions are largely from an urban context.

Work in the army, too, is a world apart that still awaits treatment in a full-length monograph: there were indeed those employed as artisans and craftsmen in the army,

20 Cf Tacoma (2006) on the Roman Egyptian elite. Much of the discussion is also relevant for Roman Italy; Broekaert (2012) 58-60 on elite and intermarriage with wealthy merchants.

21 Chantraine (1967); Weaver (1972); Boulvert (1974); Schumacher (2001); see now also the dissertation of Penner (2013) on imperial households.

22 This includes mining, and could include glass works, potteries and brickmaking.

23 Scheidel (2007a) 80, talking about the whole of Greco-Roman Antiquity.

24 Cf De Ligt (1991).

travelling or stationed with the legions.²⁵ Most of them are not part of this discussion for obvious reasons. Occasionally, the army men do feature in this book – but only insofar as they returned home safely and lived out their days in the cities of Roman Italy. Thus, a certain Lucius Artorius was a veteran of the *legio XIX* commemorated in Cesena in the early 2nd century when, judging from the motifs on his funerary relief, he had presumably become a butcher.²⁶

LABOR OMNIA VICIT IMPROBUS: CONCEPTUALIZING LABOUR AND WORK²⁷

There was much work and there were many workers in the ancient world but one clear, unequivocal concept, which abstractly and unequivocally denoted labor, was lacking.²⁸

Work, as we know it, is a modern invention.²⁹

Pleket and Gorz point to a fundamental difficulty in studying Roman labour. What are we studying when we study Roman work, or labour? To the Romans, there was not necessarily a concept of work, as opposed to leisure: the *cum dignitate otium* glorified by Cicero probably was not something the non-elite could really relate to.³⁰ The linguistic antonym of *otium*, *negotium*, does not actually mean ‘work’, but ‘business undertaking’.

25 To my knowledge Rink (1983); Strobel (1991) are the exceptions that briefly discuss the manual labourers in the army. See now also Herz (2017).

26 *CIL* 11. 348: *L(ucius) Artorius C(ai) f(ilius) mil(es) / veteran(us) leg(ionis) XIX / Artoria L(uci) l(iberta) Cleopatra / L(ucius) Artorius L(uci) l(ibertus) Licinus*; with Zimmer (1982) no. 8 who argues that the freedman L. Artorius Licinus was the butcher because of the placing of the butcher-motifs on the monument; the survival of a veteran of the fated *legio XIX* that was almost completely lost at the Battle of the Teutoburg Forest in 9 AD incites questions about the dating of this inscription in the 120's, since the number XIX was never again used for any Roman legion.

27 Verg. *Georg.* I. 145–6, “Toil triumphed over every obstacle, unrelenting Toil”, translation H. Rushton Fairclough, rev. G.P. Gould (Loeb Classical Library 1999).

28 Pleket (1988) 268–9.

29 Gorz (1989) 14. Cf also Von Reden, *Brill's New Pauly* (first appeared online 2006), s.v. ‘Unemployment’: “Unemployment was not an economic problem in Antiquity, because concepts such as full employment and working population did not exist”. For a good attempt to tackle the issue of unemployment in Antiquity, Pleket (1988) 271–5.

30 Cic. *Sest.* 98. Cf in this context the useful conceptual difference made by Van der Linden (2011) 27–8: there must have been times of ‘non-work’, “recovery from work through, for instance, relaxation or sleeping”, but probably less time reserved for leisure, or ‘anti-work’, “all playful activities that cost a lot of energy but are not meant to produce useful objects or services” – in other words: *otium*.

The citation from Gorz underlines the fact that the historian's understanding of what 'work' is, differs over time.

"Obviously, labour history is about labour", Van der Linden and Lucassen write in their programmatic paper, *Prolegomena for a global labour history*.³¹ But that does not necessarily make it clear what labour is. Is labour the same thing as work? If not, what is work? In common parlance, both labour and work can refer to any variety of activities; in scholarly analysis, they are often used more specifically. Thus, labour history has long focused on labour in a relatively restricted sense, specifically referring to wage-labour in the context of early capitalism.³² By contrast, the concept of work appears to be a relatively recent one, that addresses the limitations of the earlier use of 'labour'. Ancient history cannot yet rely on a clear labour/work terminology, and a clear definition of both concepts is urgently called for.³³

This thesis studies Roman labour in a very specific sense, that is according to the definition of labour in the *Oxford English Dictionary*:

Work (esp. physical work) considered as a resource or commodity, typically when necessary to supply the needs of the community or for the execution of a particular task; the contribution of the worker to production.³⁴

Labour in the sense of "work (...) considered as a resource or commodity" has a Marxist ring to it, which in the formulation of the *OED* is probably a reflection of the current Western capitalist interpretation. Its history suggests a distinct difference between the commodification of work, and the commodification of workers, however, which would effectively exclude slave labour from the definition. Since slave labour is explicitly meant to be included in this analysis, commodified labour should be taken to encompass labourers as a commodity throughout.

"Work (...) considered as a resource or commodity", presumably means that it is a money-making engagement, where in case of a dependent labourer the money may also be made by someone else. Latin *labor* carries the same connotations as its derivatives labour, Italian *lavoro*, Spanish *labor*, etcetera, associating it with (physical) pain or hardship.³⁵

31 Van der Linden and Lucassen (1999) 8.

32 See concluding chapter.

33 For another attempt: Verboven (2017a).

34 *OED online* (accessed 26-10-2016), 'Labour', s.v. 10a.

35 *OED online* (accessed 26-10-2016), 'Labour', s.v 1 and esp. 2a: "Bodily or mental exertion particularly when difficult, painful, or compulsory; (hard) work; toil; esp. physical toil". Hofmeester and Moll-Murata (2011) 15 note the ambiguity in early modern vocabulary.

The efforts of labour, specifically hard work and manual labour may also be indicated by *opus*; it is no coincidence that condemnation to hard labour, is *damnatio ad opus*. *Operae*, conversely, indicates service and implies choice.³⁶ *Operae* is also the legal term for the requirement that manumitted slaves had to provide a certain amount of labour for their former masters in return for their freedom.

Work as a concept appears to be broader than labour, referring to a wide range of actions inclusive of labour.³⁷ Greek *ergon/ergazesthai* appears to cover a similar width.³⁸ Labour historians broadly adhere to the definition of work drawn up by the sociologists Chris and Charles Tilly.³⁹

Work includes any human effort adding use value to goods and services. However much their performers may enjoy or loathe the effort, conversation, song, decoration, pornography, table-setting, gardening, house-cleaning, and repair of broken toys, all involve work to the extent that they increase satisfactions their consumers gain from them. Prior to the twentieth century, a vast majority of the world's workers performed the bulk of their work in other settings than the salaried jobs as we know them today. Even today, over the world as a whole, most work takes place outside of regular jobs.⁴⁰

Their definition is important for two reasons: first, Tilly and Tilly correctly emphasize the importance of non-wage labour in many historical societies. The Roman Empire is no exception to that. Wage-labour may not have been as marginal as it is sometimes thought to have been, but Rome was a slave society, and the existence of a large number of slaves and ex-slaves alone significantly complicated the makeup of the labour market.⁴¹ A highly inclusive definition of work like this is therefore necessary in order to do justice to the complexity and diversity of Roman labour relations, encompassing unfree and free labour, dependent and independent labour, as well as the regularly unremunerated economic contribution of women, and children.⁴² Moreover, the definition of Tilly and Tilly is the one that labour historians embarking on the path of global labour history

36 Lewis and Short (ed. 1958), s.v. *opera*, write "opus is used mostly of the mechanical activity of work, as that of animals, slaves, and soldiers; operae supposes a free will and desire to serve".

37 *OED online* (accessed 26-10-2016), 'work', for work being inclusive of labour, s.v. 4 and 5.

38 Pleket (1988) 268.

39 E.g., Van der Linden and Lucassen (1999), Hofmeester and Moll-Murata (2011), and in ancient history also by Verboven (2017a) 4-6.

40 Tilly and Tilly (1998) 22.

41 On the marginality of free hired labour, famously: Finley (1998²) 68, 127, 136.

42 The economic value of unremunerated labour had been stressed earlier by feminist scholars; see the influential work of Tilly and Scott (1974).

seem to adhere to.⁴³ Opting for the same definition thus opens up enormous potential for comparison.

In sum, whereas ‘work’ indicates the recent broadening of scope in the scholarly field, the term ‘labour’ acknowledges a debt to neo-classical and Marxist labour history. There is a fertile tradition of labour history to build on, and a wealth of comparative material. That said, it is important to acknowledge a fundamental difference in the meaning of labour and work that is conceptually useful, where labour is a ‘money-making engagement’ and work is “any human effort adding value”. This thesis is about Roman labour, but in the context of Roman work.

THE DISCOURSE ON WORK: THE ROMAN ELITE

Most of the ancient evidence was written by and for men from the elite. This is hardly a new observation, nor is it unique to the Roman empire:

Elite discourses are dominated by members of the elites and by intellectuals. In all the periods under consideration, members of the subordinate classes, and particularly wage dependents and manual workers, participate rather indirectly, as objects, in discourses on work. Very seldom do they appear in the sources as active speakers. The great exception, however, is made up of people of the ‘middling sort’ such as merchants and artisans, who based their identities, self-esteem, and political demands upon their work.⁴⁴

The study of work through literary sources and legal texts, explicitly became a study of ‘attitudes towards work’, rather than ‘work’.⁴⁵ Roman labour was conceptualized mainly through the eyes of those who derived status from the fact that they did not have to work: the Roman elite.

One famous passage that is repeatedly invoked in this context, is Cicero’s *De Officiis* 1.150–1.⁴⁶ In this passage, Cicero distinguishes between trades and employments that are becoming to a gentleman (*liberalis*) on the one hand, and those that are not-so-becoming (*illiberales*) and lowly (*sordidae*) on the other. A list of the latter follows,

43 E.g., Van der Linden and Lucassen (1999) 8; Lucassen (2008²) 45; Hofmeester and Moll-Murata (2011) 6.

44 Ehmer (2014) 112, with reference to Lis and Soly (2012).

45 See for example the diachronic studies of Lis and Soly (2012); Lis and Ehmer (2009); Van den Hoven (1996); Applebaum (1992).

46 Apart from the aforementioned works (n. 45), also in e.g. Dixon (2001c) 113 ff, Joshel (1992) 66–7, Kampen (1981) 114–5, Treggiari (1980), Finley (1973²) 41–57.

including such jobs “which incur ill-will” (like tax collectors), and all wage-workers, “for in their case their very wages are the warrant of their slavery”. There is, says Cicero, some merit in the more skilled jobs, particularly those that benefit society “such as medicine or architecture or teaching – they are respectable for those whose status they befit”.⁴⁷ Ultimately, however, Cicero advocates that agriculture (in the sense of landholding) is the only fitting source of income.

This is just one source, of course, but the reason for its frequent appearance in discussions of the subject is that “Cicero the moralist has proved not a bad guide to prevailing values”.⁴⁸ The Roman elite looked down on those who had to work for a living. A very similar attitude regularly prevailed among the higher classes at least up until the Industrial Revolution and even after, when manual labour was still held in relative contempt compared to landholding.⁴⁹ For the majority of the population, however, it would be a luxury to engage in philosophical reflections about work or non-work: work to them was a necessity, a simple fact of life. Elite disdain towards the working population would make no-one give up their occupation. There is one thing that a strong elite ideology potentially could have done, however: it may have changed the way that individuals arranged to be remembered.

THE DIGNITY OF WORK: THE NON-ELITE

[J]ob titles, in contrast to jobs, exist because (...) men and women actually called themselves foot servants, financial agents, silversmiths, and jewelers.⁵⁰

The literary sources appear to show a rather coherent picture that does not take very kindly to work and labourers. It is now realized that this ideology, however, does not match well with the way the labourers themselves refer to their work. De Robertis already pointed to the significant difference of opinion between what he called *l'ambiente volgare*, that is views toward labour among popular ranks, and *l'ambiente aulico*, or attitudes from within the elite milieu.⁵¹

47 Cic. *Off.* 1. 150: *Qui in odia hominum incurrunt (...); est enim in illis ipsa merces auctoramentum servitutis*; 1.151: *ut medicina, ut architectura, ut doctrina rerum honestarum, eae sunt iis, quorum ordini convenient, honestae*. Translation Finley (1973²) 41–2.

48 Finley (1973²) 57.

49 For preindustrial Europe, see most extensively Lis and Soly (2012). A substantial section of this impressive volume is devoted to the attitudes towards work and workers in Greek and Roman Antiquity.

50 Joshel (1992) 71.

51 De Robertis (1963) 21–97.

Occupational inscriptions

The voice of the non-elite is not lost entirely. The members of the working population themselves occasionally disclose both occupation and their opinion of it to the historian, in the documentary texts on papyrus that survive from Roman Egypt, for example, that include detailed letters, and contracts.⁵² From Roman Italy, however, occupations are known mainly through inscriptions. An occupational title is recorded on the epitaph of between two and three thousand Romans from Italy; around a hundred of them had tools of the trade or scenes from work depicted on their funerary monuments. Professional associations professed their shared occupation publicly through their very name, adding roughly two hundred inscriptions. The occupational inscriptions and reliefs form the most important body of evidence for the current investigation.

My understanding of occupational inscriptions includes epigraphic texts with an indication of employment or job-title, including individual job indicators such as ‘spinning woman’, or ‘two brother carpenters’, as well as inscriptions set up by a collective like the ‘association of bargemen’.⁵³ Not included are the *instrumentum domesticum*, that is any writing on artefacts (a great many signatures and/or stamps), and *inscriptiones parietariae*, that is wall-inscriptions or graffiti – the second type is de facto limited to Pompeii and Herculaneum.⁵⁴ These two types of sources are of a fundamentally different nature than the other inscriptions with job-title, and on top of that are often fragmentary and offer very little information on the labourers themselves.

It must be presumed that on a tombstone, occupation was recorded as a result of a conscious choice of the deceased (for a funerary monument constructed *se vivo*), or their heirs: a slab of marble can only contain so much text, so the decision what to record becomes highly significant. Epitaphs are set up at a very particular time: at death. Their importance transcends death, however. Remembering the life of the deceased, with the active participation of the living, these texts are highly informative about life in Roman society. An occupational title predictably is added most for the dedicatee, but not uncommonly for the dedicator as well, and occasionally only for the dedicator. To many artisans, to *collegiati*, and others, work ostensibly was a source of pride and an important part of their identity.⁵⁵ The well-known monument of the baker Eurysaces in Rome traces back his wealth to his occupation in every detail: in the inscription that is rephrased similarly on all four sides, on the elaborate relief like a frieze that runs along

52 E.g. Gibbs (2011), Van Minnen (1987).

53 *Quasillaria*, e.g. *CIL* 6. 6339; *duo fratres fabri tignuarii*, *CIL* 6. 9411; *collegium naviculariorum*, *CIL* 6. 1740.

54 *Instrumentum domesticum*, collected in *CIL* volume 15, and see most elaborately the papers collected in Harris ed. (1993); the *inscriptiones parietariae* are collected in *CIL* volume 4.

55 Joshel (1992) *passim*.

the top, and perhaps even in the shape of the actual monument.⁵⁶ And not just the ostentatiously successful, like Eurysaces, felt that work was significant enough to record. There are examples of slave, freed and freeborn workers, men, women and children, and each category is attested on humble as well as lavish monuments. It is difficult to tell from a job-title alone who would be able to afford an inscription, or what their work meant in terms of social status and identity; even an *alipilus*, a 'plucker of armpit hair', was able to set up quite a sizeable tomb and dedicate it to his wife and to an unknown number of freedmen.⁵⁷

What one does for a living has become one of the main features of identification in the present day. Roman job-titles are evocative and often have a familiar ring to them. It seems to me that this has invoked a certain feeling of identification with these 'ordinary' Romans among many historians.⁵⁸ Partly for that reason, perhaps, there has been no lack of scholarly attention for the occupational inscriptions, especially considering the fact that occupational indicators are found in merely a small minority of all inscriptions. A percentage is difficult to provide because I will not hazard a guess as to how many inscriptions from Roman Italy have come down to us altogether. Despite that, it seems

56 Petersen (2003); cf George (2006) 23-4 for the exceptional nature of this "blatant celebration of work", but with p. 24 for the fact that through its scale the monument also conforms to elite views: "The frieze does not memorialize Eurysaces' own work as much as his authority over the work of others".

57 *CIL* 6. 9141. There is a 'job-description' of the *alipilus* by Seneca, that does not suggest that it was a very respectable occupation: *Sen. Ep.* 56.2, "*alipilum cogita tenuem et stridulam vocem, quo sit notabilior, subinde exprimentem nec umquam tacentem, nisi dum vellit alas et alium pro se clamare cogit*" – "Think of the hair plucker with his thin, creaking voice, constantly squealing to be more noticeable and never quiet, except when he plucks armpits and forces another to scream for him".

58 Compare the title of León (2007) written for a general audience: *Working IX to V* (who actually emphasises the more 'exotic' nature of Greco-Roman occupations for comic effect).

clear that the occupational inscriptions would probably come to well below five per cent.⁵⁹

Job-title is thus seen as a significant distinctive feature in inscriptions by the ancients, but also by historians of the ancient world. This is apparent, for example, in large corpora of inscriptions, that generally include a sub-header for occupational inscriptions.⁶⁰ Occupation was also singled out as one of the criteria for the subject-based collection of Hermann Dessau.⁶¹ This longstanding awareness of occupations mentioned in ancient sources greatly facilitates research. However, the inclusion or exclusion of a text in a corpus or under a sub-header depends entirely on the editors' choice, and on their understanding of work. As we will see, the same is true of the selection criteria used for epigraphic investigations into labour and labourers specifically. The fact that this relatively small sub-set of epigraphic evidence tends to be highlighted, may also have distorted historians' understanding of how much we actually know about labour in the Roman empire.

In the last decades of the previous century, the occupational inscriptions became a point of interest in and of themselves. A series of pioneering articles by Susan Treggiari carefully analyzes and contextualizes occupational inscriptions from Rome. Treggiari raises many important questions in her considerations of Roman labourers, and of particular groups among them, such as elite households and especially female workers.⁶² Astrid Händel employs the epigraphic evidence for preliminary observations about trade and wholesalers in Rome.⁶³ The fullest exploration to date of the occupational

59 If around half of the ca 2,500 occupational inscriptions come from Rome, a very rough calculation for that city would come to $1,250/60,000 = 2.1$ per cent. 60,000 is based on the estimate in Tacoma and Tybout (2016) 358 n. 46. Cf Eck (1998) 32: "Von den rund 35000 funerären Texten, die in *CIL* VI publiziert sind, geben nur rund 5000 einen genaueren Hinweis auf die soziale Stellung. Doch höchstens rund 1300 von ihnen beziehen sich auf 'normale' Berufe (...)" – that would be 3.7 per cent; Sigismund-Nielsen (2006) 206 for a reassuring finding of 4 per cent in *CIL* 6 (with table 7 on page 211). Her 'random sample' of *CIL* 6 is very problematic, however. Contrast e.g. her finding of 1 per cent with occupational title in the monument of the Statilii with the thorough study of Borbonus (2014) 128 table 9, who finds no less than 28.8 per cent for that columbarium; Huttunen (1974) 48 finally, talks about 9.5 per cent of dedicatees or 4.4 per cent of dedicators. His estimates should in my view be discarded entirely, however, because he works with a radically different understanding of what 'occupation' means, explicitly including senatorial or equestrian status among the occupational indicators for example (p. 47).

60 E.g. *CIL: Apparitores et officiales (magistratum, imperatoris, vectigalium); Artes et officia privata.*

61 *Inscriptiones Latinae Selectae* (ILS) (1892).

62 Treggiari (1973); (1975a); (1975b); (1976); (1979a); (1979b); (1980); cf also the insightful chapter on written sources on working women in Kampen (1981) 107-29.

63 Händel (1983). Unfortunately I have not been able to locate the "entstehenden Dissertation, die über die hier vorgelegte Inschriftenanalyse hinaus weitergehende Untersuchungen zum Gegenstand hat", mentioned on p. 90, but see also Händel (1985).

inscriptions is a monograph by Sandra Joshel called *Work, identity, and legal status at Rome*.⁶⁴ She analyzes occupational inscriptions set up by or for individuals from the city of Rome. Joshel's book characterizes the various groups who recorded or were commemorated with occupational title, and sheds light on the motivations to do so. Rather than an investigation into the Roman workforce, this work is all about the inscriptions, and it has become an essential guide to a full understanding of the material.

Since Joshel's book, there have been others who focused on occupational inscriptions in other geographical areas. A thick description of the occupational epigraphy from Picenum was published by Alessandro Cristofori.⁶⁵ Outside of the Italian Peninsula, F.P. Rizzo devoted a book to the occupational epigraphy of Sicily.⁶⁶ These works both offer an interpretive framework, but the scarcity of the material makes it difficult to go beyond general observations on labour and the economy, and even their more general observations must therefore remain mostly conjectural. The value of these undertakings lies in Rizzo's and particularly Cristofori's painstaking collection and thorough commentary of the individual inscriptions. Beyond the scope of my research, but very interesting and useful material for comparison, is the work of Frézouls on Gallia and Germania.⁶⁷ The importance of the observations of Onno van Nijf in his monograph on professional organisations in the Roman East, exceeds both professional organisations and the Roman East: especially his finding of a chronological development in the recording of occupation in epitaphs is valuable, though I have not been able to detect a similar trend for Roman Italy.⁶⁸ Epigraphic sources regarding *collegia* have been collected in the extensive work of Waltzing, supplemented by Menella and Apicella.⁶⁹ Waltzing remains the starting point for sources on the *collegia*, though his careful interpretative volumes have long been superseded by a rich scholarly tradition on associations.

Some Roman labourers have attracted more attention than others, which must in part be due to the fact that they are the most common in the epigraphic record. Thus, the ambitious *Wirtschaftliche Untersuchungen* of Gummerus have resulted in two meticulous epigraphic analyses of doctors, and the more general group of jewellers/metalworkers.⁷⁰ Well-documented and well-studied occupations for women are those in the medical

64 Joshel (1992).

65 Cristofori (2004).

66 Rizzo (1993), to be consulted with the critical review of Clauss (1994) in mind.

67 Frézouls (1991); on the city of Narbonne specifically see Bonsangue (2002); cf also Tate (1991) for Syria.

68 Van Nijf (1997) 40–2; on p. 42 he does suggest regional differences in trends.

69 Waltzing (1895–1900) 4 vols; Menella and Apicella (2000).

70 Gummerus, *Wirtschaftliche Untersuchungen* I, II (1915), and III (1918); Medical occupations: idem (1932) with additional material in Rowland (1977). For doctors, see also the archaeological approach of Jackson (2005).

sector, with special attention for midwives and – not strictly medical – wet-nurses.⁷¹ The epigraphic record plays a large part in all of these studies. Other scholars have focused not so much on occupation, but on a particular find-spot of the inscriptions. The columbarium tombs from Rome and the individual households included among them are relatively easy to demarcate, which is probably why they have received ample scholarly attention.⁷² Similarly, the epitaphs from the Isola Sacra necropolis are now readily accessible in a detailed and well-organized monograph.⁷³

The main dataset used in this study is a catalogue of job titles in Latin, derived chiefly from lists provided by Joshel, Treggiari and Von Petrikovits.⁷⁴ Their catalogues proved to be complementary, presumably because they had a different workforce in mind. Joshel lists the occupations that are attested for individual Romans in the city of Rome.⁷⁵ Treggiari talks about a more specific, but not clearly delineated group of *opifices* (craftsmen) and *tabernarii* (shopkeepers).⁷⁶ Von Petrikovits, finally, seems to have aimed simply to be as inclusive as possible, listing everything that might be considered a job. Compiling a new catalogue of my own, I occasionally excluded a title from the list that to my mind is not securely attested in epigraphy or other sources from the period under scrutiny.⁷⁷ The resulting catalogue was then expanded by adding occupations discovered in epigraphic, literary and legal sources. This has resulted in a list of 564 job-titles. I hasten to add, however, that the exact number is elusive: some job-titles refer to the same or very similar jobs and usage may have changed over time.⁷⁸

The spectrum of occupations ranges from the humble (such as a litter-bearer, *lecticarius*) to the more privileged (gem engraver, *gemmarius sculptor*). Even legal infamy was no reason not to be proud of an occupation: a number of male and female entertain-

71 Laes (2011b) and (2010) with catalogue; Sparreboom (MPhil-thesis 2009); Flemming (2000); Joshel (1986).

72 Among others, Borbonus (2014), Hasegawa (2005), Caldelli and Ricci (1999). See chapter 4.

73 Helttula et al. (2007).

74 See appendix 1. Joshel (1992) 176–82; Von Petrikovits (1981) 83–119; Treggiari (1980) 61–4.

75 Joshel (1992) 176: “only the titles borne by named individuals”.

76 Treggiari (1980) 48: “The area of employment to be discussed is roughly that condemned by Greco-Roman philosophers”.

77 Such as *carnarius* (butcher), only attested in Greek in papyri; *clusor* with no references and Von Petrikovits (1981) 192 “fraglich, ob ein Handwerker”; *paracharactes* CTh. 9. 21. 9 – ‘forger’, which is not in my view a job-title; or *tomacularius*, supposedly a Bratwurst-dealer, with Von Petrikovits (1981) 117, only reference to Not. Tir. 103, 80 “(hier irrig *tomatularius*)”.

78 The catalogue also includes a number of decisions on my part: for example, the hapax *anellarius* was included as a variant of the more common *anularius* (ring-maker), for example, but *vestifex* is a separate entry from *vestificus* because of the evident variation in job-titles for ‘tailors’; Gummerus (1932) identifies some chronological changes in usage for medical job-titles; more generally, Neumann (1981) and Händel (1985) 501.

ers comes up in the sources, and there is also a *lanista* (trainer/owner of gladiators).⁷⁹ Some wage-earning engagements apparently inspired more pride than others and are far more commonly attested, as indicated for doctors and wet-nurses above. Various merchants and tradesmen (*mercatores* and *negotiatores/negotiantes*) are also common.

Some members of the working population of Roman Italy used Greek on their tombstone, not Latin. To my knowledge Greek epitaphs from Roman Italy have not systematically been taken into account by any of the previous studies into Roman labour. The necessary tools are available: there is a catalogue of occupational titles in Greek, albeit compiled for Roman Egypt, and *IGUR* and *IG* include in their indices headers for *artes et officia privata*.⁸⁰ There are various forms of cultural interaction attested. From the Isola Sacra necropolis, for example, comes a beautifully carved inscription set up by Q. Marcios Dem(etrios), *archiatros* – a high-ranking doctor (*figure 1.1*).⁸¹



Ἰουλίᾳ Πρ[όκλα] / Τ· Μουνατίω· Πρ[όκλω] / Μουνατίᾳ· Ἐ[3] / Κ· Μάρκιος· Δη[μήτριος] / ἀρχίατρος [

To Julia Procla, to Titus Munatius Proclus, [and] to Munatia E(...). Quintus Marcius Demetrius, physician, [set up this monument]

79 *Lanista*: *CIL* 6. 10200. Legal infamy and profession: Edwards (1997).

80 Catalogue for Roman Egypt: Drexhage (2004) ; cf Ruffing (2008) vol. 2.

81 *SEG* 13, 473 = *IPO* A 158 = *ISIS* 149; photo from Helttula et al. (2007).

The inscription is written in latinized Greek, by and for people with Latin or latinized names.⁸²

Access to online databases for most of the ancient sources, including inscriptions, papyri and the entire corpus of known Latin and Greek literary and documentary texts, makes it relatively easy to locate and access the sources for a particular occupation once a job-title is known. The *index vocabulorum* to *CIL* 6 is also an incredibly valuable tool, since most of the sources come from the capital. Identification of the occupations is not straightforward, however, and it is here that my catalogue of job-titles should be helpful.

Inscriptions are not without biases. It is well known that the inscription-erecting population was not a direct reflection of the Roman population: men receive commemoration more often than women, and the young are overrepresented, to name but a few characteristics.⁸³ There is local and cultural variation in epigraphic habit.⁸⁴ Occupational inscriptions come with a number of additional biases. It should be stressed once more that only a very small minority of epitaphs records an occupation at all (see above). That could theoretically be the result of a general negative view of labour and labourers in Roman society, as encountered in the elite discourse. Monuments inscribed with a job-title or with an ornamental representation of work, however, would seem to emphasize pride in, and identification with, a job.⁸⁵ It is hard to believe that the elaborate funerary altar of the blacksmiths Lucius Cornelius Atimetus and his freedman Lucius Cornelius Epaphra, for example, represents anything but self-respect – it is a large monument with tools, a vending scene, and a work scene within the smithy on the sides.⁸⁶ Nor do I support the view that the small numbers of occupational inscriptions might be due to the fact that entrepreneurs or supervisors of a business in particular are commemorated with job-title, to the exclusion of their employees.⁸⁷ Whereas it is true that the occupation of the head of household is more likely to be mentioned, there are many inscriptions for dependent labourers including those within the family (wives or children), and

82 Compare *IPO* A 184 = *ISIS* 157 (*D(is) M(anibus) / T(ito) Munatio T(iti) f(ilio) Proclo / Quir(ina) Iuliano / fec(it) Iulia Ti(beri) f(ilia) Procla / m(ater) f(ilio) p(iissimo?) vix(it) ann(os) VI die(s) XIII*) and the sarcophagus with inscription *IPO* A 185 = *ISIS* 158: *T(ito) Munat(io) / T(iti) f(ilio) Proclo* – both in Latin, clearly related because both mention Titus Munatius Proclus (Iulianus), son of Titus, and *IPO* A 184 also refers to Julia Procla.

83 Hopkins (1966), (1987); this difference is particularly marked in Rome, cf Garnsey and De Ligt (2016) 93 with references.

84 Hemelrijk (2015) 30–1 with references for a concise, nuanced update on MacMullen (1982) and the concept of epigraphic density.

85 Joshel (1992) 163 and throughout.

86 *CIL* 6. 16166 (Rome 1st c. AD), now in the Galleria Lapidaria of the Vatican Museums: *L(ucius) Cornelius / Atimetus / sibi et L(ucio) Cornelio / Epaphrae lib(erto) / bene merenti / ceterisque libertis / lib(ertabus) posterisque / eorum*.

87 Tran (2007b) 124–5.

the extended household (freedmen, *colliberti*, slaves): the monument of Atimetus and Epaphra belongs in that category, too.

In my view, the most logical explanation would be a general preference among the majority of the inscription-erecting population to record familial ties before anything else. Particularly women were generally commemorated in a familial context, in accordance with Roman ideals: If women were unlikely to put up or receive inscriptions, this phenomenon becomes even more pronounced for inscriptions with job-title.⁸⁸ Slaves and ex-slaves, conversely, may not have had family to commemorate or to be commemorated by, which helps to explain that they are the ones most likely to have an occupational title in the epigraphic record.

The amount of epigraphic sources is impressive, but that should not obscure the fact that their interpretation is not always straightforward. The epitaphs are often brief and offer little or no context, and it is not always clear whether an occupational indicator is meant to be a job-title, or a cognomen.⁸⁹ Fortunately, more often an occupational title is unquestionably an occupational title. But then it is not always clear what the job entailed. Was a *margaritarius* a dealer in pearls, or a pearl-setter? Or was he both, selling his own wares in his home-shop *taberna*? What exactly did an *aquarius* do with water?⁹⁰ Context matters.

With certain occupations missing from the record, with other jobs under- or over-represented, and with such a low percentage of 'workers' attested altogether, it is clearly not possible to equate the individuals in the occupational inscriptions with the working population. Most pieces of that puzzle are probably missing, though definite patterns can still be discerned. Other ancient sources, models and theories are necessary to decide whether these are patterns of commemoration, accidents of tradition, or reflections of reality.

Reliefs

There is no lack of interest from students of the Roman world, as well as from the general public, in figurative scenes of Romans at work on stone or frescos; the scenes of fulling from the walls of a fullery in Pompeii have been reproduced countless times, for exam-

88 Cf Groen-Vallinga (2013), and chapter 2. This pattern is most marked in the city of Rome.

89 Cf. Gummerus (1926).

90 Von Petrikovits (1981) 69: "Die auffallende Tatsache, dass schon seit Plautus im Lateinischen selten zwischen den Produzenten und Händlern einer Ware unterschieden wird, dürfte darauf zurückgehen, dass diese Unterscheidung oft auch in der Wirklichkeit nicht existierte". Cf Morel (1992) 232. Händel's brave attempt to identify jobs ending in *-tor* as executive employees and those in *-arius* as owners/wholesalers simply does not hold, think e.g. of the *aerarius* (coppersmith), or *albarius* (stucco worker), *brattarius* (gold leaf beater), and so on.

ple.⁹¹ Occupational reliefs, however, are considerably less numerous than occupational inscriptions. They signify a more expensive form of funerary commemoration, which goes a long way to explain their smaller numbers. Probably for the same reason, slaves are hardly ever commemorated on a monument with a relief, and that includes occupational reliefs. Freedmen predominate. It is interesting that the Gallic provinces are best represented in scholarly literature: occupational reliefs seem to have been part of the commemorative habit there more than anywhere else.⁹² The Italian heartland nevertheless brought forth many pictorial sources for work.

Zimmer's collection of *Römische Berufsdarstellungen* (1982) contains about one hundred funerary reliefs, shop signs, stones and frescos from Roman Italy portraying scenes from work, and monuments depicting tools. It is the only illustrated catalogue of this type of evidence to date that I know of, and as such remains invaluable.⁹³ Kampen also includes a catalogue of work-reliefs in her book on working women in Ostia, but her criteria are significantly different.⁹⁴ Her catalogue includes women from Italy and the provinces, and men only from Ostia. Kampen chose to include only scenes of work, not tools, but she does include the category of mythological illustrations of work, such as an image of Amores and Psychae with garlands. In my view, this category of mythological work is mainly that: mythological. The Amores and Psychae may hint at the occupation of garland-making, but it does not necessarily refer to the occupation of the deceased. Still her catalogue adds a number of reliefs not covered in the work of Zimmer. Neither collection can – or does – claim completeness.⁹⁵

It would be a laborious task to collect all occupational illustrations for Roman Italy, and it is my contention that doing so would not add much to my argument. Originally, however, inscription and relief were part of the same funerary monument, and they should be studied as such wherever possible. As often as not only one of the two remains. Whenever we are fortunate enough to find both preserved, profession as a rule

91 The fullery is VI. 8.20.

92 Larsson Lovén (2007); Langner (2001); Béal (2000); Chevallier (1997); also Rose (2007), particularly on Metz. George (2006) 28 suggests that the prevalence of the imagery of work in the north-western provinces was due to the fact that the elite ideology, which was after all developed in and extended out from Rome, carried less weight there.

93 Zimmer (1982) is more inclusive than Gummerus' pioneering study of 1913; Schulze (1998) offers a diachronic catalogue for all types of ancient images of child-minders (*nutrix* and *paedagogus*). The findings from the Roman period are small in number both in absolute and in relative terms.

94 Kampen (1981) 137–161; the catalogue does not contain many images, only for the few reliefs depicting working women. I hasten to add that this choice is quite sensible, considering the focus of her book.

95 The occasional relief is still being published, see e.g. Wilson and Schörle (2009) for a funerary relief with scenes from a bakery.

is not mentioned in the text, but is conveyed solely through the image – or vice versa. The earliest freedmen monument with explicit reference to work is the lavish tomb of the Gavii, depicting four life-size portrait busts of the family. Only in the inscription, added in uneven writing in the right-hand corner, as if it were an afterthought, is the text '*duo fratres fabrei tignuares*', two brothers, who were carpenters.⁹⁶ George tentatively suggested that the freedmen monuments show a swift development throughout the first century AD, from the modest monument of the Gavii, to increasing visibility of work in emblematic motives added to the stones, to vending scenes – that is, an honourable perspective on industry –, to the ostentatious pride shown on the monument of Atimetus and Epaphra.⁹⁷ In my view, the perceived 'evolution' must remain conjectural, because it relies on very precise dating based on stylistic rather than factual aspects, and they all fall within the broad first century AD. In epigraphy, however, dating is even more problematic. For these and other reasons it is a pity that inscription and monument are not consistently studied together; in spite of converging trends, iconography still is mostly the prerogative of art historians and archaeologists, whereas textual evidence tends to be reserved for historians and classicists. Bridging the gap is not easy, especially when dealing with large numbers of data.

Although digital humanities greatly facilitate the search for occupational inscriptions, the problem with an online database is that much information is lost in the process: a careful note from the editors of *CIL* that a sickle or a comb is depicted on the monument, for example, is as yet untraceable online. Pictures of the inscriptions and their monuments are thankfully becoming available in larger numbers, and this is a great help. But there is a long way to go before every single monument with an inscription can also be viewed. The images that are currently available, are not searchable; the photos accompanying inscriptions often lack quality, and regularly do not present a full view of all sides of a monument.

Literature, law, and material remains

There is other, more indirect evidence available as well. Glimpses of working life may be found in fragments from the satirists, like Martial 2.17 remarking on the practice of a *tonstrix* (barber) in the Subura:

96 *CIL* 6. 9411, Rome 40 BC, now in the S. Giovanni in Laterano, Chiostro; George (2006) 20-1 for dating and discussion of how this monument highlights socially conservative values (the family) rather than occupation, under the influence of elite views on labour; For occupation only on the relief, not in the text, e.g. the altar of Lucius Cornelius Atimetus and Epaphra above with *CIL* 6.16166; also *IPO* A 273-5, all three part of the same monument for a smith in the Isola Sacra necropolis, in this instance rather well documented: see D'Ambra (1988), Helttula e.a. (2007) nr 37-9.

97 George (2006).

Mart. Ep. 2.17

Tonstrix Suburae faucibus sedet primis,
 cruenta pendent qua flagella tortorum
 Argique Letum multus obsidet sutor:
 sed ista tonstrix, Ammiane, non tondet,
 non tondet, inquam. Quid igitur facit? Radit.

A female barber sits just at the entrance of the Subura, where the blood-stained scourges of the executioners hang, and many a cobbler faces the Potter's Field. But that female barber, Ammianus, does not crop you: she does not crop you, I say. What then, does she do? She skins you.⁹⁸

The text paints a rather vivid picture of a woman who has her business well in order, and incidentally tells us that in Martial's social universe at least one *tonstrix* worked in the Subura.⁹⁹ Similarly, a novelist like Apuleius brings to the stage more than one labourer as part of the lively décor to his story of Lucius the Ass.¹⁰⁰

Roman labour law or, to put it less anachronistically, the evidence from passages that refer to labour and labour relations in the Roman legal texts, is also an invaluable source. Law is at the heart of the influential monographs of Francesco De Robertis.¹⁰¹ Mima Maxey based her work on occupations of the lower classes in Roman society on attestations of job-titles in Justinian's *Digest*.¹⁰² The jurists provide a wealth of information about the possibilities for hiring labour or labourers, and about liability and enforcement. The position of slaves and freedmen in the economy, for example, is illuminated greatly by the knowledge that their position of dependence makes them particularly well-suited as agents for their masters.¹⁰³ The question always remains, however, to what extent written law can be equated with actual practice. Many labour agreements may have been mere verbal agreements, and one can wonder to what extent an unskilled labourer

98 Translation Delphi Classics 2013. The meaning of *radit* is crucial to the interpretation of the epigram; it is likely to be a pun on finances: one gets ripped off, cf the commentary of Williams (2004) 83.

99 There are four *tonstrices* in the occupational inscriptions, three from Rome: *CIL* 6. 941, 5865, and 9493 = 33809; one from Venafrum, *AE* (1999) 473.

100 Bradley (2012) is a wonderful collection of papers on the historical value of Apuleius' work.

101 De Robertis (1946) (1963).

102 Maxey (1938).

103 Garnauf (2009), De Ligt (1999), Aubert (1994), Kirschenbaum (1987).

could resort to (expensive) measures of contract enforcement. Nevertheless the legal framework is vital for an understanding of the economy more generally.¹⁰⁴

Apart from textual evidence, there is also a great wealth of archaeological data available, ranging from the remains of settlements and the location of industry and *tabernae* in the town plan, to artefacts, tools, stamps, and finished product. This material has led to a wealth of studies on technological aspects of the production processes that actually created the artefact,¹⁰⁵ on the organization of particular workshops like the pottery workshops at La Graufesenque, and on the patterns of trade that can be discerned in the distribution of finds. The building trade in particular, but also other trades have become the subject of intensive scholarship.¹⁰⁶ The details of individual crafts and trades, although valuable, are by and large left out of consideration in this thesis, as they would contribute little to the broader picture. In recent years, however, a renewed dialogue between historians of the Roman economy and archaeologists has opened the way to new and fruitful approaches of Roman labour and work in Roman Italy starting from the material remains.¹⁰⁷

URBANISATION

A focus on the urban labour market requires some discussion of urbanisation. What is urban and what is not? Up to a point, the choice of what counts as urban is based on the evidence: most inscriptions are commonly thought to originate in or near towns. This principle works both ways, however. If many inscriptions are found in one place, it will likely be termed 'urban'. To opt for the epigraphic approach, as is also the point of departure for this book, is to settle for an urban outlook. Occupational inscriptions thus cover mainly individuals who worked and/or died in the city. The implications of choosing an urban outlook are profound and deserve to be dealt with in some detail.

The urbanisation of Roman Italy is a much-debated topic. From a historical perspective, the urban landscape of Roman Italy was well developed.¹⁰⁸ From a contemporary perspective, too, Roman Italy was flourishing: Italy could boast a population that was

104 Terpstra (2008); Hawkins (forthcoming).

105 E.g. Strong and Brown (1976).

106 Building trade: Bernard (2017); DeLaine (1997); other trades, see e.g. the papers in Mac Mahon and Price (2005).

107 See Wilson and Flohr eds (2016); also the contributions of Bond, Flohr and Murphy in Laes and Verboven eds (2017); Flohr (2012), (2007).

108 Erdkamp (2012) is a useful introduction to the 'urbanism' of the urban economy. Patterson (2006); Jongman (1990) 43; cf De Vries (1984) for early modern Europe.

more dense than in the provinces, plus higher urbanisation rates and a greater concentration of urban settlements than anywhere else in the empire.¹⁰⁹

Overall urbanisation rates for Roman Italy have been estimated at 15–20 per cent, without taking into account the supercity of Rome, and its harbour city Ostia.¹¹⁰ Rome of the first century AD, with its 800,000 to one million inhabitants, was one of a kind: the city would not be surpassed by any other city in history until the rise of London around 1800.¹¹¹ The next city in line was Capua, which was significantly smaller with a population of between 40,000 and 50,000 people.¹¹² These are exceptions to the general pattern, however: there were only a few large towns in the Italian peninsula.¹¹³ The urban landscape can therefore be characterized by a great variation of settlements of medium and small sizes. Regional differentiation was probably significant as well: Campania was more urbanized than Picenum, for example.¹¹⁴ Apart from variation in settlement sizes, it is likely that there was also variation in their nature. While the economies of most cities seem to have been sustained by governmental or elite expenditure, entrepot trade or production of manufactured goods for export played an important part in at least some cities. The existence of an intricate road network unlocked at least the potential for urban integration and migration towards the cities.¹¹⁵

The diversity of the urban network is reflected in the sources: about half of the occupational inscriptions comes from Rome or Ostia, whereas the sizeable city of Hatria in Picenum only brought forth one.¹¹⁶ The number of occupational inscriptions is not always related to settlement size. Cities of roughly equal size sometimes also spawned rather different evidence for employment. It remains to be seen whether this is because of a distinctive nature of the towns, to variation in epigraphical patterns, or whether it is simply due to the accidents of survival.

109 Scheidel (2007a) 47 with table 3.1 on page 48. His map 3.2 on p. 76 shows the cities of the empire with greater clustering of cities in Roman Italy.

110 De Ligt (2012) chapter 5, esp. 213, 239–40.

111 Jongman (1990) 43.

112 De Ligt (2012) 236; Scheidel (2007a) 78.

113 De Ligt (2012) 235–8 with map 5.2 on page 237. Cf Erdkamp (2012) 244 without reference to De Ligt. See also Patterson (2006) 38–39 and Morley (1996) 182, both emphasising wide variation in urban population sizes. This was apparently still true for Italy in the late twentieth century, Garnsey (1998) 112–3.

114 De Ligt (2012) 231; this was predicted by Garnsey (1998) 113.

115 Laurence (1999).

116 *CIL* 9. 5018 from Hatria records a freeborn scribe (*scriba*). Cf Cristofori (2004). According to De Ligt (2012) 312 Hatria is one of two large towns in Picenum, but see De Ligt (2016) 55 for a correction of its estimated size from 45ha to 37ha, which makes it a ‘medium-sized’ settlement. The remaining large town is Asculum, which has 6 occupational inscriptions (to the list in Cristofori 2004 should be added *CIL* 9. 5189).

The urban population

The city's inhabitants were always changing; at any one time they could include tourists, merchants on a regular visit, farmers in for market, immigrants who were likely to die there and natives who still hoped to get out.¹¹⁷

This quote was written about Rome. Even so, the words probably hold true for other urban settlements to some extent, many of which were performing the role of market centre where goods and services were manufactured and/or exchanged. Reading such comments, it would appear that the urban population was a rather heterogeneous body.

An urbanisation rate of about 25 per cent and the existence of a number of sizeable cities in Roman Italy both imply a significant level of migration to towns. Urban migration theory dictates that cities need a continuous influx of migrants to keep up their population. One tier of the theory is known as urban graveyard theory, based on the fact that preindustrial cities were notoriously unhealthy places. For that reason preindustrial cities have often been portrayed as 'population sinks' in need of massive numbers of immigrants to keep up their dwindling population numbers. The second argument is thought to reinforce the first. It is based on migrant fertility, assuming that a lower marriage rate and therefore a lower fertility rate among migrants – who were mostly young males – must be postulated, leading to excess mortality rates and the need for yet more immigrants. It has convincingly been argued that urban migration theory was applicable to ancient Rome, and it can be presumed that this argument extends to the largest cities of Roman Italy.¹¹⁸ It may not necessarily hold for all, or even for most, of the cities in Roman Italy, however. Whereas there is no apparent population threshold for the migrant fertility problem to apply, some settlements may have been too small to actually become population sinks.¹¹⁹ If part of urban migration theory does not apply to all settlements in Roman Italy, however, that does not mean that there was no migration into towns. The promise of employment opportunities and better wages were a sure draw.

The subject of migration in the Roman world has experienced an upsurge of interest in the last decade or two.¹²⁰ The relationship between migration and labour is not

117 Morley (1996) 33.

118 Tacoma (2016), especially chapter 5; cf De Ligt (2013) 155; Holleran (2011) for migration into the city of Rome; Jongman (2003) 106.

119 Tacoma (2016) 247–253 for the applicability of urban migration theory to cities other than Rome; Hin (2016) for a nuanced view of migrant fertility; De Ligt (2012) 245–6; the threshold for population sinks is traditionally thought to be 10,000 people.

120 See e.g. the edited volumes by Lo Cascio and Tacoma (2017); De Ligt and Tacoma (2016); and the monograph by Tacoma (2016); Cf Noy (2000); Scheidel (2004), (2005a).

straightforward, all the more so because the Roman world was familiar with both forced and voluntary migration.¹²¹ Were the migrants able to find work in the city? Their options depended largely on the openness of the labour market. Was all work open to migrants? Information about labour opportunities and actual vacancies in the city must have affected migration patterns; conversely, the size and nature of migration flows will have influenced the structure of the urban population and workforce. The dominance of slavery in some sectors of the urban economy, especially in the domestic sector, may have reduced labour opportunities for free women; the presence (and influx) of slaves and ex-slaves in towns more generally could have severely impeded the opportunities for voluntary labour migration.¹²² An analysis of the openness or segmentation of the labour market is one of the underlying goals of this work.

Rome and the rest

There was no place like Rome. Rome potentially accounted for up to 18 per cent of the entire population of Roman Italy.¹²³ The existence of a primate city is not in itself anomalous; it is the absence of secondary centres in Roman Italy that makes Rome so extraordinary.¹²⁴ Therefore the structure of the population and the nature of institutions in the capital may also have been very different from any other urban settlement in Roman Italy. Rome is where the emperor and the imperial government resided. Rome was also the main attraction for both the elite, and the poor. The elite spent lavishly, and their taste for luxury goods and services created money-making opportunities for a whole segment of urban labourers. The clustering of urban poor in the capital, the (imperial) building trade and other jobs in which they scraped a living, and the grain distributions to help support them are well known and have been the subject of many scholarly works to date.¹²⁵

The nature of the ancient evidence from the capital should also be considered. Contemporary Rome still is a cosmopolis and is now home to some 2.9 million inhabitants. The current built-up area obscures much of the ancient city, and much remains to be learnt. The other side of the coin is that much of the ancient city remains visible in the current town plan. Moreover, there is no other city that has been studied and excavated so extensively.¹²⁶ Ancient Rome was exceptional, but because it has also been treated

121 Chapter 2 below; cf Tacoma (2016) chapter 6; Holleran (2011) for voluntary migration to Rome.

122 Garnsey and De Ligt (2016) for Herculaneum (and other cities in the Bay of Naples by proxy, p. 74): imported slaves may have been the majority of migrants, p. 94.

123 De Ligt (2012) 195.

124 Outside of Roman Italy, one might mention Alexandria and Carthage, although it remains to be seen exactly how sizeable these cities were.

125 E.g. Bernard (2017); Holleran (2011), Aldrete and Mattingly (1999), Brunt (1980).

126 With the possible exception of Ostia, but see below.

as such by many generations of scholars it is also much better documented than any other settlement. The fact that about half of the occupational inscriptions from Roman Italy actually originates from Rome is therefore more than a reflection of reality. The gap between Rome and the rest deepens.

That Rome was a very distinct place should be kept in mind throughout this analysis. There are good reasons to believe that the functioning of *collegia*, for example, was different in Rome.¹²⁷ Subterranean *columbaria* are attested virtually exclusively in the capital.¹²⁸ Rome had a large free proletariat, which is why the proportion of slaves among the population is likely to have been lower in the capital than in other urban settlements.¹²⁹ The only settlement that approximates Rome at all is Ostia, which to some extent might be viewed as an extension of the capital itself.¹³⁰

Urbanisation and labour differentiation

Urbanisation is often causally linked with economic growth and complexity, and vice versa.¹³¹ Economic prosperity may lead to a division of labour between town and country: Adam Smith in the *Wealth of nations* noted that job differentiation develops when sufficient agricultural surplus is produced to allow part of the labour population to take up other occupations than agriculture.¹³² Urbanisation therefore leads to increased job differentiation.¹³³ It is tempting to conceptually locate the labourers with an 'urban' occupation in towns, and to place farmers and farmhand on the land. That idea is in fact corroborated by Garnsey's answer to the question where Italian peasants lived – that is, mostly on the land –, and it is also the distinction that Hopkins used for his calculation of urbanisation rates in Roman Italy.¹³⁴ To be sure, the division between the urban and rural workforce of Roman Italy was not as convenient as that. Not all artisans and craftsmen lived in the city, and not all farmers lived on the land. There was industrial activity in the rural areas, too.¹³⁵ There certainly was plenty of movement between town and country.

127 See chapter 5.

128 See chapter 4.

129 Cf Garnsey and De Ligt (2016).

130 Not everyone agrees, e.g. Bruun (2010) 110–11 with n. 5.

131 Erdkamp (2012) 243–4; Scheidel (2007a) 81: "institutional arrangements and even moderate levels of intensive economic growth appear to have been the main driving force behind the success of urbanism".

132 On the rural-urban distinction, but starting from Procopius rather than Adam Smith, see also Erdkamp (2012) 241–3.

133 As opposed to 'specialisation' in the sense of breaking up the production process, cf. Van Minnen (1987) 45.

134 Garnsey (1998) 107–33, contra the concept of agro-towns, cf. Lo Cascio (2009) 89–91; Hopkins (1978) 68–9.

135 Cf De Ligt (1991).

But the nature of the evidence in this thesis legitimates a model of non-agricultural cities as opposed to an agricultural countryside.

The high degree of occupational differentiation is a defining feature of the urban labour market in Roman Italy – my catalogue of job titles records no less than 564 different occupations.¹³⁶ Treggiari remarks for the city of Rome: “The opportunities available contrast favourably with the 101 jobs (...) for which regulations were made in 13th-century Paris (where specialisation went far enough to allow three types of rosary-makers)”.¹³⁷ This phenomenon has been noted by many scholars, but it has led to radically different explanations.

The high degree of specialisation attested has been connected to the existence of large workshops exhibiting extreme specialisation: such specialisation in the sense of breaking up the production process demanded only low levels of skill, because all workers made only a tiny contribution to create a complex final product that nobody knew how to manufacture anymore.¹³⁸ A similar argument was advanced recently by Cam Hawkins, who stresses the risks of investing in the acquisition of a full skill-set, because of the inherent instability and insecurity of the market in ancient Rome.¹³⁹ The most eloquent ancient source for this type of decentralization perhaps, is Augustine’s *De Civitate Dei* 7.4 from the early fifth century, which has relevance for the early empire too. Augustine notes how polytheistic deities are all active within a specific territory, “like craftsmen in the quarter of the silversmiths, where one vessel passes through the hands of many artisans in order to come out finished, when it could have been completed by one perfect artisan.”¹⁴⁰ Further on in the text, Augustine’s description of the silversmiths hints at the existence of industrial districts, where those in the same line of work clustered together to facilitate subcontracting.¹⁴¹ It is more a metaphor than it is an actual attestation concerning the work of silversmiths, but in order for the metaphor to work it must reflect reality.

136 See appendix 1: catalogue of job titles.

137 Treggiari (1980) 56; cf Tran (2007b); compare Harris (2002) for the extensive differentiation of occupational designations in classical Athens.

138 Morel (1992) 232-4 on the existence of this type of decentralization.

139 Hawkins (2016); Also Hawkins (2017) 44-5 for the option of decentralization on the level of the ‘firm’ (workshop).

140 Hawkins (2006) 52-58 on this text and its relevance for the early empire, at 52 cites Aug. *Civ. Dei* 7.4: *tamquam opifices in uico argentario, ubi unum uasculum, ut perfectum exeat, per multos artifices transit, cum ab uno perfecto perfici posset*. It is not difficult to identify the tenor of the ‘one perfect artisan’ of the metaphor.

141 Topographical names hinting at clustering like this are well-attested for the early empire, Holleran (2012) 51–60, MacMullen (1974) 70–79. The extent to which economic zoning existed despite these names may be debated, however. See chapter 5.

It is likely that this division of labour, or breaking up the production process, accounts for some of the job differentiation attested in the cities, but there is more to it. Highly specialized jobs attested regularly are also highly skilled, such as a *gemmarius* (gem-setter) or *caelator* (engraver); their high skill-levels are also to be argued on the basis of the quality of products that have come down to us. Large-scale and factory-like settings where decentralization may have taken place are solely attested in Rome and Ostia, and even then only to a limited degree.¹⁴² There are fulleries where it does seem that some employees were either trampling clothes or rinsing them all day. More generally, however, it appears that fullers were engaged with the whole process from A to Z.¹⁴³ In some jobs it was riskier to invest in job-training than in other occupations with a more stable demand, as Hawkins allows.¹⁴⁴ The modest mean size of workshops in the urban landscape suggests that very often one artisan or craftsman did possess the complete set of skills. Occupational variation as a reflection of economic complexity therefore should not be overlooked, all the more since it is generally thought that the Roman economy was thriving.¹⁴⁵

Some of the attested job differentiation must also be a result of conspicuous consumption or, in other words, the fact that elite owners liked to show off by employing a slave for every single task one can think of, however petty or insignificant. The elite *domus* thus account for a large share of the occupational differentiation, particularly in the city of Rome.¹⁴⁶ There is a *margaritarius* who appears to be a caretaker of pearls, a *cubicularius* (bedchamber servant), and a *capsarius* (carrier of scroll-holders), for example, none of whom we might perhaps expect to have spent all day at their appointed tasks.¹⁴⁷ Not all of these occupations fell to slaves, but the fact that freedmen and the occasional freeman are also attested in the elite household does not diminish the conspicuousness of a large and differentiated household.

Each of these explanations accounts for part of the attested occupational differentiation, and none of them is exclusive of the others. In other words: these factors taken together account for the wide range of occupations attested.

142 Flohr (2007).

143 Flohr (2013).

144 Though see Hawkins (2006) 68-74 on the existence, but the marginal influence of, markets with a more stable demand.

145 Scheidel, Saller, Morris (2007) 5-6; Temin (2006), or Saller (2002/2005). Examples could be multiplied.

146 For elite *domus* and occupational differentiation, see also chapter 4. Cf Joshel (1992) 73-6, Bradley (1994) 57-80, who mentions on page 58 that in the *familia rustica* as well as the *familia urbana* "the number of occupations discharged was virtually limitless".

147 Bradley (1994) 60 takes as examples an *ostiarius* and *scoparius*.

THE ROMAN ECONOMY AND NEW INSTITUTIONAL ECONOMICS

The enormous influence of Moses Finley can perhaps largely be held responsible for the fact that it has taken so long for ancient historians to catch up with economic theory. It is no secret that Finley propagated the ancient economy as something fundamentally different from modern economies. In the eyes of Finley and his followers, Roman society had an economy that was embedded socially and culturally. The publication of Finley's *The ancient economy* initiated a debate between those who agreed that the ancient economy should be studied by itself, and those who chose to make the link with economics.¹⁴⁸ Recent decades have seen important converging trends in this primitivist-modernist debate, which has lost much of its intensity.¹⁴⁹

The ultimate reconciliation between the two came, perhaps, with the introduction of New Institutional Economics (NIE) to ancient history.¹⁵⁰ Douglass North introduced the concept of institutions to economics, at a time when economics was concerned chiefly with performance, particularly the performance of contemporary entities: North held that contemporary economies as well as historical economies are embedded.¹⁵¹ This approach opens up all of history as comparative material for economic theory. A focus on social and cultural factors does not mean that NIE has dismissed the matter of economic performance. On the contrary, the focus on institutions stems from an interest in the structural determinants of economic performance, and therefore takes into account both structure, and performance.

If neo-institutional economics can be seen as an attempt to bring history to the attention of economists, it may equally well be a way to make economic theory serve the interests of historians; it is situated at the crossroads of the two disciplines.¹⁵²

NIE is therefore well-suited to the needs of ancient historians and has been taken up with enthusiasm, particularly in the last decade or so. An indication of the widespread acceptance of NIE is the explicit acknowledgement of the importance of the work of North in the *Cambridge economic history of the Greco-Roman world* already referred to above.¹⁵³ The first part of the book is devoted entirely to structural determinants of the

148 Cf Jongman (1988) for a Finleyan analysis that does make use of modern economic theory.

149 E.g. Saller (2002/2005).

150 For a useful introductory piece, Bang (2009).

151 Esp. North (1990). See also North (2005).

152 Bang (2009) 197.

153 Morris, Saller and Scheidel (eds)(2007) 1, 6. Bang (2009) is in fact a review of that work.

economy or, in the words of the editors, “core analytical categories”: the chapters are dedicated respectively to ecology, demography, household and gender, law and economic institutions, and technology.¹⁵⁴ NIE was also implemented in both Bang’s influential *Imperial Bazaar* and its theoretical opposite, Temin’s *Roman market economy* – two main contributions to the discussion on the nature of the Roman economy.¹⁵⁵ Others have engaged with the institutional framework provided by Roman law, transaction cost theory, or the *collegia* as social institutions.¹⁵⁶ New Institutional Ancient Economics has become an established, vibrant field of research.

The knights who say NIE¹⁵⁷

It must be expressed that New Institutional Ancient Economics hardly resembles the original New Institutional Economics. NIE itself has gone through important developments, and is now better suited for the Roman case. A full understanding of institutions includes the ways in which they furthered market forces, as well as the ways in which they may have restricted them. A distinction was made between formal and informal institutions, the latter based on social and cultural beliefs. It is simple enough to underline that relevant institutions existed, but the mere existence of institutions does not imply that they were economically efficient.¹⁵⁸ Cultural beliefs and social circumstances largely determine the shaping of institutions and an individual’s choices, recognition of which led NIE to branch out into behavioural economics. Strictly speaking, then, New Institutional Ancient Economics is perhaps not NIE, but it is more eclectic, benefiting also from behavioural and development economics more generally.

With all this in mind, how should this modern, inclusive understanding of NIE be applied to the study of Roman labour? The advantages of applying NIE to studies of labour in Antiquity specifically, were advocated by Zuiderhoek.¹⁵⁹ His view of what a focus on institutions could mean, is explained in this fragment:

Focussing on institutions/organisations allows us to bring some analytical order to the great variety of different categories of labour and types of labourers which we come across in ancient sources. This is so because institutions/organisations functioned as structuring actors, that might simultaneously ‘consume’, i.e. buy/hire and employ, and supply labour to third parties. Thus, they in effect operated

154 Morris, Saller and Scheidel (eds) (2007), at 9.

155 Bang (2008); Temin (2013a).

156 Terpstra (2008) and Hawkins (2017); Hawkins (2016) and Venticinque (2006); Liu (2017).

157 Reference to the title of Verboven (2015), which is a programmatic article and the basis for much of what follows in this paragraph.

158 E.g. Ogilvie (2007); Liu (2017) 204-6, Bang (2009) 203.

159 In his contribution to *Workers of the world* 1:3 (2013), a special issue on Global labour history.

as allocation mechanisms (or channels) via which labour and labour power were distributed in ancient society. An institutional/organisational focus, moreover, can also provide us with some rationale for the great diversity of labour statuses which we encounter in antiquity, since within a given institutional/organizational context, different status positions and the specific labour relations associated with them might well serve to reduce costs of oversight, transaction and information so as to maximize 'efficiency', in terms of output, profit or, indeed, exploitation (rent-seeking, predation).¹⁶⁰

The number of institutions that are relevant to Roman labour, are probably too numerous to list. For a very brief exploration, Zuiderhoek selects the institutions of the household, associations, and cities. In my analysis of urban labour, too, I have opted to deal with the family, and associations, both in an urban context. That is not to deny the importance of other institutions or organizing principles like Roman law. But in Roman labour history, that ground has been covered relatively well. Verboven acknowledged the widespread use of many aspects of NIE amongst ancient historians, but emphasized the need to incorporate more fully the impact of cultural beliefs.¹⁶¹ Cultural values and norms certainly also had a profound impact on the functioning of the urban labour market. They had an influence on familial norms and values, and family form, and on the social and more formal characteristics of associations. To me, ancient history is about real life individuals, in this instance, individuals who were subject to many factors that worked together to determine his or her daily occupation, be it in the household or the workshop.

Discovering the Roman family¹⁶²

Easily the most important structural factor that determines labour, is the family.¹⁶³ Considering the hypothesis that the family was so crucial in labour economics, the first question that should really be addressed is what we mean by 'family'.

In modern-day English, 'family' can denote basically any group of individuals, or even any group of things, all according to context.¹⁶⁴ It is used, for example, in the expression 'having a family', that is having children, or in a 'family weekend', indicating a meeting

160 Zuiderhoek (2013) 43.

161 Verboven (2012b) 599: "Historians of antiquity are now familiar with several key concepts of the New Institutional Economics – such as transaction costs or path dependence – but until now they have paid very little attention to the role of cultural values and norms". See now more fully Verboven (2015).

162 This is the title of Bradley's influential 1991 monograph on the Roman family.

163 See also the preliminary observations of Saller (2007).

164 OED online (2013)³ s.v. *family*: A. I "Senses relating to a group of people or animals"; A. II "Senses relating to things".

attended by a random selection of close as well as more distant relatives, and sometimes even by unrelated friends from outside the nuclear family.¹⁶⁵ Generally, however, family is defined by kinship. Whereas the English word family is certainly derived from Latin *familia*, *familia* is not equivalent to family.¹⁶⁶ The Romans, however, were no less versatile in their use of both *familia* and *domus*.¹⁶⁷

Familia can cover a wide variety of meanings. With reference to persons, not things, *familia* may refer to the agnatic kin group, which appears relatively familiar to us. More exclusively, it may also indicate the slaves of the household. Throughout my thesis, however, I will limit the use of *familia* to one of its more specific legal definitions: the *familia* encompasses all persons under the power (*potestas*) of the *paterfamilias*, including wife, children, slaves and freedmen:

Dig. 50.16.195.2

Familiae appellatio refertur et ad corporis cuiusdam significationem, quod aut iure proprio ipsorum aut communi universae cognationis continentur. Iure proprio familiam dicimus plures personas, quae sunt sub unius potestate aut natura aut iure subiectae, ut puta patrem familias, matrem familias, filium familias, filiam familias quique deinceps vicem eorum sequuntur, ut puta nepotes et neptes et deinceps.

The term *familia* also refers to a collection of persons, connected either by their own legal rights vis-à-vis each other, or by a more general kinship relationship. We say that a family is connected by its own legal bond when several persons are either by nature or by law subjected to the *potestas* of one person – for example, the *paterfamilias*, *materfamilias*, and son and daughter under paternal control, as well as their descendants, such as grandsons, granddaughters, and their successors.¹⁶⁸

165 Bradley (1991) 3-4: “even at the level of ordinary discourse, *family* is an ambiguous, elusive term, whose meaning for any individual is shaped primarily by the variables of age and marital status, and if divorce and remarriage have anywhere entered the picture, the complications of understanding and defining are greater still”.

166 It is interesting that the lemma of the *OED* online (2013)³ s.v. *family* still includes a historical definition that does sometimes approximate the Latin *OLD* s.v. *familia*.

167 Saller (1994) chapter 4 offers a good analysis of Roman ‘family, *familia*, and *domus*’; See also Dixon (1992) 1-12, and Saller (1984).

168 *Dig.* 50.16.195.2 (Ulpian); translation Dillon and Garland (2005) 342.

Technically a wife was only part of the *familia* if married *cum manu*, whereas *sine manu* marriage was common during the Principate. It is nevertheless likely that she was often implicitly considered a part of the *familia*.

Latin *domus* can include both cognate and agnate kin, and is perhaps a better approximation to our broader understanding of family. But it, too, has a variety of other meanings, and was also used to refer to the household and everyone in it (including servants), or merely to the physical house.¹⁶⁹ For this reason I have limited the use of *domus* to the elite *domus* of chapter 4.

Households may be defined concisely as “those sets of relationships, historically variable yet relatively constant, that have as one of their principal features the sharing of sustenance gained from the widest possible variety of sources.”¹⁷⁰ In terms of economic functionality, then, the household provides a better focus than the family. It includes non-kin living in the household.¹⁷¹ The addition of non-kin is significant for the current analysis of the Roman situation as well, where many households contained a number of slaves and freedmen. It should be noted that the criterion of coresidence is applied more loosely than in various other publications.¹⁷² Household members who are temporarily away for seasonal labour or apprenticeships – and who may contribute substantially to the family income by doing so – are to be included.¹⁷³

The economic unity of the family has been well established in scholarly literature, and requires little further elucidation.¹⁷⁴ The study of the family as an economic unit of individuals working and acting together took off with the development of New Home Economics in the second half of the twentieth century.¹⁷⁵ It was recognized that within the family, decisions on family expenses are made, the demand for which is in turn determined by the structure of the family. Likewise, how to manage the family income, labour allocation, and investment in human capital, is typically decided within the

169 See, for example, Harlow and Laurence (2002) chapter 2.

170 McGuire, Smith and Martin (1986) 76; quoted by Van der Linden (2002) 4.

171 An important notion found first in Laslett (1972) 24–5.

172 Laslett (1972) 27 speaks not of household, but of ‘coresident domestic group’ – still opting for a coresidence criterion. His wish to uphold this measure results primarily from the fact that non-coresident individuals would not have been registered in the census records that are the main source of evidence for many sociologists, rather than from any functional criterion.

173 E.g. Netting, Wilk and Arnould (1984), introduction; also Van der Linden (2002) 4: “households do not necessarily entail co-residence”.

174 Van der Linden and Lucassen (1999) 9: “workers simply cannot be understood as individuals”. E.g. Cigno (1991) 2: “It is not, therefore, the economic relevance of household organization and behaviour – even when looked at from the narrow point of view of the traditional interests of economists – that can be in any doubt”.

175 The development is summarized in Engelen e.a. (2004a) 124.

family group.¹⁷⁶ With reference to occupation, family was important to everyone: to an emperor who inherited his position, to a slave or a slave's slave bound to their master's family, and to everyone in between.

There is a significant difference between family forms, and their relation to labour and labourers.

... there were considerable differences in household composition between the elite and the lower classes, and between urban and village populations. Composition and size of households depended on the economic basis from which the family made its living, since different forms of property and economic activities required different kinds of labor. Families that were smaller and simpler in organization have been observed for day laborers, small traders, craftsmen, and fishermen, whereas peasant farmers usually lived in larger, more complex families because they needed a sufficient pool of labor to meet peak periods of labor demand.¹⁷⁷

This thesis focuses on urban labourers. It seems reasonable to distinguish between broad categories of urban families: small nonelite family features in chapter 3, and elite *domus* in chapter 4. In both instances, it will be argued that adaptive family strategies can account for the choices that were made in their engagements with the labour market. Family was an important indicator for economic success and development. The larger rural families also referred to by Hübner largely fall outside of the scope of my research, except at those times when they migrated to the city for (seasonal) labour.

Non-familial labour collectives: private associations

The Roman empire expanded to encompass increasingly more people, people who thronged together in cities to find an income through work. Associations provided a solution to the anonymity of being part of an enormous population, a situation that we may envisage as particularly vivid for the city of Rome.¹⁷⁸ The *collegia* gained momentum over the course of the second and third centuries, when the formation of the empire transformed the civic make-up to give pride of place to the associations and

176 Mincer and Polachek (1974) 397.

177 Hübner (2011) 82.

178 This view is eloquently summarized by MacMullen (1966) 174: "Their objects were simple, summed up in the phrase 'social security': to have a refuge from loneliness in a very big world, ...". Cf Hopkins (1983) 214.

their members.¹⁷⁹ *Collegium* membership was a privilege and was always reserved for a minority of the population.

The associations are generally referred to as 'voluntary' or 'private' associations in scholarly research, a useful terminology that was "designed to distinguish them from institutions such as the state, city, or family, where membership was automatic – a question of birth rather than choice."¹⁸⁰ I deliberately adhere to this broad definition. The advantage of an open approach like this is that it includes all relevant social collectives: for current purposes, the gains of understanding the workings of group formation and group processes trumps the loss of the specific. Needless to say, this does not obviate a general need for investigations into particular associations in any way.¹⁸¹

The Latin terminology of association is varied. Most common both in Roman antiquity and in secondary literature on the subject today is *collegium*, but in Antiquity *corpus*, *sodalitas*, *sodalitium*, *koinon*, and other synonyms in both Latin and Greek, were also widespread, which in itself indicates the reality of a large variety in social collectives.¹⁸² Not all associations were recognized by the law as formal *collegium*. It has proven virtually impossible to distinguish formal from informal associations and most scholars include most or all recognizable collectives in their analysis; because all types of collective are meaningful contributions to an individual's economic and social network I will do the same here. For the sake of clarity, throughout this thesis the current terms 'collegia' and 'association' will be used to indicate any private collective.

Roman private associations were named according to religious affiliation, location (either current location or place of origin), or occupation. A strict distinction into separate categories, however, will not hold: religious, funerary, convivial/congregational/social, and economic functions often overlapped.¹⁸³ Even the primary identity reflected in the names of associations may not be an indication of their main activities, as members of the cult for Asclepius and Hygieia were very likely doctors, for example.¹⁸⁴ Perry's conceptual

179 Patterson (2006) especially chapter 3; see also Patterson (1992) 23.

180 Wilson (1996) 1, defining 'voluntary' in the 'voluntary associations' of the title of Kloppenborg and Wilson (1996). On the same page, Wilson writes: "the term 'private association', which some prefer, is a possible alternative, though it too would have required careful definition".

181 Liu (2009) 4–11 on the merits of a synthetic analysis, and on the need for complementary investigations into particular *collegia*, to which her study of the *collegia centonariorum* is an important contribution.

182 For a brief overview of terminology, see Ausbüttel (1982) 16–22, with n. 10 for earlier references.

183 Van Nijf (2002) 311–5; Van Nijf (1997) 10–11; Van Minnen (1987) 51–2 on Roman Egypt; Ausbüttel (1982) 29, 30.

184 Verboven (2017b) 176 n12 with reference to *CIL* 6. 10234, Rome 2nd century AD. Compare *AE* 1937, 161 for a *collegium Aesculapi et Hygiae structorum Caes(aris) n(ostri)*, who were apparently not doctors, but masons.

deconstruction of *collegia funeraticia* (burial colleges) as identified by Mommsen, “calls into question the need to ‘categorize’ colleges at all, a notion owed, in great measure, to this exposition of the subject in the *De collegiis* [Mommsen (1843)].”¹⁸⁵ In sum, in order to investigate the structural influence of associations on the labour market, it is not sufficient to take into account only *collegia* identified by a common occupation.

The category of ‘professional’ or ‘occupational’ *collegia* when singled out in secondary literature, generally collects *collegia* that were occupational in name. Similarly, in this monograph, the terms ‘professional’ or ‘occupational’ *collegia* will be used to refer to such associations. It bears repeating, however, that there was no clear dividing line between professional and other associations: scholars have become increasingly aware of the social function of occupational *collegia* and, conversely, of the economic activities also of *collegia* that – at least in name – were not trade-based.¹⁸⁶

CONCLUSION

The daily labour of the people in the Roman empire has left many traces for a historian to follow. From an ancient historian’s viewpoint in particular, the sources for workers are very promising. Documentary texts including occupational inscriptions, law, contracts, letters, anecdotes from a literary context that refer to labour in passing, a wealth of material remains such as tools, or the countless artifacts that are the result of unflagging industry, reliefs or frescos of people at work, and the archaeological remains of workshops, have come down to us. The wealth of evidence has of course not gone unnoticed, and many ancient historians have already been motivated by this remarkable opportunity to explore what life was like below the elite.

Although many valuable studies exist on work in the ancient world, and although many of the sources that I will be using are well-known in themselves, a systematic analysis of occupational data placed in their historical context is lacking. The aim of this monograph is to offer such an analysis for the cities of Roman Italy in roughly the first three centuries AD.

This study has the advantage that much of the evidence has been made available before and that many of the biases in the evidence are now known. Constructing an image of Roman labourers from the ancient sources alone, however, can only go so far. In my opinion, the advance of the use of New Institutional Economics makes it possible to use comparative material from other historical periods in order to delineate interpretative frameworks. In other words, comparative history can be used, not to accept

185 Perry (2006) 32, with reference to his dissertation from 1999 on *collegia funeraticia*.

186 Verboven (2017b).

without thinking that the situation in Rome must have been similar, but rather to build hypotheses and models, that should always be tested against the evidence.

An economic subject like labour screams for numbers. One inscription tells us very little about the economy as a whole, but a few thousand texts that document workers may well further our understanding of the labour market by uncovering underlying patterns. The quantitative aspect of this thesis cannot go much further than that, however. It has of necessity become a qualitative account of the urban labour market of Roman Italy, not a quantitative one. As such, however, I believe that the context of social structures provides a rich and insightful picture of how the Roman labour market is likely to have functioned.

Chapter 2

The urban labour market

INTRODUCTION

Labour market theory revolves around the commodification of free labour, and the understanding that labour and labourers can move to the market. The existence of forced labour – slavery – in a historical society effectively negates the existence of a labour market in theory. However, scholars are increasingly aware that price theory is subject to various non-economic restraints. The most important of these is labour market segmentation: restrictions and limitations will occur in any given labour market on the basis of various socially and culturally determined factors for discrimination, such as gender. It is my contention that in Roman society, legal status is just another such discriminating factor. Slave, freed and free certainly were not always interchangeable, but it is my contention that they were part of the same labour market.¹ Therefore, I believe that an integrated analysis of the labour force in its entirety is the only way to comprehend the workings of the Roman labour market and to bring out the options available to any one individual. This chapter lays out the conceptual framework for a structural analysis of the functioning of the urban Roman labour market in the remaining chapters.

That there was such a thing as a Roman labour market is not commonly accepted. *Der Neue Pauly* offers a recent entry under ‘Arbeitsmarkt’ that may serve to illustrate this:

Mit Bohannon und Dalton ist zwischen dem Markt a) als Ort und b) als preisregulierendem Mechanismus von Angebot und Nachfrage zu unterscheiden. Während sich ein A. im Sinne von b) in der Ant. nicht herausbildete, war Arbeit wie andere Waren auf dem Marktplatz erhältlich. Entweder konnte sie dauerhaft in Form eines Sklaven gekauft, oder temporär von einem freien Lohnarbeiter “geliehen” werden (lat. *locatio*; ...). Umgekehrt konnte jeder seine Arbeit auf dem Markt anbieten.²

This reference article may be labelled ‘labour market’, but it negates the existence of a labour market in Antiquity, as opposed to a market for labour. In this view, moreover, the market for labour appears to be limited to the actual marketplace. The author is a well-respected scholar working on the ancient economy, whose views may be expected to have wider support. This chapter therefore aims to convince the reader that it is useful to analyse Roman labour and labourers in terms of a Roman labour market, taking into consideration that the concept of a labour market is more complex than merely serving

1 Cf Temin (2004a), (2013a) 114–38.

2 Von Reden, *Der Neue Pauly* s.v. ‘Arbeitsmarkt’. Brill Online, first appeared online 2006. The English version translates it as ‘job-market’.

the law of supply and demand. And if we can speak of a labour market, then in what ways can labour market theory contribute to our understanding of the Roman situation?

Chapter outline

Neither the active presence of market economics, nor the reality of an integrated labour market, is entirely self-evident in a slave society that was predominantly leaning on agriculture. It is therefore necessary to justify the use of such modern economic concepts in a Roman context. I will argue that the question whether or not the Roman economy was a market economy is the wrong question to ask. Few historians would deny that sources for the Roman economy attest to market transactions and market forces at work. The focus of research should be on how the Roman market functioned, and in what way economic theory can contribute to an understanding of it. It will become clear that Roman market economics demonstrate the existence of market regions rather than an integrated market economy.

This chapter explores the idea of a Roman labour market. According to economic price theory, a labour market is characterized by freedom of movement and wages that move in response to supply and demand.³ This narrow definition does not take into account that societies are governed by social and cultural factors that will always lead to market segmentation, and it will therefore be argued that a broader concept of labour market is necessary to operationalize it for the Roman world. The subsequent investigations into labour mobility, therefore, focuses not only on possibilities and factors that facilitated movement, but also on restrictions to (labour) migration within Roman Italy.

The very idea of a free labour market, with wages that move in accordance with the laws of supply and demand, seems irreconcilable with forced labour in a slave economy. The question to what extent slave and free can be considered to have been part of a unified labour force will therefore have to be dealt with in some detail. The percentage of slaves is thought to have been significantly higher in Roman Italy than for the rest of the empire, which makes the matter all the more interesting in the context of this thesis.⁴ It is not just the dichotomy between slave and free, however, that might preclude full labour market integration. The same holds true of the historically unstable balance between male and female workers, and that between skilled and unskilled work. The Roman labour market is likely to have been made up of multiple local labour markets with limited movement between them. Market segmentation explains this pattern of restrictions to individual movement and opportunities within the Roman labour market.

3 E.g. Temin (2013a) 115; Temin (2004a) 515.

4 De Ligt (2012) 190 table 4.3 for a tentative percentage of 40% slaves in the cities of Roman Italy, cf Hopkins (1978) 68.

The last section of this chapter deals with labour supply and labour demand. The combination of a dense population and high urbanisation rate in Roman Italy made for a thick urban labour market: in other words, there were more workers than work. This is likely to have been particularly relevant for unskilled wage labourers. A copious labour supply in this sector is underlined by the scarce evidence for remuneration, that suggests that wages were low; for the majority of people, living standards were therefore probably low. Labour demand in Rome was variable due to fluctuations and seasonality of consumer demand and the building/shipping trades, which were conducive to cyclical unemployment or underemployment. It was difficult to scrape a living in the city. But the city was the place to do it.

THE ROMAN ECONOMY

The publication of Moses Finley's *The ancient economy* in 1973 sparked off the debate on the Roman economy, and arguably remains the starting point for any discussion on the ancient economy. Many Roman economists adhered to Finley's 'primitivist' idea that the Romans had an 'underdeveloped' economy.⁵ In this scenario, the ideal was autarky, cities were very much self-sufficient, and although it was acknowledged that there was a certain amount of trade, there could be no market integration. It was to be expected that this view has evoked a counter-reaction from a substantial group of other Roman economic historians. The 'modernists' advocated trade and market integration as important characteristics of the Roman economy. It has convincingly been argued that the primitivist and modernist interpretations are not as mutually exclusive as their followers have led us to believe. The debate has been solved diplomatically by pronouncing it obsolete.⁶

There probably are not many ancient historians who would deny that there were market forces at work in Roman society. The regular attestation of prices, contracts, rents and wages, points to the existence of market forces in the Roman economy. The plentiful use of coinage in the Roman empire is well known and does not require further elaboration here.⁷ The one document that provides most of the Roman price data we know, Diocletian's *Prices Edict* of 301 AD, is price regulation on a massive scale that was

5 Garnsey and Saller (1987) entitled their chapter three, p. 43-63, 'An underdeveloped economy'; Finley's continued influence shows from the fact that *The ancient economy* was reprinted most recently in 1999, the third edition; see also Andreau (2002), entitled 'Twenty years after Moses I. Finley's *The Ancient Economy*'.

6 Saller (2002), reprinted as Saller (2005); cf De Ligt (1993). Compare the introduction for the influence of this debate on the use of economic theory in ancient history.

7 E.g. Howgego (1992); cf Harris (2006) on other means of payment.

likely a response to market-driven inflation; moreover, market forces were so strong that they may well have caused the *Edict's* failure.⁸ It is absolutely correct to state “[t]hat the Roman economy was not simple — that it set market prices, sustained development, and had room for growth — is old news.”⁹ But what form this took, and to what extent economic theories can be applied, is still the subject of much debate.

The Roman market economy

There is a lot of information, but hardly any of what economists call data.¹⁰

Roman historians have not shied away from using various economic principles in their analysis of the Roman economy.¹¹ Many of such economic principles rest upon the null hypothesis of a functioning market economy in the society under scrutiny.¹² The logical corollary that the Roman economy therefore may have functioned like a market economy, however, has only recently found a true protagonist in Peter Temin. It is worth pointing out that the initiative to promulgate the more general view of a Roman market economy came from an economist rather than an ancient historian.¹³ Temin advocated his views in a series of articles, culminating in a monograph with the title *The Roman market economy*.¹⁴ Economists seem to accept the view that Rome had a market economy.¹⁵ Responses from scholars of the ancient world are more reserved than economist reviewers. One ancient historian reviewed the book for the *Times Literary Supplement*, concluding that “Temin has, I fear, done a good job of persuading me that there was really nothing resembling an integrated Roman market economy.”¹⁶ In this reviewer’s

8 Temin (2001) 173; Groen-Vallinga and Tacoma (2017).

9 Von Reden (2014) 536.

10 Temin (2006) 134.

11 Contrary to what Temin writes, (2006) 133: “Ancient economic history is in its infancy, both because few economists have learned much about the ancient world and because ancient historians have typically not incorporated economics into their analysis”.

12 Temin (2001) 170, repeated verbatim in Temin (2013a) 6: “This is a problem for the study of the Roman economy, because it is precisely this typical null hypothesis that needs to be tested”.

13 Cf Temin (2013a) 1: “The application of economic reasoning to ancient history is growing, but more ancient historians than economists are interested in ancient economies”.

14 Temin (2001).

15 E.g. Berg (2014) 37; Also Grantham, unpublished paper for the conference ‘Work, labor and professions’, Ghent 31 May 2013.

16 Thonemann (2013) *Times Literary Supplement*. The review by Ivanov (2013), trained as an economist, interestingly does not fit into the category of economists nor that of ancient historians and is quite insightful.

opinion, the Roman economy does not lend itself to 'new economic history', because it leaves the social aspect of economic transactions out of the equation.

In my view the problem with Temin's work can, perhaps, be summarized as follows: the market economy is too theoretical, too abstract and all-encompassing a concept and it cannot just be imposed on the Roman empire. It needs to be tailored to fit the specifics of that empire. The question is not whether or not the Roman economy was a market economy – there is no yes or no answer – but to what extent the market economy model, and the closely related presumption of a functioning labour market, have explanatory power for the Roman Empire. It does not matter whether or not Finley was wrong. We need to move further, from the theoretical model of a market economy to the specifics of market forces in the empire; from the existential question whether Rome had market economy, to a utilitarian perspective that can usefully apply the economics of the market to Roman Italy.

The value of *The Roman market economy* to my mind lies in the far-reaching hypothesis of an integrated market in the Roman empire. It is a bold hypothesis that seems to work at face value, even if it lacks a firm evidential basis. Precisely the extreme attempt to emphasize a supposed complete interconnectedness within the early Roman empire, however, brings out how the market was broken up into segments and regions.

With market integration comes price correlation. Temin suggested that the wages for work in the mines of the Roman empire supports the existence of a functioning, empire-wide labour market, since the wages of the miners at Mons Claudianus in Egypt resemble those for gold-miners in Dacia (Alburnus Maior). The mining trade, however, is likely to have been largely under imperial control. The imperial administration would have set standard wages which may even have limited labour migration.¹⁷

To illustrate that the Roman empire constituted an integrated market, Temin places much emphasis on his analysis of the grain trade. On the basis of just six references to grain prices, he establishes a supposed correlation between price, and distance to Rome, which would illustrate an integrated market for wheat.¹⁸ This argument does not hold and has been the focus of justified criticism. Quite apart from problems deriving from the law of small numbers, he ignores the importance of non-market channels for the supply of grain, and the fact that much grain was cultivated with the primary goal of personal consumption.¹⁹ Temin lumps data together from varying time periods and provinces.

17 Nuanced critique Holleran (2016) 96-7 with references. For the approximation of wages Egypt/Dacia: Cuvigny (1996) 142-145; as evidence for integrated labour market Temin (2013a) 118, who does note the possibility of intervention of the Roman state.

18 Temin (2013a) chapters 2 and 5.

19 See Bransbourg (2012) s.v. 'the law of small numbers'; with response by Temin (2013b); Erdkamp (2014) with reference to Erdkamp (2005) for a very different analysis of the grain market.

“No amount of regression analysis is going to convince many ancient historians that six pieces of data, taken from a period of more than two centuries, are sufficient to demonstrate the integration of the entire Roman wheat market”.²⁰ In a thorough analysis of the (qualitative as well as quantitative) evidence for the grain trade, Erdkamp demonstrated earlier on that there was a certain amount of market integration, but that it was regional rather than empire-wide.²¹ The grain trade may serve as an illustration of a more general pattern. In Antiquity, the infrastructure for goods and, more importantly, information, was slow and therefore largely unsuitable for full empire-wide integration.²² Market integration therefore was also slow, and may rather have been compartmentalised into smaller market regions within the empire.

Market forces are also identified by Temin in the instrumental behaviour that shows from Roman literature. Instrumental, that is economically rational, behaviour is indicative of the free competition in a market economy.²³ There certainly were Roman gold-diggers and profit seekers. Temin’s favourite Roman example of economic rationality is Cato the Elder, as portrayed by Plutarch. This famous anecdote speaks both of Cato’s clever way of investing in shipping enterprises, minimising risk by taking on only 1/50th share, and of the way he bought slaves to sell them for double after a year of solid education.²⁴ However, there is no way of knowing if Cato’s behaviour was truly economically rational, or to what extent his decisions were also determined by considerations of reputation or social capital, and convention. Seeking profit is no evidence for market integration.

The historical circumstances of the early Roman empire facilitated market exchange. The trading opportunities that came with the foundation of the empire were unprecedented. Formal institutions created the necessary infrastructure to maximize profit: the *Pax Romana*, a relatively stable government, and an empire-wide legal system greatly contributed to the increase and the success of business enterprises and commercial partnerships.²⁵ Not every historian is convinced of the effectiveness of these institutions, however. The role of formal institutions was regularly complemented or replaced by informal networks of family, friendship (*amicitia*), patronage and (professional and

20 Morley (2013) with reference to Temin’s “tendency to adopt unrealistically sharp distinctions and polarities” (unpaginated). The economist reviewers, too, invariably mention these six data.

21 Erdkamp (2005), (2008).

22 As Temin himself notes, e.g. (2001) 179. See also Bang (2008); Terpstra (2008), especially 352-4.

23 Temin (1980) on instrumental behaviour, which is to be expected in market exchanges, as opposed to customary and command behaviour – see also the brief summary in Temin (2001) 171-2.

24 The reference is to Plut. *Cat.Mai.* 21. Temin (2001) 175; Temin (2006) 134; Temin (2013a) 103, 129, 188. Columella’s careful description of the vineyard business and the cost involved is another choice illustration; Colum. *RR* 3.3, 7-11, cited in Temin (2006) 143; cf Temin (2013a) 136.

25 But see Woolf (1992) for the view that it was the expansion of empire in the last centuries BC rather than the stable empire that created the largest integrated markets.

other) associations.²⁶ The social structure of society was crucial in the development and maintenance of networks, and these are likely to have been of a local, or at most regional nature. This pattern is demonstrable in trade, but also in human mobility, that is, migration patterns. Temin's chapter on financial intermediation and Roman banks and loans incidentally provides an excellent illustration of this phenomenon.²⁷

The evidence for market activity typically originated from an urban context, and the literary and juristic references sprung from the top layers of society. The peasant farmers of the Roman empire are hardly represented at all, and it remains to be seen how market-oriented they were.²⁸ Temin points out, "[a]lthough market activity was only a minority of all productive activity, it was the dominant mode of activity of 'literate Rome'".²⁹ In other words: the presumption of market activity goes a long way to explain the evidence that has come down to us, much of which is in written form. And so accepting the possibility of market exchange in Rome becomes essential to our interpretation.

Integration and market forces in the Roman empire were probably strongest among the cities of the Italian heartland, with the city of Rome in particular taking centre stage. The concept of a market economy has explanatory power for the Roman empire, if only because much of the ancient evidence comes from market transactions. That is all the more valid for Roman Italy, where there may have been more of a market economy than anywhere else in the empire because of its high degree of urbanisation and strongly integrated city-networks. Rome itself functioned as the single biggest market for food, goods, and people in the empire.³⁰ Even within the boundaries of Roman Italy, however, regional differences occurred and we have to allow for variation in the degree of market integration within and between cities, and between city and countryside.

THE ROMAN LABOUR MARKET

The labour market deals in a particularly elusive good. Labour is immaterial, unlike physical capital that can change hands. That distinctive feature is complicated by the existence of slavery in Rome: slaves and slave-labour are material and *can* change hands. The Roman labour market therefore is not only an interesting subject that deserves

26 Temin (2013a) 100; Cf Hawkins (2016); Broekaert (2012), (2011); Verboven (2012a), (2002); Terpstra (2008).

27 Temin (2013a) 157-189.

28 De Ligt (1993) argues that they were not market dependent.

29 Temin (2001) 180.

30 One economist writes: "To my mind the existence of the city of Rome with a population of close to a million pointed to the existence of a sophisticated division of labour that was inconceivable without a flourishing market economy", Koyama (2013) 270.

closer scrutiny in itself, but as a preindustrial labour market with slave labour it is also a particularly instructive case study to test labour market theories.

It is necessary to identify first and foremost what is meant by the designation 'labour market'. Temin characterizes a labour market in economic terms.

A functioning labor market couples a labor demand with a labor supply. Two conditions must be filled, at least partially: workers must be free to change their economic activity and/or their location, and they must be paid something commensurate with their labor productivity to indicate to them which kind of work to choose.³¹

This definition readily presents two guidelines for testing whether there was a labour market or not: the extent of labour mobility, and market integration for wages and labourers. An analysis of Roman labour mobility and market integration in accordance with price theory cannot present the full picture, so I suggest to opt for a socio-economic interpretation of the concept of 'labour market'. The *Dictionary of Sociology* offers some insightful additions to this principal definition and is worth quoting at length:

In a labour-market, human effort (or labour power) is made into a commodity, which is bought and sold under terms which in law are deemed to constitute a contract. The purchase and sale of formally free labour developed extensively with capitalism, but alternative paths to industrialization (...) have entailed wage employment, though not strictly a free market for labour. Economists argue that, as with other factors of production, the market for labour can be understood as a special case of the general theory of prices, with the price (wages or salaries) being determined by supply and demand. However, research on actual labour-markets has shown that, in practice, many of the basic conditions assumed by price theory are usually absent. Mobility of workers between jobs is often sluggish or non-existent; the anarchic structure of earnings differentials bears only the loosest relation to labour supply and demand; discrimination, labelling, racism, and sexism are rife. Economic explanations of labour-market processes have to be supplemented, and sometimes replaced, by sociological analysis, creating a promising field for interdisciplinary research.³²

Market imperfections will be a recurrent theme in the following investigation into the Roman labour market. Thus, distinct patterns of mobility will become apparent that may

31 Temin (2013a) 115.

32 Scott and Marshall (2009) s.v. 'labour-market'.

have facilitated or restricted labour movement. Labour market segmentation will have limited market integration. Seen in this way, the Roman case may not present us with the numbers or statistics for a strictly economic analysis, but there is plenty of qualitative evidence that can increase our understanding of the Roman urban labour market, and that adds to its value in a historical comparison.

Labour mobility

Economic theory, then, holds that a functioning labour market requires freedom of movement for labourers.³³ Freedom of movement includes geographical movement, as well as movement between employers, or between occupations. The socio-economic concept of a labour market furthermore predicts that there will be certain restrictions and governing principles to labour mobility.

Geographical mobility: labour migration

The pull of the city was strong. Despite unsanitary conditions, overall living standards were probably better in the urban centres than in the countryside of Roman Italy – even if inequality was high and a large part of the urban population lived in poverty. The hope of a better life must have been irresistible to many. Many of the rural-urban migrants in Roman Italy will have been attracted by the (expectation of) labour opportunities in towns.³⁴ That is particularly true for Rome, but the expectation of better wages is likely to have drawn labour migrants to smaller urban settlements, too.³⁵

There appears to have been no fundamental predisposition favouring local labour over migrant labour in Roman Italy.³⁶ That does not necessarily mean that migrants' chances in the labour market were equal to those of city-born Romans. Labour-induced migration is governed by different factors than trade or market integration. Human mobility of the free population is guided by social networks, institutions and services, both in the place of origin and in the place of destination.³⁷ In Roman cities, this networking is substantiated by the (professional) associations, and a close-knit system of patronage,

33 Temin (2013a) 115, “[L]abor needs to be mobile enough to bring wages for work of equal skill near equality”, or rather “approximately equal”, page 120.

34 Tacoma (2016) 172: “Much – though certainly not all – migration is related to work”; For an indication that wages were higher in the city of Rome than in the Egyptian countryside, see Temin (2013a) 254; On inequality in towns generally see Gilbert (2013) 685; cf Holleran (2011) on the city of Rome; Holleran (2016) offers an insightful account of labour migration to mining centres.

35 The analysis of Herculaneum in Garnsey and De Ligt (2016) indicates that there may have been few options left open to free labour migrants in smaller centres like Herculaneum (p. 84). Cf Holleran (2016) 98 with n. 16.

36 Tacoma (2016) chapter 6. Most of his analysis for Rome holds true for Roman Italy.

37 Lucassen (2013); Holleran (2017) 96-7.

both of which may not have been easy to access, which potentially made it difficult for migrants to resettle permanently. The necessary reputation to gain credit to set up a business, or credibility as a business-partner or employee was generally built on these very same networks. Migrant networks and family were therefore the supporting instruments of chain migration, though there is little evidence for them.³⁸

There were perhaps more opportunities for migrants seeking temporary hired labour, especially for the unskilled.³⁹ The temporary and seasonal nature of much of the available work in this category made slave labour unprofitable.⁴⁰ Instead, many of these temporary labourers will have been freeborn farmhands from the surrounding countryside. The life cycle of rural families and the seasonal cycle of agricultural work left many able workers underemployed for extensive periods of time.⁴¹ As a result, many farmhands would attempt to find some additional form of income in the city. These cyclical migrants were not just the poor; it has been reasonably argued that particularly farmers who were better off could profit most from these opportunities.⁴² Patterns of (seasonal) occupational pluralism are also attested in other historical societies.⁴³ Many of the available urban labour opportunities, however, were found in sectors that did not always match the seasonal cycle of the work of the farm: the building trade and the shipping trade are likely to have been their main employers and were also subject to a seasonal cycle of their own. The building trade could nevertheless support a number of workers for around nine months a year. It is likely that there were some vacancies left for wage workers who wanted to settle, or who already lived, in the city.⁴⁴

Humans typically move over shorter distances than goods, which implies that free labour markets were probably local, or regional at most.⁴⁵ Unfree labour, conversely, may have moved over somewhat greater distances, similar to perceived market patterns for goods. This concerns soldiers, convict labour and, above all, slaves.⁴⁶ Slaves were a much-needed addition to the urban population. In all likelihood they were purchased and moved to the city in order to fulfil labour demands for domestic service in an elite *domus*, or to work in smaller workshops: slave migrants were thus a direct result of urban

38 Tacoma (2016) 201-202, 232-240; Zuiderhoek (2013) on these allocative institutions; Holleran (2016) 96-100 on the importance of migrant networks for finding work in Rome.

39 Cf Zuiderhoek (2013) 47. Holleran (2011) is pessimistic about migrants' chances in the capital.

40 Erdkamp (2016) 37-8.

41 Erdkamp (2016), (2008), (1999).

42 Erdkamp (2016) 37-8.

43 McCann (1999) on 19th-century Nova Scotia.

44 Garnsey and De Ligt (2016) 84, 90-1.

45 For local labour markets, cf Holleran (2013) 238.

46 Woolf (2017); Convict labour: Groen-Vallinga and Tacoma (2015).

job opportunities and this will have meant significant competition for free labourers looking to find work.⁴⁷

The nature of the urban labour market also determined the character of labour-induced migration.⁴⁸ Urban labour demand in Roman Italy is likely to have been volatile. This was due to the seasonal trades, but also because of fluctuating demand for (luxury) goods.⁴⁹ High mortality in an urban environment theoretically leads to job openings.⁵⁰ But there was no lack of job applicants either. Not for every fortune-seeker a year round stable occupation could be found. Because of unstable labour demand, there must have been a large group of unskilled labourers who migrated to the city only temporarily. Such unskilled wage workers historically were mostly young males.⁵¹ The Roman city had very little to offer in terms of social security or security of employment, and the *annona* in Rome was an exceptional arrangement for which most labour migrants would not have been eligible.⁵² To cushion these insecurities, they generally maintained close bonds with their family in the countryside, and many must have returned there. To skilled workers, however, the cities of Roman Italy may have provided a more stable environment to settle permanently. Skills strengthened their position in the labour market, and they may also have benefited more from the institutional framework of voluntary associations, such as the manifold professional *collegia*.⁵³

47 Garnsey and De Ligt (2016) 82-4; De Ligt (2013) 155: “the vast majority of the cities of the Roman empire seem to have grown as a result of local or regional processes of migration and as a result of elite expenditure on urban slaves”; for elite *domus*, see chapter 4. The pattern is most clear for the capital, but there are indications that it is also realistic for other cities, see De Ligt and Garnsey (2012); This supposition holds even if some slaves were acquired mainly to add to the prestige of their owner, cf Bodel (2011) 312: “Everything a slave did, except what was done at the master’s sufferance, was done for the master and thus constituted work”.

48 Lucassen (2013).

49 Fluctuating demand: Hawkins (2016), (2006).

50 Garnsey and De Ligt (2016) 91.

51 Tacoma (2016) 113-23 argues that migrants to the city of Rome were mostly young males. On (the limits of) female mobility in Roman society, compare Woolf (2013), and the current research project of Lien Foubert, e.g. (2013).

52 Erdkamp (2016) 47; Brunt (1980) 94-5; Holleran (2017) 87. But compare Jongman (2007) 605 who believes that “public subsistence support was indeed one of the salient features of Roman life”.

53 Compare Tacoma (2016) 202: “In practice this meant that those who had already had success at home would be the best placed to make the move, but at the same time they were exactly the persons who might have had the least incentive to do so: they would have already have settled and might have started a family”; Holleran (2016) 114; See also chapter 5.

Job-hopping

Changing employers or changing jobs in the Roman city was not particularly difficult, at least in theory. Much of the available labour was hired labour performed under limited-term contracts, varying from day labour and bespoke assignments to longer-term agreements.⁵⁴ Various passages in the *Digest* for example discuss the theoretical situation of a slave apparently rented out for the period of a year.⁵⁵ The problem, then, was not the theoretical possibility of changing jobs, but the practical implications of finding work.⁵⁶

Slavery, it seems, did not preclude freedom of movement in the labour market. There is some evidence suggesting that slaves were allowed to exploit their own labour for a wage during the times their owner had no work for them. In such instances, the slave apparently paid his owner a set remittance each day; if he earned more than he owed, the slave could thereby enhance his own assets (the *peculium*).⁵⁷ This was a mutually beneficial arrangement: the slave could earn money, and saved his owner the trouble of finding employment for him. Hiring out slaves, by their masters or by slaves themselves, was a common way of cutting costs in other slave societies: in British and antebellum America, as well as in ancient Athens.⁵⁸ The *Digest* presents a number of clear references to such practices in the Roman empire.⁵⁹ Labeo, for example, discusses liability in the case of an incompetent muleteer:

54 Groen-Vallinga and Tacoma (2017) on the predominance of hired labour and the various forms of remuneration in Diocletian's *Prices Edict*; Holleran (2016) 95–6; Treggiari (1980) 51.

55 *Dig.* 24.3.7.10 (Ulpian book 31 ad Sabinum); *Dig.* 33.7.19 (Paul)

56 Holleran (2017) for the mechanisms of finding work in the city of Rome.

57 Cf Hawkins (2006) 207–9 with reference to Colum. *RR* 1 pr. 12. Columella seems to refer to a self-hiring slave when he mentions a wage-worker's daily tribute (*quotidianum tributum* = remittance?). Hawkins also lists the valuable evidence from an account book from Roman Egypt listing such slave remittances among the household income (*P. Mich. Inv.* 1933); Incidentally, a slave could also hire out his/her under-slaves (*vicarii*) and make a profit from that (*Dig.* 14.3.11.8).

58 Hawkins (2006) 205 with references.

59 For other indications of slave self-hire in the *Digest*, see the references in Brunt (1980) 88 n. 42; Hawkins (2006) 204 ff; and for both hire and self-hire of slaves, see especially Jonkers (1933) 112 n.1; Bürge (1990) has argued at length that the term *mercennarius* refers exclusively to another man's slave, renting himself out. Möller (1993) however argues convincingly that the converse is true and that *mercennarius* refers to freeborn wage-labourers, unless the addendum *servus* (vel sim.) appears. See also the comments of Scheidel (1994) throughout pages 153–202.

Dig. 19.2.60.7

Servum meum mulionem conduxisti: neglegentia eius mulus tuus perit. si ipse se locasset, ex peculio dumtaxat et in rem versum damnum tibi praestaturum dico: si autem ipse eum locassem, non ultra me tibi praestaturum, quam dolum malum et culpam meam abesse: quod si sine definitione personae mulionem a me conduxisti et ego eum tibi dedissem, cuius neglegentia iumentum perierit, illam quoque culpam me tibi praestaturum aio, quod eum elegissem, qui eiusmodi damno te adficeret.

You hired my slave as a muleteer; your mule died because of his carelessness. If he leased himself out, I say that I will be responsible to you only up to the value of his *peculium* or the amount of my enrichment. If, however, I leased him out, I will not be responsible to you for more than the absence of my bad faith and fault. If you hired a muleteer from me without specification of the individual, and I gave you the man from whose carelessness the mule died, I think that I will be responsible to you also for that fault, because I chose the one who caused you the loss in question.⁶⁰

The text specifically discusses the possibility that the slave hired out his own labour, contrasting it with the option in which the slave was hired out by his owner.

Changing occupations was perhaps more difficult for a freeborn specialist, an artisan or craftsman. Tied to one skill-set and possibly also to work-related property, changing jobs was reserved for the next generation. In the early empire, occupation was not always inherited. On the one hand, there is ample evidence for family businesses and for sons following in their father's footsteps; such intergenerational continuity would be the obvious strategy when the family owned a workshop. On the other hand, many children had a different occupation from their father or mother. If a workshop was rented, this would have facilitated career changes.⁶¹ The family business could not always be handed down to biological children, which could be remedied by apprenticeship, adoption or even manumission. Families with more than one child (that is, more than one heir) might seek to differentiate in order to spread the risk of unemployment or underemployment.⁶²

There were no guild restrictions in Roman Italy that would have impeded a change of occupation, or location. The comparison between professional associations and

60 Dig. 19.2.60.7. Translation: Martin (2001) 112-3 n. 17.

61 Tacoma (2016) 196.

62 The hereditary nature of jobs and intergenerational dependency will be discussed in more detail in chapter 3.

medieval guilds has proven useful in some respects, but the Roman associations did not entertain a monopoly like the medieval guild may have done.⁶³ Affiliation with an association was not an inherited right, but was based on individual merit. Significant numbers of artisans and craftsmen did not even join the associations and operated independently or through separate networks. That situation only changed in the late third and early fourth centuries.

Despite the fact that there were no structural inhibitions to labour mobility, actual evidence of Romans switching jobs is scarce. The fact that there are few people whose careers we can trace is in line with the nature of the evidence: someone like Lucian, for example, would not be commemorated for his brief endeavour as an apprentice sculptor in his epitaph.⁶⁴ The closest thing to a 'career' perhaps is a provocative graffito from Pompeii scolding someone who held various jobs in the past, and supposedly would do anything for money now: *nunc facis si cummu(m) linx<s>e<e>ris, consummaris omnia*. "The joke would surely only work if changing occupations were possible."⁶⁵ The most obvious advancement, however, is a career within the elite household, from slavery to freedom. There is some evidence for slaves moving between jobs (or tasks?) in the *Digest* and in epigraphy; similarly, Petronius outlines the fictional career of Trimalchio in some detail – page boy, apprentice accountant, paymaster, as well as his engagements in business as a freedman.⁶⁶

Market integration and labour market segmentation

Previous studies on Roman labour have tended to pay much attention to status distinctions of labourers. This has prompted many to centre either on free independent artisans and craftsmen, or on slavery. It is my contention that the entire working population can and should be studied together. The distinction between slave and free workers was important in the notoriously hierarchical society that was Rome, and will receive due attention in the analysis. But in addition two other dichotomies seem to govern the discussion about the Roman labour market: the dichotomy between skilled and unskilled, and male and female workers.⁶⁷ Economic theory of a functioning labour market predicts full market integration. Labour segmentation theory however predicts that the

63 But see chapter 5 below for the fact that medieval guilds may not have had such a monopoly either.

64 Luc. *Somn.* 1, discussed in chapter 3 below.

65 *CIL* 4. 10150, Holleran (2017) 88 n.12. It is the only example of changing occupations she adduces.

66 For multi-tasking slaves, see chapter 4 below; Trimalchio's career is outlined in Petr. *Sat.* 29, cf the summary in Petersen (2006) 3–4.

67 See also Tacoma (2016) 170–203 for the same three basis distinctions plus a paragraph (195–9) on permanent, temporary and seasonal work; Tacoma (forthcoming) distinguishes also between dependent and independent labour; Hawkins (2013) singles out gender and legal status.

labour market was not fully integrated, but divided into corresponding 'segments' or smaller 'labour markets', that were not automatically interlinked. In other words, these dichotomies are likely to reflect real restrictions to what jobs were open to an individual.

Slave and free labour

The Roman elite likened wage employment to slavery. Cicero wrote of wage labourers that "their very wages are the warrant of their slavery".⁶⁸ The close connection between working for wages and slavery is reinforced also when Chrysippus tries to soften the position of a slave by calling him a "perpetual wage-labourer".⁶⁹ They may be among the first uses of the concept of 'wage slavery' that would become prominent in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

The elite openly expressed their loathing of manual labour in general: agriculture was the only decent way to earn a livelihood.⁷⁰ Joshel sums up nicely the picture painted in the ancient sources:

Doctors kill their patients, and teachers corrupt their students (...). Businessmen always cheat, and rich auctioneers are usually crass. Men who make their living in commerce are materialistic, and they will try to use their wealth to claim precedence.⁷¹

On closer inspection, however, some occupations apparently were not deemed quite as disreputable as others. Jobs can be perfectly respectable for those "whose status they befit" (*quorum ordini conveniunt*), such as architects.⁷² Elite disdain of work focuses "on the relationship of dependency that work signified rather than on the status of who performed it".⁷³ The equation of workers and slaves perceived in ancient literature is therefore largely superficial.

68 Cic. *De Off.* 1.150: *est enim in illis ipsa merces auctoramentum servitutis*; transl. M.I. Finley (1973²) 57. Cf Treggiari (1980) 52: "most of the passages cited to prove [that the Romans equated wage-earning with slavery] seem insubstantial or ambiguous, except for Cicero's famous and rhetorical phrase". For Cic. *De Off.* 1. 150 and elite views on labour, see also the introduction.

69 *Mercennarius perpetuus*; Chrysippus in Sen. *De ben.* 3.22.1.

70 E.g. Van den Hoven (1996) 49.

71 Joshel (1992) 63–4. Similarly, Van den Hoven (1996) 49: "This train of thought in both pagan and Christian authors often resulted in not so much a dislike of trade as a dislike of traders. This is, of course, very similar to the traditional opinion of the Greeks and Romans concerning crafts: the product of the craftsman was not frowned upon, nor his skills, but the craftsman himself was".

72 Cic. *De Off.* 1. 151. Compare Or. 9

73 Bodel (2011) 317.

A more literal reading of the Roman elite view of manual labour however, has coloured historians' perception of labour in the Roman world in the past.⁷⁴

Economists sometimes express surprise that free labour should have played so small a part in the Roman world, whilst besides the slaves a *plebs* of several hundred thousand men inhabited the capital and other *plebes* not subject to the authority of any owner lived in all the large towns under both the Republic and the Empire. But all surprise is removed when one considers the institutions [i.e. the *annona*] which permitted this proletariat to live in idleness. (...) Free labour, which however never completely yielded to servile labour, lost its power of resistance in proportion to the ability of the *civis romanus* to live at the expense of the State.⁷⁵

The opinion voiced here by Louis downplays the contribution of free labour to the economy. The freeborn in the countryside – the majority of the population – were thought to have been farmers;⁷⁶ the idle poor in the city did not work, they were mollycoddled by means of bread and circuses instead – at best, they could be employed in the imperial building projects.⁷⁷ Note that in this, once again, the situation of the city of Rome is extrapolated to assumptions about the Roman empire.

The assumption that all manual labour was performed by slaves was supported by the fact that ancient evidence on slave labour and working freedmen is more abundant than that on free labour: slaves and ex-slaves predominate in the occupational inscriptions by a wide margin. It is now known, however, that this is partly the result of biases in the material. Slaves nevertheless made up a significant percentage of the urban population, perhaps over 40 per cent. The percentage may well have been lower for the city of Rome, but it would still amount to between 25 and 30 per cent.⁷⁸ Percentages of this order of magnitude clearly indicate the importance of slave labour within the urban economy. They also illustrate that the majority of the working population must have consisted of free labour.⁷⁹

74 See also Holleran (2017) 87 with references; Tacoma (2016) 176 with n.34.

75 Louis (1965) 2. Cf Sall. *Cat.* 37.7.

76 Also, e.g., Treggiari (1969a) 90: "...leaving [the free Romans] two occupations only, farming and war", although she hastens to add that "displaced and unemployed citizens were often glad to undertake ['servile' work]".

77 On the importance of the building trade, e.g. Brunt (1980). But see Holleran (2011) 171–2.

78 Cf De Ligt (2012) 190 table 4.3; De Ligt and Garnsey (2012) for Herculaneum; Joshel (1992) 46–9.

79 Holleran (2017) 87–90; Tacoma (2016) 176–8; cf Temin (2004a) 526: "...slaves were not the dominant labor force either in the city or the countryside of the early Roman empire."

In Roman society, overall welfare levels were low (see below). It was only in the city of Rome itself that the dole satisfied (or partly satisfied) a basic need for grain for a select group of the urban nonelite; even the dole, however, will have left people in need of additional income.⁸⁰ Common sense dictates that the group of free labourers in the cities must have been substantial, if only because a life of leisure in accordance with elite ideals was probably out of reach for most. The urban labour market therefore was not solely populated by slaves, although it is clear that slaves held an important share in it. The existence of a large urban slave population, combined with the hypothesis that the free urban population had to work for a living, leads to the expectation that slave and free often must have worked side by side. Slaves thus constituted not an economic, but primarily a legal category.⁸¹ If slavery is regarded as just one type of labour relation among a spectrum of possible labour relationships, the question remains: why was this quite extreme type so popular?

Slave and free were part of the same labour market, and if that labour market functioned according to economic price theory, it means they would have had to compete in price. But the relative price of slave labour is hard, if not impossible, to calculate. There is little evidence for wages from Roman antiquity to work with. Even if there were more attestations for wages, slaves do not always receive it. An attempt to account for the price of freedom (which is invaluable) from a modern perspective, as undertaken by White, may be morally sound but it is also anachronistic and cannot lead to an understanding of the economic contribution of slavery within Roman society.⁸² It is equally difficult to put a price-tag on the prestige and social capital of slave-holding in the eyes of the Romans, or their perception of the economic security of dependent labour.⁸³ Some interest in the economic value of slave labour is nevertheless reflected in slave prices: male slaves commanded higher prices than female slaves under the Roman empire. If slavery were based on traditions of honour involved in owning slaves, rather than on their economic value, we should expect prices to be similar for all slaves.⁸⁴ A definite awareness of the profitability of slave labour is also present in, for example, Columella's careful calculations of how many slaves and supervisors are needed to work a vineyard, or in Varro's advice to hire doctors, fullers or builders rather than provide expensive job-

80 Erdkamp (2016) 46-7; cf Brunt (1980) ; LeGall (1971). On the dole, see e.g. Aldrete and Mattingly (1999).

81 Bradley (1994); Temin (2004a).

82 White (2008).

83 Scheidel (2005b) and (2008); cf Hawkins (2017) 48ff.

84 Harper (2010) 234; historically, female slaves were often more expensive than males, more prestigious and more numerous.

training for slaves.⁸⁵ The antique authors never explicitly compare the cost and benefits of slave versus free labour, however.

It should be emphasized at this point that slave and free were not static categories. An individual could move from one to the other category: slaves could be granted their freedom through manumission, and free men could be enslaved through debt-bondage, penal slavery, and self-sale. Freed status was not permanent either, because the next generation would be freeborn.

One could say that slavery offered additional labour opportunities. Self-enslavement is in its very essence simply a particularly striking form of freedom of labour movement and economic strategy. Historically it is a desperate measure for individuals to turn to when there is no other option for sustenance left – “rather as when in seventeenth-century India, as Braudel records, a Persian ambassador acquired ‘innumerable slaves ... for almost nothing because of the famine’.”⁸⁶ However, it has also been argued that in Roman Italy the prospect of enslavement sometimes was in itself desirable when compared to the life of the free urban poor.⁸⁷

A remarkably open slave system and frequent manumission are commonly listed as the core characteristics of Roman slavery.⁸⁸ In some noticeably optimistic approaches to Roman slavery – undoubtedly inspired by a willingness to see the Roman Empire as the sophisticated forerunner of modern civilization – it has been argued that virtually all slaves were freed eventually, and that when they were freed they could expect full social integration in an open slave system.⁸⁹ Urban slaves in particular do seem to have stood a good chance to be manumitted once they had reached the legal age of manumission, though manumission was certainly not universal.⁹⁰ The frequency of manumission and the openness of the Roman slave system are still the subject of debate.

It is undoubtedly true that the Roman ex-slave was accepted into society to a remarkable degree.⁹¹ I would argue that this acceptance is the result of the overall integration of slaves within Roman society, and of an ex-slave’s continued bonds with his or her former

85 Colum. *RR* 1.9.4-5; Varro *RR* 1.16.4.

86 Braudel (1981) quoted by Harris (1999) 73.

87 The economic opportunities of contractual slavery are explored at length by Silver (2011); see also Ramin and Veyne (1981); Temin (2013a) 132-133; Temin (2004a) 526.

88 E.g. Kleijwegt (2006) 22. See chapter 4 for a more detailed discussion of manumission practices.

89 Watson (1980) on open and closed slave systems. Quasi-universal manumission: Alföldy (1986), Weaver (1972), Harper (1972).

90 Perhaps more than 50%, see Garnsey and De Ligt (2012) and (2016); see chapter 4 below for a more elaborate discussion of manumission rates.

91 Kleijwegt (2006) 56: “In no other slave society do we observe so many freedmen reaching important political positions and accumulating capital and property in commerce and entrepreneurship as we see in ancient Rome.”

owner. Both these facts secured freedmen a place within Rome's hierarchy. Acceptance was emphatically not the result of assimilation of the freed among the freeborn. Freedmen were never wholly free from stigma. A freedman became a Roman citizen, but he did not have full citizen rights. He was barred from the senatorial, equestrian and decurial classes, and thereby excluded from a number of political offices; intermarriage with the senatorial order was restricted.⁹² More importantly, freedmen remained dependent on their patron, although the practical implications of that bond could differ.

To a certain extent, then, slave, freed, and freeborn were interchangeable. Keith Harper noted that "[i]t is an open question, and one which has not been posed often or explicitly enough, to what extent slave and free labor acted as substitutes in the Roman economy".⁹³ Although most jobs appear to have been open to all, regardless of legal status, some sectors were predominantly staffed by either slave or free and they should therefore be seen as "*imperfect economic substitutes*".⁹⁴

Skilled and unskilled labour

Occupational inscriptions testify to high job differentiation in Roman Italy; some of the recorded jobs were clearly highly skilled.⁹⁵ There were surgeons and ophthalmologists, architects and gem engravers.⁹⁶ The fine quality of many material remains from Roman antiquity also attests to the fact that there were highly skilled artisans and craftsmen in Roman Italy. No one could deny the skills of the architect of the harbour facilities at Portus or the Baths of Caracalla, or the talent of the sculptor who copied the Greek original of the Apollo of Belvedere, and the vase-maker who decorated the Warren cup. It is therefore unlikely that high job differentiation was merely the result of low levels of skill in Roman society, in a scenario where all workers merely made a tiny contribution to the manufacture of a more complex final product.⁹⁷

92 Kleijwegt (2006) 3: "In ancient Rome, enslavement automatically wiped out free birth (...). In contrast, manumission documents from Brazil contain the standard clause that the act of manumission turned the slave into a free man, 'as if free from birth.'" See also his p. 38 ff, specifically 41 on the "incomplete transition from slave to free" throughout history, and in Rome.

93 Harper (2010) 213.

94 Tacoma (2016) 183, his emphasis; idem (forthcoming); Bradley (1994) 65; Temin (2004a) 518.

95 Tacoma (2016) 184 on a spectrum of skills; idem (forthcoming).

96 *Medicus chirurgus*: CIL 6. 3986, CIL 11. 5400; *medicus oculusarius*: CIL 5. 3156 and CIL 6. 33880; *architectus*: CIL 5. 3464, CIL 6. 8724 – examples for these three occupations could be multiplied. There is only one *gemmarius sculptor*: CIL 6. 9436.

97 As argued by Morel (1992). On labour differentiation, see introduction, and ch. 4.

The dichotomy between skilled and unskilled crosses the boundaries of legal status.⁹⁸ This is a point that deserves emphasis, because – like manual labour – skills are sometimes thought to have been exclusive to slaves.⁹⁹ The perseverance of that idea may once again be attributed to the overwhelming predominance of slaves and freedmen in the occupational inscriptions. Occupational inscriptions, but also other evidence like the chapter on wage in Diocletian's *Prices Edict*, chiefly attest to skilled labour.¹⁰⁰ The reasons why skilled occupations are overrepresented in the occupational inscriptions are not difficult to come up with. It may be assumed that people took pride in a job they had trained for. Moreover, it was a job that earned more money than unskilled wage-labour, so that it allowed them to set up an epitaph in stone more often than their unskilled counterparts. Even if they were commemorated in an inscription, many unskilled labourers were probably more like jacks-of-all-trades and not easily collected under the heading of a single job-title.

Most people commemorated with a job-title on their epitaph were both skilled, and of servile background – but that does not mean that all skilled labourers were of a servile background. No doubt it is true that some of the men and women who were enslaved during the expansion of the empire were clever Greeks.¹⁰¹ Moreover, investment in the education of home-born and bought slaves could certainly be a profitable undertaking and it must be assumed that many slaves were trained in the household. Conversely, the prospect of manumission might also have encouraged some slaves to pursue an education.¹⁰² It will be argued in the remainder of this thesis that skills were also accessible to the free population. Job-training was available to slave and free alike, and to both men and (if not as regularly) women. Investment in human capital was not exclusive to slaves

98 Temin (2004a) 538: “The fundamental economic division in the early Roman empire (...) was between educated and uneducated – skilled and unskilled – not between slave and free”.

99 E.g. Casson (1978) 45; and see chapter 4.

100 Cf Groen-Vallinga and Tacoma (2017).

101 Cf Garnsey (1980) 44 and chapter 4 below. Tacoma (2016) 201 on (exceptional) trades that were “associated with foreignness”: (Eastern) astrologers and (Greek) doctors. Of course, origin can be faked to create the same effect. I wonder if the owl-statue at the Rijksmuseum van Oudheden in Leiden belongs in that category, with a Greek inscription signposting the seer Achatas Petrios’s business in Rome.

102 Or to pursue it with more enthusiasm, insofar as they had choice in the matter; Temin (2013a) 131. “The observation that educated people became slaves reverses the causation noted earlier in this chapter that open systems of slavery with manumission promoted education. The earlier statement was that manumission led to education; the previous paragraph asserts that educated slaves led to manumission. Which is correct?” Temin argues that both were caused by the conquest of the Mediterranean.

and slave-owners. Slaves and ex-slaves just had better reasons to record their skills in stone – or less to substitute it with on their epitaphs, in terms of family ties.¹⁰³

Skilled labour paid at least twice as much as unskilled work, which could theoretically indicate that it was in relatively short supply.¹⁰⁴ Investment in education was relatively costly, and despite the skill premium it was not an investment that everyone could afford to make. A low life expectancy (and thus a shorter time-span to cash in on the investment), and competition for employment between slave and free workers made job-training less alluring for the freeborn. The evidence for investment in human capital by the freeborn, however, is better than that for slave education. Moreover, intergenerational dependence predicts that skilled labourers will often have been able to provide similar training for their children. It also indicates that unskilled workers very likely could not do the same for their offspring. In sum, job-training presumably was not as common or self-evident as it is in the Western world today – but that does not mean that skilled labour was necessarily scarce.¹⁰⁵ Scarcity depends on labour demand as well.

Roman society must have had a significantly higher demand for the muscle power of unskilled labourers than for the work of specialists. Combined with the limited scope for job-training just outlined, a large group of unskilled labourers must therefore be postulated. Despite the difficulties of quantification, scholars agree that especially in the capital employers had at their disposal a virtually limitless pool of unskilled workers.¹⁰⁶ The market for unskilled labour in the city may have been more casual, temporary and seasonal in nature than that for skilled labour, since labour demands were relatively unstable. The building trade and the transport sector should be highlighted in this context. This demand for unskilled labour power was probably met not only by urban residents, but must have been supplemented by temporary, cyclical labour migrants (see above).

Male and female labour

Gender distinctions are present within the other categories, slave and free, skilled and unskilled. In virtually every type of jobs men are more prominent and more often attested than women. For many families, however, the additional income of women must have been an economic necessity.

Scholarly discourse on Roman labour implicitly or explicitly focuses on male labour, for which the sources are much better. The current work is no exception. Thus, whereas 'gender' indicates the balance between male and female, the fact that everything else

103 Joshel (1992).

104 Hawkins (2017) 44-8.

105 See chapter 3 for investment in human capital of the freeborn, chapter 4 for investment in human capital of slaves.

106 Holleran (2017) 102-3.

is mostly based on sources about men's work turns this section about male and female labour into one that is really mostly about women's work. Roman women are often researched with a focus on their familial role, defining the women by the men in their lives – just as the Romans seem to have done.¹⁰⁷ Accordingly, when looking at female labour in the context of the Roman family, it is often assumed that when women were economically active, they did not have a money-earning occupation, but helped out their husbands in the family business.¹⁰⁸ This is noteworthy, because working women in Rome are actually not that uncommon in the sources and they have certainly not lacked scholarly attention. Much of the evidence is therefore well-known, but there is a tendency to explain away evidence for independent and skilled women in favour of these generalizations.¹⁰⁹

Women's contribution to the family income, like that of children, is difficult to measure. In many historical as well as contemporary societies, women's primary involvement with family economics has been with domestic housekeeping and childcare, which is generally unremunerated. Because of that, "[t]he woman at home was said to be economically nonfunctional".¹¹⁰ Though historical analyses of past economies and labour have long since started to take the economic value of domestic work into consideration, women's engagement with the labour market, particularly in a pre-industrial context, is still often underexposed. This section reveals that the focus on men is only partly justified and that when speaking of Roman labourers, this really does include many women.

Roman society was governed by men, and male dominance pervaded the organization of labour and the economy as well. Referring to such social systems as 'patriarchy' often carries a pejorative connotation, but it also facilitates comparison, which has proven to be useful.¹¹¹ Patriarchy is not unique to Rome. In other historical societies, patriarchy did not so much ban women from the labour market, but it has kept women confined to inferior, often unskilled jobs, with lower wages and fewer opportunities in what is called a secondary, or dual labour market – calling to mind the glass ceiling that is still regularly

107 E.g. Dixon (1988) *The Roman mother*; Hallett (1984) *Fathers and daughters in Roman society* – both titles are telling.

108 E.g. Saller (2007) 105-7; Saller (2003) 194; Kampen (1981) 112–13, 125; Treggiari (1979a) 73, 76 and (1976).

109 Groen-Vallinga (2013) with references; Holleran (2013). Malaspina (2003); Dixon (2001a) and the important methodological chapter on working women in (2001c) 113-134; Eichenauer (1988); Günther (1987) for freedwomen; Kampen (1981); LeGall (1970); worth mentioning here is especially the work of Treggiari (1976)(1979a)(1979b) which already poses many fundamental questions.

110 Tilly and Scott (1978) 5.

111 Groen-Vallinga (2013) 297-8; Honeyman and Goodman (1991) on patriarchy in general.

discussed as a serious issue today.¹¹² Such an engendered dual labour market limited women's opportunities of employment, and it was firmly in place in Roman society.¹¹³ In the words of Richard Saller:

A gendered division of labor makes Rome no different from nearly every other human society, but it is worth reflecting on the consequences of the particular configuration of gendered labor in Rome's slave society.¹¹⁴

A gendered labour market is a result, as well as a reflection, of gender ideals: the Roman elite endorsed the ideal that a woman should not need to work. This ideal image became widespread among the rest of the population and, as a result, women's work is not usually recorded in the ancient evidence.¹¹⁵ Because of a widespread gender bias and the resulting low wages, as well as the expectation of a relatively early marriage which shortened their time in the labour market and limited returns on investment in their human capital, it is likely that girls had fewer opportunities for job-training than boys.¹¹⁶ Their economic prospects therefore were limited, discouraging investment in female human capital even more. One of the implications is likely to have been that women actually participated in the labour market to a lesser extent than men. Women had a biological comparative advantage in the home, men had a comparative advantage in the labour market because they generally commanded higher wages.¹¹⁷ Regardless of their weak position in the labour market, it should be emphasized that many women will still have had to contribute to the family income to make ends meet. But when a woman was trained in an occupation, her profession was not the first thing she was remembered for in an epitaph.¹¹⁸

Women were therefore not only less actively involved in the labour market than men, but working women are also likely to be underrepresented, which goes a long way to explain the scarcity of the evidence from ancient Rome. The material we do have,

112 See e.g. Ridgeway (2011) 92-126, "Gendering at work". The glass ceiling is a phenomenon of an engendered, but not of a dual labour market.

113 Groen-Vallinga (2013); see also Gardner (1995) and Dixon (1984) for women's position in Roman law.

114 Saller (2003) 201.

115 Groen-Vallinga (2013) 295-9.

116 Women's wages are seldom attested, and when they are gender differentiations are not clear; on wages for women in Diocletian's *Prices Edict*, Groen-Vallinga and Tacoma (2017) 113; on investment in human capital of women, see chapter 3 below.

117 Cf Cigno (1991) 28.

118 Larsson Lovén (2016); Groen-Vallinga (2013) 295-9; Hemelrijk (2004) on the *laudatio Turiae*; Larsson Lovén (1998).

however, shows that women were operating in a remarkably broad range of jobs. There is no reason why they should not be: there was no law against women in commerce, production and business, and their income presumably presented a welcome addition to the family budget.¹¹⁹

LABOUR SUPPLY AND DEMAND

According to economic price theory, “[a] functioning labor market couples a labor demand with a labor supply”.¹²⁰ This section therefore takes a closer look at labour demand and labour supply in Roman Italy. The expectation here, too, is that there will have been socio-cultural constraints to reaching an equilibrium between supply and demand.

Urbanisation rates in Roman Italy were high. That fact prompts a number of suppositions about supply and demand within the urban labour market: it suggests that there were plenty of workers available in what would be considered a thick urban labour market. If so, the ample availability of labour would then reduce the value of labour, implying low wages. Low wages lead to an increase in labour supply, because people will have sought to increase their income by looking for more work. However, a large urban population also means that there was a larger pool of consumers: people have to eat and so a large population raises product demand. But was the increase in product demand enough to increase labour demand, and to increase it sufficiently to satisfy everyone’s need to find an income? Was it idle hope to find a new life, a better income in the city?

Living standards and the working population

Aggregate labour supply in economic theory is determined by the numbers of the working population, multiplied by the hours worked and the intensity of effort in those hours, taking into consideration such factors as demographics and human capital. Obviously, no such sophisticated cliometric analysis is possible for ancient Rome. But there is a lot to be said about the numbers and the structure of the total urban population of Roman Italy, which is the maximum potential work force. It will be argued that most of the population lived at or under subsistence level, and that therefore the potential working population at least roughly approximates the actual work force: everyone who could do so, had to work for a living.

119 Larsson Lovén (2016); Groen-Vallinga (2013), and on the family as a whole see chapter 3 below.

120 Temin (2013a) 115.

Temin contends that “ordinary Romans lived well”.¹²¹ The amount of scholarship trying to make sense of the scarce data on Roman living standards already indicates that the argument is not easy to substantiate, however. In recent years, students of the Roman economy presented various efforts to calculate Roman gross domestic product (GDP) for the early Empire, mostly in the context of analysis of Roman economic growth but also in connection with investigations into Roman living standards.¹²² There is no way to identify *per capita* GDP accurately for the Roman empire. Some findings are suggestive for our current investigation, however. Comparative evidence suggests that regional differences in the distribution of GDP occur; in the case of the Roman empire it is likely that wealth was concentrated in Roman Italy, raising GDP there. As a rule, GDP and urbanization rates are linked, and indeed the high urbanization rate of Roman Italy matches the suggested higher GDP in the Italian heartland.¹²³

The proposition that Roman Italy had a higher GDP than the rest of the empire does not necessarily mean that the inhabitants of Roman Italy were well-off, nor that they were any better off than those in the provinces. Temin’s assumption that Roman Italy can best be compared to the blossoming economy of the Netherlands in 1600, rather than the less wealthy ‘early modern European economy’ proposed as comparandum by others, does not prove the hypothesis that “ordinary Romans lived well”. Calculations of *per capita* or aggregate GDP effectively mask income inequality; and the distribution of income may have been more unequal in Roman Italy than elsewhere, because wealth tended to concentrate in the hands of a small group of people.¹²⁴

Real wages are perhaps a better indication of living standards than *per capita* GDP. The most comprehensive dataset of prices and wages to calculate real wages is the list contained in Diocletian’s *Prices Edict*. The conclusions drawn on the basis of the wage of an unskilled worker in the *Edict* are consistent: real wages were low in comparison with other historical societies.¹²⁵ The more abundant wage data from Roman Egypt lead to the same inference.¹²⁶ It was postulated here that a large part of the urban

121 Temin (2013a) 2 and chapter 11; cf Temin (2006) 133, “Many inhabitants of ancient Rome lived well”; cf Jongman (2007).

122 Temin (2013a); Lo Cascio and Malanima (2009); Scheidel and Friesen (2009); Bang (2008); Maddison (2007); Temin (2006); Goldsmith (1984); Hopkins (1980).

123 Temin (2013a) 253, 256; whereas the correlation is clear, Temin notes that the causality is unclear – is it wealth that leads to urbanization, or does that work the other way around?

124 Temin (2013a) 256–7. Cf De Ligt (2012) 19, with reference to Van Bavel (2008) and Maat (2005) for income inequality in the Dutch Republic of the Golden Age; Groen-Vallinga and Tacoma (2017) 118–22 note that Diocletian’s *Prices Edict* points to high income variation.

125 Allen (2009) and Duncan-Jones (1978); Scheidel (2014) for a less clear-cut negative answer; See also Groen-Vallinga and Tacoma (2017) 118 with further references.

126 Scheidel (2010a) 433; cf Drexhage (1991) chapter 9.

population consisted of these unskilled labourers who had to get by on a very low wage. Most ancient historians therefore infer that “the majority of the Romans were not very well off”.¹²⁷ The effects of low real wages may theoretically be cushioned by the regular participation of all family members, not just the male head of household.¹²⁸ This phenomenon also suggests that the labour supply was high. But in fact labour supply may have been so high that it could not always be satisfied, in which case large groups of people were underemployed, or unemployed at any one time.¹²⁹ This presumption supports the argument that the large majority of the Italian population may still have been living at or under subsistence levels.¹³⁰ Somewhat paradoxically, a city like Rome was the best place to live in structural poverty, because it offered the largest variety of casual and informal ways to survive.¹³¹

Price theory suggests that low real wages indicate an abundant supply of labour. This is supported by the evidence: the urban population in the Italian peninsula was substantial in any calculation. There were quite simply very many people in Roman Italy, no matter whether we choose to adhere to the so-called ‘low count’ – six or seven million people – or the ‘high count’ – fifteen or sixteen million – of the Italian population. Recent estimates suggest that perhaps twenty-five per cent of the numerous Italians lived in cities.¹³² Warfare and other unnatural population checks did not interfere greatly with the population of Italy in the period under scrutiny. It is clear that there was no shortage of labour in the urban labour market, at least in terms of population numbers.¹³³

The value of these people’s human capital – the intensity of work – was also dependent on health: in line with what was said before about the material well-being of the urban population, Jongman wrote that “[m]any inhabitants of the Roman empire only eked

127 Groen-Vallinga and Tacoma (2017) 118. But see Jongman (2007) for a rather more optimistic view on the standard of living under the early empire, and Rathbone (2006) who holds that Roman Egypt in the early empire was relatively prosperous overall.

128 Groen-Vallinga and Tacoma (2017) 119-20; Groen-Vallinga (2013) on female labour participation; Scheidel (2010a) 433–5, 454.

129 Holleran (2011) 165: “Cities in developing countries typically demonstrate high levels of unemployment, underemployment and poverty”.

130 Gilbert (2013) on rising inequality in cities throughout history; Temin (2013a) 250 on the subjectivity of the term ‘subsistence’; Holleran (2011) for the concept of chronic poverty in Rome; Scheidel and Friesen (2009) for income distributions and the percentage at or under subsistence levels; on poverty in the Roman world see also Harris (2011) 27-54, ‘Poverty and destitution in the Roman empire’; Scheidel (2006); Garnsey (1988).

131 Holleran (2011) 177–8.

132 De Ligt (2012) 231-3, 238-46.

133 Cf Holleran (2017) 103 notes that there is no mention of labour shortages in Rome; See also Suet. *Vesp.* 18, where Vespasian refuses a labour-saving device with the argument that he needs to feed his people – suggesting that there were many in need of work.

out a meager living, their skeletons grim testimonies to malnutrition and disease.”¹³⁴ By contrast, slaves may have been fed relatively well, since caring for slaves was equivalent to preserving property. Bioarchaeology as well as less direct approaches to analyse the physical well-being of the ancient Romans form an expanding and promising new area of research.¹³⁵ This developing research into skeletal evidence and the physique of the ancient Romans does not yet allow for firm conclusions on topics like malnutrition or stature.

Some more general patterns may still be sketched out, however. In the unhealthy environment of a preindustrial city endemic diseases were omnipresent and will have decreased the efficiency and ability of people to work.¹³⁶ The urban population was also more likely to be susceptible to epidemic disease.¹³⁷ If an epidemic led to a sudden drop in population numbers, the labour supply dwindled and that would have led to higher labour participation of women and children; it will also have raised wages, at least in a functioning labour market. Too little is known about epidemics in the ancient world to determine their effects with any certainty. It is only the great Antonine Plague of the later second century AD for which scholars have attempted to find some tentative answers about its economic effects: population losses of perhaps as much as 20-30 per cent seem to have doubled the price of labour in Roman Egypt.¹³⁸

Economic insecurity and fluctuating demands

Labour demand is a derived demand, based on demand for services and products. It was noted several times in passing in this chapter that urban labour demand is likely to

134 Jongman (2007) 594; that said, note that Jongman argues that the majority of Romans in the early empire were actually relatively well-off, and that increasing inequality and poverty was a thing of late Antiquity.

135 The contributions of both Jongman ('Consumption') and Sallares ('Ecology') to the *Cambridge Economic History of the Greco-Roman world* (2007) illustrate its incorporation in studies of the ancient economy; see also the edited volume by King (2005); Bisel and Bisel (2002); Tacoma (2017) for its use in migration studies.

136 Oerlemans and Tacoma (2014) for imperial Rome; Gowland and Garnsey (2010) on the correlation between urbanization and disease; Eventually the problem 'solved' itself: Parkin (2003) 235, "When a person's failing state of physical and mental health led to total inability to be self-supporting, then, in the absence of effective medication (...), dependence on others may have been short-lived anyway".

137 Duncan-Jones (1996) 109–11; Sallares (2002) on endemic malaria; Scheidel (2003) for Rome; Laurence (2005) for Herculaneum and Pompeii.

138 Temin (2013a) 118, 84-85; Rathbone (2009) 305; Scheidel (2012e) and (2002) to be read with the critical comments of Bagnall (2002); cf Duncan-Jones (1996).

have been particularly unstable in the cities of Roman Italy.¹³⁹ In part this was due to the seasonality of the building and transport sectors, where many unskilled city-dwellers and temporary migrants should be located. The influx of cyclical labour migrants in turn added to the general consumer demand in the cities. Conversely, there is a possibility that some of the unskilled urban population moved away from the city in summer to assist on farms during the harvesting season.¹⁴⁰ Though seasonality and instability certainly apply, the trough in demand during the off-season was perhaps not as severe as we might expect. The building sector could continue for most of nine months a year; the shipping trade, with due acknowledgement of the dangers involved, may have been not as strictly limited to the sailing season (traditionally April to October) as has generally been thought.¹⁴¹ The sailing season of course also influenced mobility in general, and tourism and migration may have spiked in the safer period. The seasons or, more accurately, the weather obviously affected many trades more generally.

Equally cyclical were religious festivals and other festivities on the calendar, that presented a major incentive in demand, be it for the required ritual clothing or through the habit of exchanging gifts; merely the crowd of people will have increased consumption and attracted merchants.¹⁴² Especially in the city of Rome, celebrations such as triumphal processions, and the mere presence of the emperor will have attracted many people. The elections of the magistrates in January apparently drew many to the city; Augustus implemented a summer low-period for the Senate and a recess for the courts which had the opposite effect:¹⁴³ outside of the political high season, many nobles moved to the countryside to survive the (literally) murderous summer heat.

These seasonal and cyclical peaks and troughs in demand required a certain flexibility of the workers, but at least they were to a certain extent predictable. Throughout the year, workshops produced on commission, however, which was largely unpredictable. Many of the luxury trades catered specifically to the needs of the elite – much of the

139 Much of what follows rests on this basic idea from Hawkins (2016) chapter 1, who derives this model from a comparison with medieval and early modern cities. Briefer, Hawkins (2013) 339-46.

140 So Hawkins (2013) 341; but see Erdkamp (2016): it is probable that the rural population had enough manpower for the harvest without the help of urban residents. A short holiday on a farm in the north of the Netherlands taught me that even today farmers work together and simply rotated the machinery and manpower for grass silage within the one week that this had to be brought in.

141 The building trade: Erdkamp (2016) 39 with reference to the work of DeLaine (1997), ca 220 days a year. On the sailing season, Hawkins (2013) writes it was May-September, but see now Gambash (2017) and especially Beresford (2012).

142 De Ligt (1993) 60 for markets during the *ludi* in Rome.

143 Plin. *Ep.* 2.11.10 (the crowd in January); Suet. *Aug.* 32 (recess of the courts in Nov-Dec), 35 (only the presence of a minimum of senators, which ones was determined by lot, was required in Sept-Oct).

money that went round in the city simply was spent by the elite.¹⁴⁴ Larger (building) projects could present entrepreneurs with a sudden peak in labour demand.¹⁴⁵ For day labourers, insecurity was a daily fact of life: even if they had regular employment with one employer, his sudden leave of absence could mean a day without work – and without pay: Apuleius' has a poor carpenter return home unsuccessfully from work, stating that "although our shopkeeper, wrapped up in a public matter, has made this a holiday for us, still I have raked in our daily bread" – in this case, by selling an unused *dolium*.¹⁴⁶ The implications are twofold: firstly, he expected to leave for work like every other day but was unexpectedly sent away, and secondly, he did not get paid.

The city was the place where supply and demand for labour could meet.¹⁴⁷ The congregation of people looking for workers, or work, in itself was also a powerful generator of consumer demand, increasing the pull of the city even more. Fluctuating demand increased the insecurities of the urban economy, prompting various economic strategies that would increase flexibility for labourers and employers alike.

CONCLUSION

Labour in the Roman empire clearly was subject to market forces and it is therefore possible to speak of a Roman urban labour market. This chapter illustrated that market integration was far from perfect, however. The Roman market economy is likely to have been local or regional in many instances. Moreover, the importance of social structures that determined and restricted the integration of a market for labour should be emphasised. In the chapters that follow it will be argued that family ties and non-familial networks were the chief determinant of an individual's labour opportunities in the market. Again, these socio-economic networks will generally have been of a local, or at most regional nature. The section on labour migration showed a similar dependence on institutions: there was movement, but there were certainly restrictions as to who moved, and what options were open in the receiving labour market.

Labour mobility is likely to have accounted for a large part of migration streams in Roman Italy. Migrants moved to the city in the hope of finding additional income or better wages. Rural-urban migration flows kept the urban population intact, even if many

144 On the correlation between urbanization and elite expenditure, see chapter 4.

145 Erdkamp (2016) 48, "the labour demand of the urban economy fluctuated, in part following a pattern of predictable and regular, seasonal cycles, in part as a result of less predictable and less short-term trends that were primarily caused by imperial spending".

146 *Apul. Met.* 9.5-6: *licet forensi negotio officinator noster attentus ferias nobis fecerit, tamen hodiernae cenulae nostrae propexi.*

147 Holleran (2017) on the ways in which employer and employee may have found each other.

labour migrants were only temporary guests. The urban infrastructure was probably more conducive to permanent settlement of skilled labourers than to that of unskilled wage workers, but the city had an appeal to both groups. The possibility of movement between jobs was enough to allow for some flexibility in the light of labour demands, which holds true for slave workers as well. Changing or finding jobs was easier in theory than in practice, however.

Opportunities on the labour market were governed by legal status, skills, and gender. Perhaps contrary to expectations, it was not the split between slave and free that stands out as the most important limiting factor. Most occupations appear to have been open to slaves, freedmen and the freeborn alike. It is only in domestic service that a strong preference for slave labour comes to the fore, closely connected to the phenomenon of conspicuous consumption. Because women historically often find work in this sector and the Roman society was familiar with a similar gender ideal, this is likely to have impacted most on free women's chances to find work.

Skills were highly valued in Roman society, and here, too, there is little to indicate that chances were better for slave or free – both seem to have had access to job-training. The one group that is less well represented again, is that of freeborn women. There were certainly women who were trained as artisans, or who gained other skills, and they should not be explained away – still it is safe to say that gender was the most distinctive criterion that determined one's potential in the labour market.

Labour was undoubtedly the most widely available production factor in Antiquity. Labour supply often was greater than labour demand in Roman Italy, leaving large parts of the free urban population under- or unemployed for regular periods of time. The urban population was large. The cities of Roman Italy were the home of the freeborn, freed and slaves, and of men, women and children. The individuals that made up the urban population were not equal, in the sense of perfectly interchangeable. For example, it is likely that elite *domus* simply employed slaves to fulfil vacancies in their household, effectively closing off part of the service sector for the freeborn. In very many instances, however, the labour demand was met by both slave and free labourers. That should not be surprising, considering the fact that the majority of the working population effectively consisted of free labourers. Some of the labourers possessed a particular skill set, others were unskilled wage labourers. It was postulated that skilled labour may have been relatively scarce, and very valuable because of it. The labour supply for unskilled wage work, in particular, is likely to have been abundant.

Since the supply of labour was at times more profuse than labour demand, wages tended to be low. Roman Italy may have demonstrated a relatively high *per capita* GDP, but income inequality was also high, particularly in the Italian heartland; comparative evidence suggests that inequality was most pronounced in an urban context. The evidence indicates that the majority of the urban population in Roman society did indeed

work for low wages and that their living standards were low. Quite possibly many of them were living in chronic poverty. The emperor and the urban elite needed to provide more than bread and circuses to keep the people happy: work, in the form of large building projects for example, was vital.

Strong labour segmentation within an urban labour market that was characterized by fluctuating demand and high labour participation, a large proletariat of unskilled labourers that is poorly reflected in the epigraphic evidence and a small group of highly skilled workers that is well represented, are the backbone for the rest of this thesis.

Chapter 3

Family economics: nonelite households

INTRODUCTION

More often than not we have little or no knowledge of the context of an occupational inscription: we do not know the monument it was part of, and it is often unclear precisely where or when the text was set up. Many of these inscriptions probably belonged to the modest environment of the nonelite household. Naturally, some will have been a little less modest than others. The *aurifex brattarius* from Rome whose statue base is now in the *Galleria delle Statue* of the Vatican, can hardly be considered modest.¹ Similarly, the conspicuous monument to the famous baker M. Vergilius Eurysaces, still standing at the Porta Maggiore in Rome today, shows that he was not exactly modest, nor of modest means.² Their households may have contained a significant number of slaves and freedmen, but were not comparable to the sizeable elite *domus* of T. Statilius Taurus or Livia Augusta, whose domestic staff members were buried in large *columbaria*.

What is the nonelite household? For want of a better distinguishing criterion, I would define 'nonelite households' broadly as family units in which family members contributed their labour power for the wellbeing of the collective. In the cities of Roman Italy, the nonelite household generally consisted of a household head, the nuclear family, plus any slaves or freedmen in their power. I refer to these family units as nonelite households, or small families, to draw an explicit contrast with the large elite *domus* of chapter 4, where the principal family could afford not to get their own hands dirty and have others perform all kinds of work necessary. The nonelite made up the vast majority of the total population of Roman Italy.³ Because my definition concerns such great numbers, it includes a noticeably broad range of nonelite families: they came in many shapes and sizes, ranging from Eurysaces' successful business to a street vendor and his family. A nonelite family of freedmen may also have originated from an elite *domus*. There was not just a great variety of family forms, but individual households also changed over time in a life cycle of their own.

This chapter starts out from the hypothesis that the dynamics of the family are key to understanding the Romans' engagement with the labour market. That includes the dynamics of demography and family structure, as well as the fluctuations in family economics. My aim is to illuminate how these factors interlinked to eventually determine the economic strategies that a Roman family adopted.

1 *CIL* 6. 9210.

2 On the monument see Mayer (2012) 112-14; Petersen (2003); the inscription preserved on three sides of the monument is *CIL* 6. 1958a.

3 Scheidel and Friesen (2009) 76 table 6, estimate ca 1.5% of households belonged to the economic elite (senators, *equites* and *decuriones*), leaving no less than 98.5% nonelite households.

Economic analyses of the family in early modern Europe generally consider the pre-industrial family as “the unit of production and consumption and the household the locus of work and residence”.⁴ This model of convergence of supply and demand within the family, is called the ‘family economy’. This premise is also implicit in studies on the Roman family.⁵ Agricultural families are thought to have been largely self-sufficient, for example.⁶ In the context of urban commerce and production, the family economy model is met by the widespread view that small-scale *tabernae*/workshops were the dominant production units in the ancient Roman economy.⁷ It will become clear throughout this chapter that this perception of the family can explain much – though not all – of the ancient evidence.

The Industrial Revolution profoundly changed the nature of the family economy. A new model was introduced to accommodate the fact that many workers were now employed as wage-workers in large-scale factories: the new nineteenth-century standard was labeled the ‘family wage economy’. Although this model has firm origins in historical analysis of the Industrial Revolution, even in preindustrial families the family is not necessarily the locus of work, and hiring out labour outside of the family was also a very real possibility. The model of a family wage economy could perhaps be detached from its industrial origins and be applied to earlier societies. In Rome and Ostia, large production facilities have been recovered archaeologically, even if they are only attested sporadically.⁸ But we shall see that wage-labour in general was more widespread and that there were many wage-earning families in Rome.

The historical demographer Richard Wall felt that both the family economy and the family wage economy could not account for the historical data he found for his research into nineteenth-century Colyton, and so he came up with a new model: the ‘adaptive family economy’.⁹ The adaptive family economy model allows for diversification of labour and for flexible strategies of the family, both inside and outside the confines of the house, with the aim of maximizing “economic well-being”.¹⁰ Flexibility is key.

4 Wall (1986) 265.

5 Or explicit, as in the case of Saller (2011), (2007) 87, where he opens his paper with “In the Greco-Roman world the household was the basic unit of production as well as consumption”, and Saller (2003) 189.

6 Implicit in e.g. Dyson (2011), a sweeping overview of scholarship on rural families.

7 Loane (1938) 63; Händel (1985) 499; Holleran (2012) 27, 125; most elaborately the recent work of Flohr (2017).

8 E.g. Flohr (2007) on the differences between Pompei and Ostia; Saller (2013) considers the large *domus* as productive units – but they are also unique to Rome, at least in an urban context.

9 Wall (1986) 265; and see Groen-Vallinga (2013) for an earlier introduction of the adaptive family economy to the ancient Roman evidence for female labour.

10 Wall (1986) 265.

Virtually the same solution was reached through scholarly endeavors into the concept of 'family strategy':¹¹ the study of strategy was the natural result of a scholarly shift from investigating structural functionalism to individualism and agency.¹² In other words, families became historical actors with an active contribution to make to the course of history, rather than objects whose life-course was determined solely by external circumstances. As with the adaptive family economy, the addition of 'adaptive' to family strategies emphasises flexibility in the way that families may 'adapt' to their circumstances.¹³ The focus in this chapter therefore lies on 'family adaptive labour strategies': a family's actions on the labour market.

Family strategy is the outcome of a process of decision-making within the family. That process is guided by internal power structures on the one hand, and by the larger cultural, social, and economic factors in society on the other. The decision-making process itself is fundamental in understanding subjects like marriage, investment in human capital, or labour allocation, and will be brought in whenever appropriate.¹⁴ Out of necessity, on the lower end of the scale household strategies were directed primarily towards the modest goal of staying alive. As a result, in the nonelite household motivations were chiefly economic and choices were relatively limited.

Chapter outline

Families had various economic strategies open to them in theory, the range of which varied according to the situation they were in. Can actual forms of economic strategy be detected in the ancient sources, and how does it help to interpret and explain the ancient evidence?

Economic strategies of the family can be divided into two categories: quantitative and qualitative strategies. The quantity of the family concerns the demographic make-up of the family. Family demography to a large extent was a conscious choice, as in the case

11 For a conceptual approach to family strategy, see especially the research program on family and labour of the NW Posthumus Institute (the Dutch National Research School for Social and Economic History); the results of the research group were published in special volumes: *Economic and social history in the Netherlands* 6 (1994); *History of the family: an international quarterly* – special issue 'Structure or Strategy?' (1997) and *History of the family* 9 (2004) – special issue 'Labor strategies of families'. Contrast, e.g., the loose application of family strategy in Judd (2010) on contemporary rural west China, or Ornstein and Stalker (2013) on modern Canadian families.

12 E.g. Engelen (2002) 453–4.

13 Moen and Wethington (1992).

14 By incorporating the decision-making process, and structural factors into the decision-making process, this analysis counters the most fundamental points of critique of 'family strategy' that led Theo Engelen to suggest we abandon it altogether, Engelen (2002) esp. 464; Engelen came back from that, however, see Engelen (2004a).

of marriage, or buying a slave. However, the conscious decisions about the structure of the family can go much further: it starts with the choice whether to raise a child, or not. The quality of the family encompasses decisions concerning the labour allocation of the various family members, and the related matter of investment in education and the family's collective stock of human capital.

Family structure and the family life cycle

The typical family in the United Kingdom in 2006 consisted of a conjugal couple, 1.8 children and half a dog; they drove a Ford Focus and owned a mortgaged house and a computer, and they earned on average 32,779 pounds a year.¹⁵ Obviously that does not mean that the Ford Focus was the only car to be seen driving along the M1: there is a considerable diversity to be found in cars. Even more apparent is that there is no such thing as a 0.8 child. Thus, this typical family merely represented the dominant family type in the UK in 2006, which is helpful for a more general analysis of the population. That does not preclude the fact that there was in reality a wide variety of family forms.

In a similar way, the first section of this chapter investigates what we are actually talking about when talking about 'the Roman family'. For all the scholarly attention that has been devoted to the subject over the last decades, there has been no clear answer to this question. It will be argued that there is such a thing as a dominant family form for the cities of the early Roman empire, despite its various manifestations. An awareness of the particularities of the urban Roman family could prove to be helpful in determining the parameters for family labour supply and demand. Matters to be investigated are different from those in the UK in 2006, of course: some Roman families may have owned a dog (as indicated by the *cave canem* mosaics in Pompeii), but a significant proportion of them included one or two slaves, and potentially also freedmen.

The very family dynamics that have made the Roman family such an intangible concept, are key to our understanding of the family unit. Families come in all shapes and sizes, and because the make-up of a family is always in flux, that family's economic needs and abilities also change over time. This so-called household cycle, or family life cycle, is a great influence on economic choices of the family. Although we usually do not have the data to follow a historical family over the life cycle, many of the demographic parameters can be modelled. The section on the dynamics of demography therefore focuses on the life-changing events of marriage, the birth of a child, and non-kin additions to the family. Marriage forged important bonds, and also made for the most efficient economic cooperation. Children were considered to be an economically valuable asset to the family. Family ties were unstable, however, and in skilled work in particular the family firm often extended itself with one or two slaves.

15 <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/7071611.stm>, accessed 16-8-2016.

Human capital and the allocation of labour

If labour was the most important production factor in Antiquity, as it is widely assumed to have been, it follows that significant profit could be gained principally through investment in population quality, that is human capital. Human capital is a convenient term for the combined characteristics of a worker. Such characteristics may include age, sex, health and physique, and innate ability, as well as levels of education, and possibilities for migration. Significantly, then, human capital concerns more than schooling – although, to my mind, education remains its most powerful aspect. Human capital theory breaks down the production factor labour into more specific components, in order to give due credit to personal ability and output of labourers – which can then be taken into consideration when calculating profit and investment. Adam Smith in his *Wealth of Nations* was the first to mention “a capital fixed and realized, as it were, in his person”.¹⁶ As an economic concept, however, human capital was developed fully only in the second half of the twentieth century.¹⁷

The application of human capital theory to Roman history is relatively new. Of necessity it must remain very basic.¹⁸ It is my contention that it is precisely these basic principles that may help understand the predominantly qualitative evidence for investment in human capital. Physical well-being and health are important to economics, and this subject receives increasing attention from ancient historians.¹⁹ Life expectancy, general unhealthy urban environments and the Antonine Plague have been briefly referred to in the previous chapter. In the context of the labour market, however, it seems justified to focus on education and the acquisition of skills.

In human capital theory, “[t]he individual is assumed to maximize the present value of future expected lifetime net earnings, where net earnings are take-home pay (...) minus any direct human capital investment costs incurred, such as the costs of training”.²⁰ The expectation of private returns differs per person: men, for example, would expect to spend more active time in the labour market than women in many historical periods: women often dropped out of the labour force upon marriage or just before the birth

16 Smith (1776).

17 Eide and Showalter (2010) is a useful introductory piece on human capital. Key works are Schultz (1961) and (1980), and Becker (1964) and (1985).

18 Pioneering works by Hawkins (2016) and (2006), Saller (2013) and (2007), and Verboven (2012a). Human capital in Roman agriculture is the subject of Stringer’s working paper (2012). For an indication of the full complexity of human capital in economics see, e.g., the handbook by Burton-Jones and Spender (eds) (2011).

19 E.g., Scheidel (2012c); Jongman (2007); Laurence (2005).

20 Bosworth e.a. (1996) 35.

of a first child.²¹ Future expected earnings are dependent on market demands as well. Labour demand is a derived demand, in that it depends upon product demand – which will have influenced the choice for an occupation.²² For example, there is no reason to train a child as a scribe when the current local scribes have years ahead of them, and when there is a strong demand for potters in the city. The resulting balance predicts that investing in human capital also has social returns: effects that benefit society, like the security of having enough doctors to service everyone.

DEMOGRAPHY OF THE FAMILY: FAMILY STRUCTURE

The demography of the family has been steadily gathering ground in ancient history.²³ Family and family structure have become integral to the subject of ancient demography.²⁴ The parameters of high mortality and high fertility are well-known²⁵; the effects of high mortality on the population and the reality of high fertility are only measurable in the context of the Roman family. Conversely, demography will have affected Roman family life and the social and cultural preferences surrounding it. This section deals with the preferred family structure in the cities of Roman Italy. In a similar undertaking for Roman Egypt, Hübner has expressed well what is at stake.

Decisions about the marriage of a daughter, a new family enterprise, the purchase of more land, sending a son away for an apprenticeship, and provision for old age and death did not affect only one individual, but all the family members who lived together. The timing of those decisions was the response to the opportunities or needs that arose from certain household constellations. On the other hand, certain cultural patterns of predominant living form influenced decision-making to achieve the household form that was considered the ideal for traditional and economic reasons. Household composition also affected the way an individual or family coped with situations of crisis, the death of a spouse, divorce, orphanhood, or childless old age.²⁶

21 The literature about women and human capital is extensive, but see e.g. Schultz (ed.)(1995), Becker (1985), Mincer and Polachek (1974).

22 Eide and Showalter (2010) 283 “Observed outcomes in the Marketplace will be the result of an equilibrium process where the demand for specific skills and abilities is balanced with its supply”.

23 Parkin (1992); Scheidel ed. (2001a); Holleran and Pudsey (2011).

24 Holleran and Pudsey (2011) 2.

25 E.g. Scheidel (1996), (2001a), (2001b), Parkin (1992).

26 Hübner (2013) 31.

Family form therefore must have had economic implications as well. The addition of slaves and freedmen in the household will also have had important consequences in view of the family labour supply.

Family form

In search of what the Roman family generally looked like, ancient historians turned to household structure and family typology. A classic progress paradigm was proffered by early modern historians, with the nuclear family at its apex.²⁷ Before industrialisation and modernisation, the extended family was thought to have been the norm. The hypothesis predicts that in ancient Rome most families would have consisted of two or more generations of conjugal couples. However, with the work of Peter Laslett and the widely influential *Cambridge Group for the History of Population and Social Structure*, it was argued that the nuclear family, also termed the 'stem family' or 'simple family household', had in fact been the most important family focus as far back as AD 1300.²⁸ Ancient historians readily picked up on this. A leading article published by Saller and Shaw in 1984, shifted consensus towards the supposition of a dominant nuclear Roman family system. They demonstrated a clear predominance of nuclear family ties in commemorative inscriptions.²⁹

The ideal of the nuclear family was indeed valued greatly in Rome.³⁰ Marriage appears to have been mainly neo-local, which means that the newlyweds set up their own household after the wedding. It is suggestive that the wedding ceremony consisted of a procession with which the bride would leave her birth home and enter the marital home.³¹ It is possible that there sometimes were economic reasons to start out married life in the household of the groom's father instead; however, I know of very little evidence for such arrangements outside of Roman Egypt, where patri-local marriage appears to have been the norm.³²

27 LePlay (1871), who deserves credit for being the one who established research into family typology. Cf Saller (1997) on the parallel discussion on the Roman concept of kinship.

28 Laslett and Wall (eds)(1972). Saller and Shaw (1984) on the predominance of the nuclear family in Rome.

29 For a critique of their work see Martin (1996); Scheidel (2012b); See also Gallivan and Wilkins (1997) for regional differences in family structure.

30 For the focus of sentimentality on the nuclear family, Dixon (1991) passim and at 111: "[The ideal] ignored the reality that family life frequently included people beyond the nuclear, idealized group".

31 Hin (2013) 186-190 cautions against the assumption that neo-local marriage was universal (the argument was made for the second and first centuries BC but has relevance for the imperial period); On the wedding ceremony see, e.g., Dixon (1992) 64-5.

32 Economic reasons, cf Hin (2011) 113; On Roman Egypt see Hübner (2013) 48-50.

Ideal and reality are not quite the same thing, however.³³ Keith Bradley discovered that families were often of a composite nature, and included others besides the nuclear triad of father, mother and children. Composite families were shaped by death, birth, marriage, divorce, and remarriage.³⁴ The implications are profound in a society familiar with high fertility and high mortality rates. The servile component of the family only adds to the changeability of the Roman family.

Roman epigraphy offers a great many illustrations of what the family could look like at a fixed moment in time. In funerary epigraphy that moment is marked by the death of a family member. *CIL* 6. 18404 is a good example of a household tomb.³⁵

CIL 6. 18404

D(is) M(anibus) / Flaviae Primae fecit / T(itus) Flav(ius) Daphnus vern(a)e / suae
q(ui) v(ixit) a(nnos) XII m(enses) VIII d(ies) XXV / et sibi et Flaviae Eufrosyne
coniuigi suae et L(ucio) / Laberio Hermeti cogna/to suo et Cassiae Synethe
/ amica(e) optim(a)e et liber(t)is libertabusque / suis posterisque eorum / h(oc)
m(onumentum) h(eredem) n(on) s(equetur)

To the divine spirits. Titus Flavius Daphnus [set up this monument] for Flavia Prima, his *verna* who lived 12 years and 25 days; and for himself and Flavia Eufrosyne his wife, and for Lucius Laberius Hermetus his kinsman, and for Cassia Synethe best of friends, and for his freedmen and freedwomen and their descendants. This monument shall not go to the heirs.

The example shows a conjugal couple (as yet) without children, in whose household lived a freed girl, Flavia Prima, a *verna* whose death at age twelve was the incentive to build the tomb, a male relative (*cognatus*) and a female friend (*amica*). The formula *libertis libertabusque suis posterisque eorum* is a commonplace that can occur in a variety of similar forms; it allows a place in the tomb for any up until now nonexistent offspring,

33 Hübner (2011) 78.

34 Bradley (1991). In this light LePlay's terminology for the nuclear family – he calls it the “unstable family” – is actually very much to the point, although he elected to name it unstable rather because the family dissolved when children moved out and the parents died: LePlay (1871) 17.

35 This particular example of a household tomb was brought to my attention by Sigismund-Nielsen (2013) 295–296, who at 296 notes that “all these persons did not necessarily live in the same house”. Sigismund-Nielsen at (2006) 202 suggests that the term household tomb is used too widely (“despite the scarcity of close kin”), but my interpretation of the Roman family does the opposite and argues that a ‘household inscription’ like the one cited here, provides clues about who should be included in our understanding of the Roman family.

as well as all freedmen of the family.³⁶ I would classify this example as an extension of the simple family, where 'extended' is a relatively elastic notion.

The Cambridge typology may provide a useful way to characterise a family at a fixed point in time, but it does not allow for changes in family structure.³⁷ Regional differences in family form can be significant and need to be taken into account. Moreover, Hübner cautions against the value of inscriptions for the analysis of household structures: her comparison of Roman Egyptian inscriptions on the one hand, and the census documents on the other, show wholly different patterns, and Hübner implies that the census documents are to be preferred over the epigraphic evidence. By analogy, she argues that family structure in the Roman West is virtually impossible to reconstruct, since there are only inscriptions and no census documents to work with.³⁸ Hübner, however, is also the one who demonstrates most clearly that Roman Egypt is not Roman Italy – particularly in matters of the family.³⁹

Roman Egypt shows a clear preference for a multiple family form. However, the urban context of the *metropoleis* shows a marked preference for simple families. Significantly, the pattern of smaller households and simple family forms in the city is not restricted to Roman Egypt, but recurs everywhere throughout history.⁴⁰ It appears that urbanisation is the dominant determinant of the prevalent family form. The sources therefore suggest to me that the predominant family form, in the cities of Roman Italy at least, was the nuclear family, regularly extended by co-resident kin or slaves and ex-slaves. There is a considerable variety in the attestations, because of the dislocation and re-composition as well as the element of extension. In my view, it is precisely this variety that characterizes the Roman family, more than any family in a non-slave society after the demographic transition. The likelihood that many urban families were of the simple family type, but with extensions, matches the model of the family economy, the idea of the small workshops where an artisan worked with the help of his nuclear family and one or two slaves. However, it can also account for more divergent family strategies. The composition of the family reflects its livelihood.

36 Crook (1967) 136 suggests that the *liberti*-clause is not mere generosity, but should also be understood as a disguised commission to maintain the monument.

37 Pudsey (2011) 82: "The evidence reveals that the Cambridge typology of households is particularly useful to the extent that it categorises a household at a particular point in its life course"; Hübner (2011) 78: "It must be stressed here that these different types of household forms – solitary, nuclear, extended or multiple – should not be seen so much as alternatives rather than as stages in a household cycle reflecting the age and reproductive status of its members".

38 Hübner (2011) 90; cf Hübner (2013) 31-57.

39 This to me is the essence of Hübner (2013).

40 Hübner (2013) 32-3 with references, cf Hin (2013) 188-189.

Slaves and freedmen in the family

Rome was a slave society⁴¹, and so the Roman family often included slaves. Slaves are part of the household in the legal definition of *familia*, which encompassed everyone under the power of the *paterfamilias*.⁴² Slaves generally lived in with their masters. A well-known example from Apuleius' *Metamorphoses* is the servant-girl Photis, the girl who tells the protagonist about her mistress's magic – an event that eventually leads to Lucius' metamorphosis into an ass. Non-fictional instances can be found in epigraphy, as in *CIL* 6. 12366:

CIL 6. 12366

D(is) M(anibus) / Cn(aeo) Arrio Agapeto / Arria Agapete mater / et Bostrychus pater / et Helpis mamma et / Filete(?) nutrix filio / pientissimo b(ene) m(erenti) f(ecit) / vixit a(nnis) III diebus / XXXXV

To the spirits of the dead. To Cnaius Arrius Agapetus, their well-deserving, dutiful son. He lived three years and 45 days. Arria Agapete his mother, and Bostrychus his father, and Helpis his *mamma* and Filete his wet-nurse set up [this monument].⁴³

A nurse and a second child minder (labelled *mamma*) are given a prominent place in a family commemoration of a three year old boy. Their inclusion in the inscription makes it probable that both these women lived in with the family, and it can be assumed from their single names that they were slave women.⁴⁴

Bagnall and Frier's analysis of the Roman Egyptian census data shows that metropolitan households were more likely to own slaves than agricultural families.⁴⁵ It may well be that this was also true for Roman Italy; the majority of slaves in Roman Italy lived in cities and not all of them were employed by the elite *domus*.⁴⁶ It is quite likely that many

41 As opposed to a society with slaves, see Bradley (1994) 12.

42 *Dig.* 50.195.16.1-4 (Ulpian). In a *sine manu* marriage there could be two *familiae* in the family: the slaves of the husband, and the slaves of the (legally independent) wife which, as Edmondson (2011) 343 notes, adds to the complexity of the family unit.

43 See Bradley (1991) 76-102 on *Tatae* and *Mammae* in the Roman family. The reading of 'Filete' is uncertain.

44 The father of the boy, Bostrychus, appears to be a slave as well.

45 Bagnall and Frier (1994) 48-9, 70-1.

46 Edmondson (2011) 339-40; he does not extend his paper on 'slavery and the Roman family' much beyond the elite families; Harper (2011) 49-53 is insightful for subelite slaveholding in late antiquity.

households owned one or two slaves. The frequency of the formulaic *libertis libertabus posterisque eorum* is further evidence of that.

Hawkins has argued that entrepreneurs were likely to employ slaves rather than hire free labourers in the small permanent workforce of their family undertaking.⁴⁷ He offers various reasons for this: whereas the Romans may not have calculated the actual cost-effectiveness of having a slave rather than hiring labour, they would know that educating their slave greatly enhanced his or her value, and that it would ensure them of skilled labour in a labour market where such skilled labour was not in ample supply. If the cost of maintenance became too high, manumission could alleviate, if not fully abolish, this cost item – an attractive option since the freedman's labour might still be available (see below).⁴⁸ The slave presence in the household thus supports the idea of a small workshop-based economy in the Roman cities and thus the family economy, but it also underlines the importance of flexibility – adaptive family strategies – in the face of economic change.

DYNAMICS OF DEMOGRAPHY: THE FAMILY LIFE CYCLE

Family structure changes over time as the family goes through its own 'family life cycle'. The concept works differently with regard to the labour force of elite households and nonelite families, because whereas the elite *domus* were reliant chiefly on dependent labour, nonelite families were actively engaged in the labour market. As a result, in the elite *domus* structural changes in family structure and the family labour force took place mainly in the larger slave segment of the family, but for the nonelite household, economic relevance lies primarily in the demography of the freeborn family members.

The economic actions and decisions of the family are influenced greatly by family structure, and vice versa. What the family looks like at any one point is determined by the family life cycle, and this in turn affects the range of options open to a family when they choose whether or not, and how, to employ the various family members. Moen and Wethington argue for a life course approach of family strategies:⁴⁹

47 Hawkins (2017) 51ff.

48 Hawkins (forthcoming). This is in line with Scheidel (2005b) 13 who postulates that Roman slaves were relatively expensive compared to free labour. Therefore there had to be other reasons why so many still preferred to employ slave labour.

49 A life course approach of family strategies is implemented by e.g. Paping (2004) and Knotter (2004) for later periods.

Families move in and out of positions that make it possible to mobilize effectively in the face of external and internal threats. Their spheres of control, and their corresponding repertoire of strategies, shift over the life course, along with shifts in household composition, family needs, and family resources as well as external supports, demands, constraints, and opportunities.⁵⁰

In other words, at various stages in the family life cycle, family demands change as well as its collective supply of labour. Demand for sustenance increases when young children are born into the family, for example, and labour power increases as these children start to contribute to the family income. The changeability of the family structure means that labour power of the family could differ greatly over time and that expectations of prospective earnings and future time allocations were governed by “internal threats”, that is uncertainties of their supply of labour, through illnesses for example, as well as by “external threats”, such as uncertainties in labour demand in the market. The family life cycle was not just governed by threats, however. It is significant that a deliberate alteration in family structure, through marriage for example, also provided economic opportunity, and could add to capital, status, and networks.⁵¹

The standard family life cycle automatically induces a number of life cycle squeezes, when there are more mouths to feed than there is income.⁵²

At three points in the life cycle of a household, tensions emerge between the income of the male head and household expenditure: when the family is being established, in the years when the children are not yet generating income, and as the parents reach old age.⁵³

A life cycle squeeze necessitates additional forms of income, such as additional family members starting to do paid work, and/or resorting to the grain dole, loans, etcetera. It is clear that in Rome high mortality, particularly the potentially early demise of the *paterfamilias* and the resulting loss of the main income, would present a major life cycle squeeze for many young families. Under these circumstances, it may be expected that children were put to work as soon as possible. In many ways, therefore, it can be seen

50 Moen and Wethington (1992) 246-7.

51 Cf Broekaert (2012) 42.

52 E.g. Knotter (2004) who identifies a pattern for families of Amsterdam (casual) dockworkers in the 20th century. The term life cycle squeeze appears to have been coined by Wilensky (1963).

53 Engelen e.a. (2004a) 128, with reference to Oppenheimer (1974)(1982).

that the family life cycle determined the individual life course of family members and vice versa.⁵⁴

The variability of family structure to a large extent can be connected with a number of set events. These structural factors that govern the family life cycle can be predicted, as they are either biologically determined or governed by cultural convention. Think of culturally determined neo-local marriage practices, the self-evidence of a slave presence in the household, and demographic factors such as mortality, marriage ages, and fertility, which are, in part, also culturally determined. The demographics of the family life cycle can be modelled: at least potentially, then, it can be a powerful tool of analysis.

A life course approach has compellingly found its way into ancient history.⁵⁵ The problem is that the evidence is generally inadequate to follow a Roman family through the family life cycle. There are some examples in the census documents from Roman Egypt and in Roman Italy, too, some family archives were found;⁵⁶ in Roman Italy, conversely, we are fairly well informed on the life of a few well-known (but not very representative) families such as that of Cicero, but there is not much else to go on.⁵⁷ The ancient evidence provides snapshots, frozen moments in time that reflect the family situation at a specific moment. Most occupational inscriptions thus are a snapshot of the family at the death of a family member.

The closest thing we have to following a family over time perhaps is a micro-simulation of the Roman population that was presented by Richard Saller.⁵⁸ Saller's micro-simulation gives an overview of chances of survival and the chance for an individual at

54 Cf. Dixon (1992) 6: "Hareven (1987) insists that *life course* is more appropriate than *life cycle*, which presupposes that each generation eventually repeats the pattern of earlier generations, but there is a sense in which household composition does go through a fairly predictable cycle" (her italics), reference to Hareven (1987) xiii.

55 Various of the contributions to Harlow and Larsson Lovén eds (2012), e.g. Laurence and Triflò (2012); Parkin (2011), Pudsey (2011), Laurence (2005), Harlow and Laurence (2002). Note that the basic notion of a family life cycle was already included in Dixon (1992) 133–159 and Rawson's introduction to her influential edited volume of 1991, 5: "...the family in their household must have been differently constituted at different times – not because of life-cycle changes due to the changing age of parents and children but also because of death, divorce, remarriage, and adoption or (more likely in the lower classes) fostering of young children".

56 Scheidel (2012d) = working paper (2007) 19: "empirical data on household composition are limited to Greco-Roman Egypt, where we encounter a substantial range of levels of complexity – from solitary households to those formed by conjugal, extended, or multiple families – and significant differences between urban and rural settings". For Greco-Roman Egypt, see Bagnall and Frier (1994), Pudsey (2011) on eight recurring families in the census returns from Roman Egypt, and Hübner (2013).

57 E.g. Bradley (1991) chapter 8: "A Roman family", on the Tullii Cicerones.

58 Saller (1994) with the help of James Smith and his CAMSIM simulation programme.

a certain age of having a living grandfather, sister, uncle, niece, and so on: the result is a tabulated blueprint for the demography of the family life cycle. The kinship universe of the simulation is restricted, and some of the parameters used can be questioned, but the simulation offers a valuable insight into family structure and the implications of a high mortality regime that has not been possible before.⁵⁹ However useful, tables, numbers and chances without context tell us little about the implications of changes in family demography. Rather than sketching out the myriad possible life courses of the family, it is more sensible for my current purposes to focus on specific transition points in family formation and the economic implications that come with it. Marriage is one of those benchmarks in the development of the family, as is the birth of a child, or the addition of other individuals to the family through adoption for example. A transition point of the life cycle that significantly does not occur in the Roman life cycle, is institutionalized retirement.⁶⁰

Marriage

Marriage is crucial to family formation: Roman marriage *is* the formation of a family. It was already mentioned that Roman marriage was largely neo-local. Thus, in Rome the new household unit was established on the wedding day. Conversely, the ending of marriage through death or divorce equals the dissolution of the family.⁶¹ The event of a girl's first marriage signified her transition into adulthood.⁶² What the family looked like at any one point in time can best be extrapolated from what it looked like at the beginning.

The age at which the Romans married is much debated in spite (or because) of the relatively rich evidence for it from epitaphs, legal sources, and literature. The estimates for age at first marriage vary, from roughly 15-20 years for women, and 20-30 years for

59 Saller is right to emphasize though that changing parameters, like age at marriage, does not significantly alter the general patterns that the simulation brings forth. However, these parameters do change the life course of individuals considerably.

60 Ehmer (2014) for this transition point in the economic life cycle. Parkin (2003) 234–5 for its absence in Rome, even if he connects that to a supposed absence of wage-work with which I disagree. His conclusion on p. 235 holds: “When a person’s failing state of physical and mental health led to total inability to be self-supporting, then, in the absence of effective medication (...), dependence on others may have been short-lived anyway”. There was one type of retirement: for soldiers.

61 Noted also by Pudsey (2011) 64.

62 Harlow and Laurence (2002) ch. 4.

men.⁶³ The dominant marriage pattern can have important consequences. A significant age-gap between spouses seems likely, which will have led to a large number of relatively young widows, who can be expected to have participated in the labour market more extensively than married women.⁶⁴ It may not seem like such a great difference whether a girl married at age 15 or at age 20, but it is exactly those years that would allow or preclude an education or apprenticeship (see below). In this context it is significant that the attestation of early marriage ages for both men and women has been explained as evidence for the existence of an elite pattern of early marriage, as opposed to a more general later marriage pattern for the nonelite.⁶⁵ If girls were commonly married in their late teens rather than in their early teens, the time constraint to women's job-training is thereby removed. Moreover, marriage may have been costly, which is especially true for neo-local marriage, so some may have chosen to postpone it until finances were sufficient.⁶⁶ This accounts for a later age at marriage for males, who were generally expected to be the family breadwinner.

Marriage was a family matter. In general the union was arranged by the *paterfamilias* in quasi-formal consultation with his own family, and the family of an eligible bachelor(-ette).⁶⁷ Marriage, divorce, and remarriage have long been recognized as strategies of the elite to forge political alliances.⁶⁸ Conversely, for the majority of the population there may well have been economic motives in marriage policies: the lack of a male heir or a suitable candidate to take over the family business, or a need for economic allies may all have guided the choice of marriage partner. "Marriage extended familial ties: on divorce or bereavement, remarriage was expected by other blood relatives to ensure that their collective network of affinity and kinship was maintained".⁶⁹ Marriages could consolidate business connections or forge local or supra-local economic networks, and sometimes allowed for socially upward mobility.⁷⁰ The desire to prevent fragmentation and keep the property within the family, for example, was a major incentive for the formation of

63 The debate is ongoing, mostly on the basis of epigraphic data. Scheidel (2007b); Lelis, Percy and Verstraete (2003) with review by De Ligt (2005); Saller (1994) 25-41; Treggiari (1991) 39-43 for legal sources; Saller (1987) for men; Shaw (1987a) for women; Syme (1987) for elite males; Cf Bagnall and Frier (1994) 112-3 for Roman Egypt; Hopkins (1964/5), a follow-up on the efforts of Harkness (1896).

64 Young widows: Tacoma (2016) 111-12; Pudsey (2011) 61.

65 Saller (1994) 37; Shaw (1987a).

66 Hin (2011) 112.

67 Cantarella (2005) 28-9; Bradley (1991) 112-3; Dixon (1992) 62-4 and index s.v. *consilium*.

68 Corbier (1991).

69 Harlow and Laurence (2002) 104.

70 Most elaborately Broekaert (2012); briefly noted by Cantarella (2005) 28.

consanguineous unions in Roman Egypt.⁷¹ The potential of marriage alliances underlines the hypothesis that despite a cultural ideal of the 'one-husband woman' (*univira*), remarriage of women after divorce or the death of a spouse will have been quite common in the pre-Christian Principate.⁷²

Economic theory offers additional reasons why it is economically rational to form a marriage bond. Simply put, two can produce more than one, three more than two, and so on.⁷³ However, the bond of marriage is not the same as simply putting together two (or more) individuals. A family unit has "a double advantage over a non-family household with comparable membership and resources".⁷⁴ Through the intimate and long-term familiarity with each other's capabilities, immediate availability and bonds of trust, a family firm saves on transaction costs for finding labour. Within this theoretical framework, an internal division of labour allows the conjugal couple to benefit even more from their respective comparative advantages.⁷⁵ The argument is quite nuanced, but crudely speaking it can be read to predict that one partner will take up full responsibility for the unremunerated domestic work if their wage in the labour market is lower than that of the other. That said, the ideal of preserving separate domains for husband and wife must have been largely an elite prerogative, as in many instances the additional income of women was vital to the family.⁷⁶ Another economic privilege of marriage is that the expectancy of a stable, long-term liaison allows the family to engage in "lengthy production processes", such as raising a child.⁷⁷ Children are an important structural addition to the family.

Children

Once it has been initiated through marriage, the natural way of expanding a family is through having a child. Children ensured continuity: the importance of children had

71 Hübner (2013) chapter 7 and idem (2007) on the likelihood that the brother-sister marriages concern adoptive children and biological children, contra Remijsen and Clarysse (2008), Rowlandson and Takahashi (2009).

72 On *Univira*, see Lightman and Zeisel (1977).

73 Cigno (1991) 37-8, and chapter 5. The economic benefit of growth in household size is not infinite.

74 Cigno (1991) 38.

75 Cigno (1991) part I, e.g., 24, 41-2.

76 Groen-Vallinga (2013) 295; Hemelrijk (2015) 9-12 for a brief overview with references on the fluid notions of the public versus the private domains of men and women (or perhaps rather, as she puts it, *forum/domus*); cf Scheidel (1995) 205-6.

77 Cigno (1991) 37.

everything to do with passing on the family name and the family assets.⁷⁸ The birth of a biological child to the *paterfamilias* was not the only way in which infants came into the family, however, nor was it the only manner to beget heirs, or the only means of passing on the family name.⁷⁹ The family could also be expanded through adoption, fosterage, and care for foundlings.

*Raising and killing children*⁸⁰

In western developed countries today, when a couple thinks about the possibility of having children, economic considerations regularly play a part in the decision to try and go for it or not, but also in the timing, spacing, and number of children they would like. Many potential parents want to be able to provide for their children, covering primary needs such as food and clothing, but also secondary needs like a college education. This decision-making process must have been comparable in ancient Rome, even if it was informed by very different socio-cultural and demographic circumstances. Moreover, the actual element of 'choice' was limited, considering the lack of reliable methods of contraception.

When a child was born to the freeborn couple at the head of the household, that child had much to offer. Emotions and affection must have had a large part to play.⁸¹ Quite apart from being heir in name and property, necessary for the continuity of the family line, an infant also had economic potential. The son or daughter would become a labourer who could supply the family with additional income or who could increase production. An extra pair of hands could make all the difference in some families. A correlation between income and the number of children in a family – the poorer the family, the more children – is not unlikely, though virtually impossible to substantiate for the Roman empire.⁸² A child may also have meant insurance against the possible economic hardships of old age, which is one of the life cycle squeezes identified earlier.⁸³ "Even a rough understanding of ancient Mediterranean demography suggests that (...) women

78 E.g. Rawson (2003) 108: "The political, social and inheritance value of a child, especially a son, is clearest for the upper classes". Informed overviews on the various types of children in the Roman family are Rawson (1986b) and (2003), Dixon (1992) 98–132, and more recently Sigismund-Nielsen (2013).

79 Manumission would also continue the family name, see below.

80 A reference to the title of Shaw (2001).

81 The locus classicus is Golden (1988).

82 Knotter (2004) 235 with references to early modern examples of this pattern.

83 Old age came with economic as well as social hardship. Cf Hübner (2013) for Roman Egypt; Parkin (2003) esp. 203–35; Rawson (2003) 108, Harlow and Laurence (2002).

and children were important potential sources of labor”, writes Saller.⁸⁴ It was therefore economically beneficial in many ways for the family to raise a child.

Various scholars have nuanced the importance of economic motivations for having children, however.⁸⁵ They point out that having children is a decision typically governed by cultural norms rather than economic rationality. Certainly a Roman marriage was contracted with the ideal of reproduction in mind.⁸⁶ Girls were expected to marry, and bear children. For Roman women, motherhood was clearly valued over occupation: a preference for commemorating familial roles rather than economic contribution surely is one of the reasons why occupational inscriptions of women are relatively rare (see below).

The birth of a child is another life cycle squeeze: a raise in costs, and a drop in income. The ‘break-even point’, that is the moment that the total income generated by a child starts to outweigh the costs incurred in his or her upbringing, was possibly never reached in a society with a life expectancy at birth that may not have exceeded 25.⁸⁷ Bringing up an infant required substantial investment in food and shelter, and potentially in education as well. As childcare would limit the parents’ (or rather: the mother’s) time working, a lower-class family that already had a number of children may not have been able to feed another mouth. A wealthy, higher-class family, conversely, may not have wanted to raise another heir at the risk of having to split up the family property any more than necessary.⁸⁸ It is not too difficult to think of other reasons, such as divorce, adultery, or a pregnancy out of wedlock, why an unborn child was less than welcome.⁸⁹ For all these reasons the Romans may have wanted to exercise some form of family planning one way or the other, either to stimulate or to prevent further births in the family.

Contraception was not unheard of in ancient Rome, but the methods used were not always safe or reliable.⁹⁰ Continued breast feeding ensured only partial protection (and there is some discussion as to whether Roman women generally breastfed their own infants or not), a kind of condoms made of sheep’s bladders were expensive, and the herbs that were used as abortifacients were inefficient at best, and could also be danger-

84 Saller (2007) 87.

85 Hin (2011), spec. 100–4; De Ligt (2004) 750–1.

86 E.g. Dixon (1992) 61–2.

87 Hin (2011) 101. Significantly, on page 102 she suggests that perhaps an urban environment is the one place where children could find the employment that would earn enough to break even.

88 The Romans endorsed partible inheritance, so all children male and female inherited equally from their parents; Rawson (2003) 114; cf Champlin (1991) 114–7 for the fact that Roman wills show a tendency to bequeath the bulk of an inheritance to one son.

89 E.g. Evans Grubbs (2013) 84–92 for motivations that might lead to exposure of an infant. Many of these arguments hold for slave babies, too (p. 89), though it is likely that slave births were less common in smaller families than in elite households.

90 Contra Riddle (1992), see e.g. the critique by Frier (1994) and Hin (2011).

ous to the mother.⁹¹ Many of these forms of contraception may have been reserved for the elite.⁹² As a result, there were Romans who turned to other, more secure, methods of family planning: infant exposure and infanticide.

The Roman practices of infanticide and exposure have been accentuated in scholarly literature, because they go directly against contemporary norms and values.⁹³ It is likely that a number of Roman infants was indeed exposed, abandoned or in a few extreme cases even killed shortly after birth, but the exact numbers cannot be known. However, I would argue that this was not so much a sign that there was a large number of 'unwanted children': the Romans could be ruthless, but that did not preclude emotional attachment to their living offspring.⁹⁴ Many of the newborns who were abandoned were swaddled for protection. They were sometimes provided with some kind of token, indicating the parents' hope to reclaim their child when they had the opportunity. Moreover, it seems plausible that in Rome, as in later historical periods, infants were regularly left in a public place where they stood a very real chance of being found – that is to say, the parents did not wish for them to die.⁹⁵ This points to a predominantly economic motivation behind exposure. Infanticide seems to have been rarely applied.⁹⁶

The 'social birth' of the infant, that is its acceptance into the family, took place after eight (in case of a girl) or nine days (for a boy).⁹⁷ The decision to raise a child presumably lay with the *paterfamilias*. It has long been thought that the father would literally raise the child (*tollere/suscipere liberum*) up from the ground to indicate his willingness to raise the newborn. The fact that the existence of this particular ritual acceptance of the child is now seriously in doubt, probably does not change the father's influence in this matter.⁹⁸

91 Contraception: Bracher (1992); On a possible low level of breastfeeding Parkin (2013) 52, and at 53: "In preindustrial societies, to feed an infant unpasteurized animal milk was tantamount to manslaughter" – but wet-nurses were also common in Roman society; on the dangers involved for the woman, most vividly Ov. *Am.* 2.13.

92 Hin (2011) 108–9.

93 Evans Grubbs (2013); Garnsey (1991), Harris (1994), Corbier (2001), Shaw (2001).

94 Cf the popular *Horrible histories: The Ruthless Romans* (2003).

95 Corbier (2001) 69, taking into consideration what she considers a good chance for the exposed infant to survive, writes: "Roman parents probably did not consider exposure a form of 'infanticide'". Cf also her references to literary recognition scenes, and legal texts relating to the possible continued influence of the biological father over a child exposed at birth and raised by another.

96 Evans Grubbs and Parkin (2013) on page 1 bring to mind that DeMause as recently as 1974 (his page 51) still classified "Antiquity to the Fourth Century AD" as the "Infanticidal Mode", a notion that has long since been refuted. When infanticide did occur, it may have been for reasons of serious health problems and deformity, although some disabled infants were brought up, see Laes (2013) 129–31; O'Hara (1998) 211.

97 Hänninen (2005) 56–59.

98 Köves-Zulauf (1990), Shaw (2001) 32–56. It is, however, certain that the decision remained with the *paterfamilias*, says Corbier (2001) 58.

If he chose not to bring up the newborn infant, we may presume that the child would be exposed or perhaps even killed. It has been convincingly argued that this is the context in which we should read the *paterfamilias'* power of life and death (*ius vitae necisque*), where the power of death was probably acted out sporadically, and then predominantly in the case of serious health problems that would complicate life for the newborn.⁹⁹

With all this talk of exposure and infanticide, it should not be forgotten that most children were treasured in Roman society.¹⁰⁰ Where for some a child had become a difficulty that ultimately led to exposure or abandonment, for others it was crucial to beget a child. "In a society where childbearing and the passing on of property were considered the primary purposes of marriage, women were under enormous pressure to produce a healthy heir."¹⁰¹ And that may not always have been easy.¹⁰²

The *Laudatio Turiae* is a famous funerary text for an infertile woman who allegedly offered to divorce her husband so that he might have children with another.¹⁰³ Roman society, like many preindustrial populations, was characterized by high fertility rates on the one hand, and high mortality on the other.¹⁰⁴ Mortality was particularly high during infancy and early childhood, and mortality rates were raised by the unsanitary circumstances of the larger cities.¹⁰⁵ Raising a child until maturity was not guaranteed.

The wish for a baby or the need for an heir might theoretically lead Romans to turn to 'non-natural' methods of begetting a child, such as adopting, or taking up a foundling. Neither of these options appear to have been very common in ancient Rome, however. Foundlings could be picked up and raised as one's own. However, it is significant that as far as it can be known, most foundlings were raised as slaves.¹⁰⁶ There is a distinct possibility that the evidence does not explicitly identify a foundling brought up as a natural son or daughter. Even more likely to go undetected when successful, is supposition. Evans Grubbs notes the possible supposition of babies, who might also be foundlings.¹⁰⁷ If only because of its highly specific requirements, however, – an infant of the same age

99 Cf n.96 above, with reference to Laes (2013) and O'Hara (1998); for a different explanation of the *ius*, see Shaw (2001) 56–77.

100 Dixon (1991) 109–111.

101 Evans Grubbs (2013) 87.

102 Corbier (1991) 67; Hänninen (2005) 49 on the very real danger of the death of the child, mother, or both in childbed.

103 Right-hand column, lines 25–50; Hemelrijk (2004), (2001a),(2001b) with Dutch translation and commentary.

104 Parkin (2013) 44: "Children in classical antiquity were a very large proportion of the population, and a lot of them were dying."

105 Parkin (2013).

106 Corbier (2001) 66–7. For more on foundlings as a source of slaves, see chapter 4.

107 Evans Grubbs (2013) 87.

available at just the right time through just the right channels to ensure secrecy – supposition is unlikely to have been common.¹⁰⁸ Adoption of infants was legally recognized, but it was rare.¹⁰⁹ Corbier thinks that the childless ‘Turia’ and her husband may have considered adoption of a baby girl, but that was only after the husband decided that the apparently more customary response to infertility, divorce and remarriage, was not an option for him.¹¹⁰ It is in fact characteristic of adoption in Roman society that adoption typically took place at a later age.¹¹¹

Other additions to the family

It was already emphasized that many Roman families consisted of a free and a slave segment. It is known that at least some urban households in addition also contained lodgers. Both house-owners and lodgers can be identified in the Egyptian census data; these lodgers are mainly male adults.¹¹² If a similar pattern existed in Roman Italy, the rent will have been a welcome addition to the family income. The evidence does not permit me to conclude any more on this strategy, however. Two other categories of family members, however, do deserve to be mentioned in somewhat more detail. It is likely that there were more children in the house than the children we just considered. The elusive category of *alumni*, or foster-children, contains some who were raised in the household from birth, and others who found a temporary home there. More secure family ties were constructed by adoption. Adoption could be an effective family strategy, at least for free citizens.¹¹³ It was a means to transfer an adult into another family in the eyes of the law, as a natural son or grandson.¹¹⁴

108 Corbier (1991) 65: “Precautions would be taken at the time of a widow’s confinement to prevent the substitution of the child”, with reference to *Dig.* 37.9.1.15 (Ulpian).

109 Lindsay (2009) 69–70 briefly considers adoption of minors.

110 Corbier (1991) 63; but Lindsay (2009) 153 disagrees.

111 Lindsay (2009) makes extensive use of cross-cultural comparisons, spec. chapter one p. 4–28. An earlier, more pointed version of this chapter was published as Lindsay (2001), with 201–4 specifically on ancient Rome. See Hübner (2013) for the significant differences with the practice of adoption in the ancient eastern Mediterranean.

112 Pudsey (2012) 167: “Lodgers were a feature of households in the large towns and metropoleis”, and in n. 22 she gives the example of Bagnall and Frier (2006): 103–Ar–1 (9 lodgers).

113 An excellent, concise account of adoption as familial strategy, is Corbier (1991). I have not been able to access Corbier ed. (1999). The technicalities of adoption by life or testamentary adoption, and adrogation are deliberately left out of my discussion. These aspects do not change the nature of the resulting kinship bond, that is decisive for adoption as a family strategy. For those interested in these details, I recommend Lindsay (2009) esp. ch. 4 and 5.

114 For the adoption of a grandson, Lindsay (2009) 66; Corbier (1991) 67–8.

Alumni

Alumni were children who were raised from infancy by people who were not their biological parents.¹¹⁵ This much can be said, as well as the fact that the term *alumnus/-a* professes affection and quasi-familial bonds.¹¹⁶ Other than that, they make for a heterogeneous and complex group that defies direct definition. Some were raised as slaves, others were free; despite obvious similarities with children who were exposed or abandoned, *alumni* may or may not have been foundlings.¹¹⁷ It is their status that was fundamentally different from foundlings who were adopted as a natural child: free *alumni* were not legally kin. The designation *alumnus* may merely indicate that the child was literally 'nurtured' by a wet-nurse. There is some evidence to suggest that sometimes its meaning comes closer to apprentice than to nursling, however, as in the following inscription from Puteoli.¹¹⁸

CIL 10. 1922

D(is) M(anibus) / G. Atilius Fortu/natus faber in/testinarius q(ui) v(ixit) / an(n)is
XXXI f(ecit) Iulius Felicis/simus alum(no) mere(nti)

To the spirits of the dead. [Here lies] Gaius Atilius Fortunatus, inlayer/cabinet maker, who lived 31 years. Iulius Felicissimus set up [this monument] for his well-deserving student.

Fortunatus died relatively young, at the age of thirty-one. At that time he was fully educated as a *faber intestinarius*. He was commemorated by one Iulius Felicissimus. Therefore, it appears that Felicissimus either raised Fortunatus or taught him the trade of fine carpentry, or indeed a combination of the two: the term *alumnus* can point in both directions. The lack of any mention of other family bonds suggests that Fortunatus was unmarried, and that his biological parents were out of the picture. Perhaps Felicissimus was indeed a surrogate father to Fortunatus. Both their *cognomina*, Felicissimus and Fortunatus, are names that suggest a servile background. Although the *duo* and *tria nomina* could technically also indicate freeborn status, it would not be surprising that libertation is not explicitly mentioned if Fortunatus were a Lunian Latin, since Lunian

115 Sigismund-Nielsen (2013) 289. On *alumni*, see especially Sigismund-Nielsen (1987), Bellemore and Rawson (1990).

116 Dixon (1992) 129: "The term *alumnus* and its cognates are less likely to be employed of an adult than of a child, which suggests that the special relationship might vary over the life cycle."

117 Sigismund-Nielsen (2013) 289 argues that they were not.

118 Sigismund-Nielsen (2013) 289 mentions this option, but with reference to the rather unconvincing examples of *CIL* 6. 10158, *CIL* 6. 8454, and *CIL* 6. 8697 (in this last case no *alumnus* is mentioned).

Latins were not allowed to boast libertination. His age – he was 31 – suggest that he may well have been manumitted before the legal minimum age of 30. This would also explain why Fortunatus was not formally adrogated by Felicissimus, a fact that can be gathered from the dissimilarity of the *gentilicia*. As an ex-slave, Felicissimus was legally able to adrogate (though not technically adopt) another citizen, but Lunian Latins were not considered to be citizens. In this instance it appears that Fortunatus was raised to be Felicissimus' successor in the business, which was expressed in the inscription by the term *alumnus* as a replacement for formal adrogation. At other times apprentices were taken in temporarily to master a trade, only for them to return to their family of birth – an investment of the birth family that will be dealt with in detail below.

Adoption

The main motive for adoption in Rome appears to have been the need for an heir. It generally concerned adult males who were adopted in the event that no heir was present. Adopting when a (male) heir existed, or even when the adopter was still under 60 – which was the age before which he might reasonably expect to still beget children of his own according to the law – was frowned upon.¹¹⁹ Close relatives were the preferred choice for adoption, but it was also possible to adopt the child of a friend for example.¹²⁰ In theory, the adopted son became heir to his new family. In practice, ties with the family of origin were simultaneously recognized. This enabled the procedure to function as a way of strengthening the bond between two families. A patron might choose to adopt a freedman, to solidify a claim to the freedman's wealth for example.¹²¹ For the freedman himself, his new status as a 'natural' son to his patron did not remove the practical consequences of the freedman stigma, however. Apparently even adoption could not change that. Corbier illustrates that the possibilities to rearrange lineage provided by adoption were virtually endless; the practice "recognized [the] right of a father to reshape his relationships".¹²² The evidence is heavily biased towards the imperial elite, however, and even then adoption does not appear to have been very common.¹²³ There is no way of knowing whether a legal construct like this was ever exploited by the rest of the population, though the benefits of adopting a particularly talented apprentice to continue the family business, to name but one possibility, are obvious.

119 Corbier (1991) 66–7.

120 Corbier (1991) 67.

121 Lindsay (2009) 132–6 offers a very brief account that mostly raises questions rather than answers them. He only hints at the possibility that freedmen may have wanted to use adoption to bring together their natural family born in slavery.

122 Corbier (1991) 76.

123 Lindsay (2009) 2–3 mentions a few estimates by previous scholars that range from 2 to 9 per cent.

HUMAN CAPITAL

Just like many other life-changing events such as marriage, investment in a child's human capital was decided on by the family.¹²⁴ If decisions on raising a child or buying a slave concern the quantity of the family labour supply, investment in human capital involves the quality of the family.

Modern economists have demonstrated that there is a direct correlation between years of schooling and income.¹²⁵ This correlation appears to be equally valid for ancient Rome, although we have few numerical data on wages in Rome.¹²⁶ The example of Diocletian's *Prices Edict* of 301 AD illustrates that skilled labour typically brought in two times the unskilled daily wage, or more.¹²⁷ This points to significant returns on education. Why then did not everyone attempt to obtain an education for themselves, their children or their slaves?¹²⁸ Economic theory predicts that "[i]n principle, we would expect all individuals to be grouped at the highest educational level, to benefit from the increased income opportunities".¹²⁹ This is obviously not the case today, and it was not in ancient Rome – quite the reverse. Several possible answers can be found in modern economic theory. Investment in schooling can be restricted through high child mortality, financial constraints, and what is called 'intergenerational persistence'.

Intergenerational persistence refers to the fact that a poor family regularly could not afford job-training for their children, so that the next generation remained poor, in perpetual self-confirmation; conversely, skilled workers earned more and hence they could more likely afford their children's education; and so on.¹³⁰ In the calculations of Scheidel and Friesen, close to 90 per cent of the population lived at or under subsistence levels, which surely means that these people did not have the resources to ensure an education for themselves or their children.¹³¹ Family background mattered. The fact that job-training was not available to everyone in the freeborn population therefore largely

124 Bradley (1991) 112-113; and see introduction.

125 E.g. Checchi (2006) 5-10.

126 Szilágyi (1963); Mrozek (1975); Corbier (1980); and see Szaivert and Wolters (2005) for the literary wage data. Roman Egypt: Johnson (1936), Drexhage (1991).

127 Groen-Vallinga and Tacoma (2017) 113-4, 118-122 with references. Rathbone (2009) 214 for two to threefold differentials, and the suggestion that the latter was more common in urban contexts. Bernard (2017) 83 points out that the Roman skill premium is normal in comparative perspective.

128 Similarly, Saller (2013) 76-7: "If an apprenticeship (...) doubled his daily wage (...) why did more parents and slave masters not apprentice their sons and slaves. (...) I have no answer." This section is an attempt to answer the question.

129 Checchi (1995) 10.

130 Checchi (1995) chapter 7 on intergenerational persistence.

131 Scheidel and Friesen (2009) 82-8.

is the result of intergenerational persistence, although the same principle also implies that freeborn skilled labourers were a continuous presence.

The comparatively high mortality rate in the Roman empire meant that on average, there were relatively few years left to reap the benefits of an education, or to develop human capital further through experience. In other words, investing in any kind of training did not always pay off. As a result, high (child) mortality probably was an additional limiting factor on investment in, and accumulation of, human capital.¹³²

Specific to Rome is the fact that much skilled work was carried out by slaves, thereby restricting job opportunities for freeborn skilled workers. Since investment in human capital correlates with expectations of prospective earnings, the competition of slave labourers in the market has a direct effect on the time, effort and money spent on education by the freeborn population. Hawkins concludes that apprenticeship was not easily affordable and, on the assumption that employers were more likely to hire or buy slaves than the freeborn to do their skilled work, “those who could afford to pay for such training probably did so with an eye to establishing their sons as independent producers rather than as wage workers”.¹³³

Even without slave competition, general labour demands predict that there cannot have been an unlimited demand for skilled labour, and that there was a definite need for menial labour as well. For many it was more profitable to step in where there was work in the unskilled sector, rather than to be trained for unemployment.

It is likely that such factors had a limiting effect on the total amount of time and effort spent by the free population on acquiring occupational skills in ancient Rome, and as a result skilled hired free labour became harder to come by.¹³⁴ Despite these limiting factors, aggregate investment in human capital in the Roman world was far from negligible, even if it was not in any way comparable to the modern western world.¹³⁵ There were opportunities for slaves as well as the freeborn, both boys and girls, to receive some kind of basic education. Although there was no formal schooling system, let alone an educational program set up by the government, in theory the class of the *ludimagister*

132 And vice versa: it has been demonstrated that at least in the late twentieth century, lower-educated people had a lower life expectancy as well, Checchi (1995) 18 with references; Cf Saller (2013) 76: “In order to derive the greatest return on the investment in training, it should be provided at that developmental moment after the ravages of childhood diseases when the children have the physical and mental capacity to learn the skills and pull their weight in the workshop”.

133 Hawkins (2017) 46-8, quote at 48.

134 On the scarcity of skilled labour, see also Hawkins (2017).

135 Saller (2013) 71–2; Verboven (2012a) 95 suggests that “freedomship may have been the decisive factor explaining the significantly higher investment in human capital in the Roman empire than would be seen for a thousand years to come”.

was open to all from about age seven.¹³⁶ Rates of literacy for Roman Italy were unprecedented, especially taking into account basic literacy or craft literacy.¹³⁷

Arts and crafts

Some children went on to learn a trade. Many of them will have eased into the business, learning by doing in the household, taking up more tasks as they grew older and stronger.¹³⁸ If the parents were master artisans, they were well capable of teaching their children to become master artisans themselves. The benefits of educating a child at home are simple: there would be virtually no loss of labour input – no forgone earnings – while building human capital. Specialist job-training was not necessarily based in the household, however, and it remains to be seen just how many children followed in their parents' footsteps (below). Just like a basic primary education, a job-training regularly was obtained elsewhere: children, both slave and free, could be apprenticed out. The boundaries between formal apprenticeship, and arrangements to have a child trained in the household of birth, or that of a relative or friend, are not clear-cut. Formal apprenticeship contracts might a priori be considered a relatively straightforward source for investment in education, but as it will turn out these documents provide evidence for much more varied investment strategies.

Apprenticeship

Formal job-training is relatively well-attested for the Roman empire, particularly in apprenticeship contracts from Roman Egypt. The contracts provide a valuable insight into the considerations of investing in human capital, and it is well worth taking a closer look at these documents here.¹³⁹ There are no apprenticeship contracts from outside Roman Egypt, however, and one may wonder whether they present a picture that is representative of Roman Italy as well. Scattered references in Roman law, literature and epigraphy suggest to me that the practice was not reserved to Roman Egypt.

Ulpian mentions a rather unfortunate apprentice in *Digest* 9.2.5.3:

A shoemaker struck with a last the neck of a freeborn apprentice (*puero discenti ingenuo filio familias*), who did not do what the shoemaker instructed well enough. The boy's eye was knocked out.¹⁴⁰

136 Laes (2011a) 107–147, which is actually most illustrative of what we do *not* know about Roman (primary) education; Laes and Strubbe (2008) 75 ff.

137 Woolf (2002) provides a useful overview of the debate on literacy.

138 Saller (2013) 73–75 assumes that this kind of informal learning was the way most Romans gained their skills, certainly in agriculture but also in the arts and crafts.

139 For a general overview, most recently Bergamasco (1995); see also Zambon (1935).

140 Ulpian takes the example from Julian. *Sutor [inquit] puero discenti ingenuo filio familias, parum bene facienti quod demonstraverit, forma calcei cervicem percussit, ut oculus puero perfunderetur.*

In epigraphy the rare attestations include a medical apprentice from Pula:¹⁴¹

CIL 5. 89

D(is) M(anibus) / P(ublio) Coesio Ortensi[a]/no medico / ann(or)um XVIII(?) / Miluso Primo / discipulo

To the divine spirits. To Publius Coesius Ortensianus, doctor, who lived 18(?) years.
To Milusus Primus, his student.

Lucian recounts his brief experience as an apprentice sculptor in his 'autobiography', *The Dream*.

Luc. Somn. 1

Ἄρτι μὲν ἐπεπαύμην εἰς τὰ διδασκαλεῖα φοιτῶν ἤδη τὴν ἡλικίαν πρόσηβος ὦν, ὃ δὲ πατὴρ ἐσκοπεῖτο μετὰ τῶν φίλων ὃ τι καὶ διδάξαιτό με. τοῖς πλείστοις οὖν ἔδοξεν παιδεία μὲν καὶ πόνου πολλοῦ καὶ χρόνου μακροῦ καὶ δαπάνης οὐ μικρᾶς (5) καὶ τύχης δεῖσθαι λαμπρᾶς, τὰ δ' ἡμέτερα μικρά τε εἶναι καὶ ταχεῖάν τινα τὴν ἐπικουρίαν ἀπαιτεῖν· εἰ δέ τινα τέχνην τῶν βαναύσων τούτων ἐκμάθοιμι, τὸ μὲν πρῶτον εὐθύς ἂν αὐτὸς ἔχειν τὰ ἀρκοῦντα παρὰ τῆς τέχνης καὶ μηκέτ' οἰκόσιτος εἶναι τηλι- (10) κοῦτος ὦν, οὐκ εἰς μακρὰν δὲ καὶ τὸν πατέρα εὐφρανεῖν ἀποφέρων ἀεὶ τὸ γιγνόμενον.

No sooner had I left off school, being then well on in my teens, than my father and his friends began to discuss what he should have me taught next. Most of them thought that higher education required great labour, much time, considerable expense, and conspicuous social position, while our circumstances were but moderate and demanded speedy relief; but that if I were to learn one of the handicrafts, in the first place I myself would immediately receive my support from the trade instead of continuing to share the family table at my age; besides, at no distant day I would delight my father by bringing home my earnings regularly.¹⁴²

The passage is highly instructive of the possible considerations involved for the family when deciding on an apprenticeship. Among the 'friends' present is Lucian's uncle, a sculptor – and indeed it is decided that Lucian should be apprenticed out to him to

141 Schulz-Falkenthal (1972) collects references for *discipuli* and *discentes*.

142 Luc. *Somn.* 1; translation Harmon (1913, Loeb Classical Library).

become a sculptor too. The arrangement is economically motivated: there is no money for higher education. Through an apprenticeship Lucian would no longer burden the family income (“continuing to share the family table”) – he would even contribute to it (“bringing home my earnings regularly”). It may also be significant that sculpting runs in the family, with two uncles and his grandfather in the trade. The example is from second-century Syria, but it will become clear that it is representative of a wider context in many respects.

Even the job of hairdresser (*ornatrix*) apparently required a training of at least two months to qualify, judging from *Digest* 32.65.3 – it states that only those who have trained with a *magister* at least two months qualify as legated hairdressers. The women in this text are clearly slaves.¹⁴³

From these examples I conclude that even in the absence of apprenticeship contracts from Roman Italy, it can safely be assumed that a similar apprenticeship system existed in Roman Italy.¹⁴⁴ As far as can be ascertained, it seems that the contracts come from an urban context: the majority come from Oxyrhynchus. This underlines the relevance of these documents to the present inquiry into the Roman urban labour market.

The number of Egyptian apprenticeship contracts currently known lies around 50 for the early Roman empire, but the list is ever expanding.¹⁴⁵ They refer mostly to apprentice weavers, which appears to be the result of coincidence rather than a reflection of any particular aspect of the weaving trade. The majority of the contracts that have survived were set up for freeborn children: roughly 40 out of 50 contracts. These numbers strongly suggest that job-training was not reserved exclusively for slaves, and that the freeborn did have a chance to receive an education. So what considerations for investing in job-training can be gathered from apprenticeship contracts?

Because of the nature of the documents we are well informed about the cost of apprenticeship. None of the master artisans receives an instruction fee for a freeborn apprentice. Even for slave apprentices, only in two instances does the master artisan

143 *Dig.* 32.65.3: *Ornatricibus legatis Celsus scripsit eas, quae duos tantum menses apud magistrum fuerunt, legato non cedere, alii et has cedere, ne necesse sit nullam cedere, cum omnes adhuc discere possint et omne artificium incrementum recipit: quod magis optinere debet, quia humanae naturae congruum est.*

144 Bradley (1991) 112-6; Laes (2015a).

145 See appendix 2 for a catalogue. The most recent collection is Bergamasco (1995) who lists 42 documents (Ptolemaic and Roman), to which should be added *SB* 24. 16186 (Bergamasco 2004), *P.Col. Inv.* 164 (Bergamasco 2006b), *P.Oxy.* 67. 4596 (Bergamasco 2004), *P. Mich. Inv.* 4238 (Eckerman 2011). Bergamasco has announced that work on a new collection of the apprenticeship contracts and apprenticeship registrations is currently under way, Bergamasco (2004) 31 n.1 and (2006b) 207 n.1.

receive a fee for the instruction.¹⁴⁶ In *BGU* 4. 1125 from Alexandria, 13 BC, a certain C. Iulius Philios pays 100 drachmae to have his slave boy Narkissos instructed in the art of flute-playing over the course of a year. And in AD 155 a certain Apollonius from Oxyrynchus receives 120 drachmae to have his son teach the slave boy Chairammon shorthand writing in 2 years.¹⁴⁷ In all likelihood this can be related to the type of employment: the pupil of a flute player or stenographer cannot perhaps be put to work as easily as an apprentice weaver.

Economic theory suggests that the main expense of education, however, is not so much the instruction fee as forgone earnings: the income not collected during the time spent in training. In Roman Egypt, forgone earnings were mitigated by the fact that the apprentices were usually paid for their efforts – in accordance with Lucian’s remark: “at no distant day I would delight my father by bringing home my earnings regularly”.¹⁴⁸ This could be either in the form of a lump sum to be paid at the beginning or the end of the contract, or in the form of a monthly wage. The master craftswoman Aurelia Libouke pays the lump sum of 60 drachmae for a year in return for the efforts of a slave girl apprentice, in a third-century document.¹⁴⁹ When a monthly wage is specified, sometimes the contracts take account of the fact that a student accumulates ever more skills over time. For example, the slave girl Thermoution from late second-century Oxyrynchus earns 8 drachmae a month in the first year of her apprenticeship, but this modest figure is raised to 12 in the second year, 16 in the third year, and to 20 drachmae a month in the final year when she earns quite a respectable monthly wage.¹⁵⁰ In most instances the master artisan also met the cost for food, clothing, taxes and all other expenses related to the trade – again, just like Lucian: “I myself would immediately receive my support from

146 This difference in remuneration caused a desire to separate the apprenticeship contracts analytically into two groups, cf Bergamasco (1995) 100–4 for the various typologies that have been applied; e.g. *Lehrvertrag und Unterrichtsvertrag* (Adams 1964), or *Lehrvertrag and Lehrlingsvertrag* (Berger 1911).

147 *P.Oxy.* 4. 724.

148 See also Hengstl (1972) 92–5. Payment is not always specified, since not all documents are complete. In *P. Mich.* 5. 346a the apprentice is fed and clothed by the master, but she does not receive a wage; Cost or payment is unknown for *St. Pal.* 22. 40.

149 *P. Mich. Inv.* 5195a.

150 *P.Oxy.* 14. 1647. Cf Drexhage (1991) 425–9 for monthly wages attested in contracts on papyrus. 20 drachmae appears to be about the average monthly wage for unskilled work in the first 2 centuries AD; a similar regular wage-increase can be observed in *P. Oxy.* 41. 2977 (AD 239). *PSI* 3. 241 (3rd c.) documents a contract where the apprentice does not receive a wage for the first six months, which is a different way to account for her inexperience at the outset. These examples are all for slave apprentices, but the principle is no different for free boys and girls, e.g. *P. Oxy.* 4. 725 (5-year contract for a weaver’s apprentice; wages of 12 rising to 24 drachmae a month from the 7th month of the 2nd year onwards).

the trade instead of continuing to share the family table at my age”.¹⁵¹ Having a child or a slave in job-training would thus seem to be an economically sound investment.¹⁵² It would have been attractive for parents/carers or masters because as a rule the child was fed and clothed, brought home wages, and learnt a trade, which would bring in more money than menial labour at a later age.

Apprenticeship could be a compelling option for another reason. Freeborn children were sometimes apprenticed out in connection with loans contracted by their parents or relatives. It appears that the labour of the apprentice was a security pledge that the advanced sum would be repaid, that it was traded for the interest on the loan, or perhaps both. A good example is *P. Tebt.* 2. 384 (AD 10).

***P. Tebt.* 2. 384, 15–25**

[Α]ρμιῦσις καὶ Παπνεβ[τῦ]νις οἱ δο(*) Ὀρσενούφι[ος Πέρσαι]
 τῆς ἐπιγονῆς ὁμολογοῦμεν ἔχειν π[αρὰ Πασώ-]
 νιος τοῦ Ὀρσενούφιου ἀργυρίου δραχμὰς [δεκά-]
 εἰς [καὶ] ἀντὶ τῶν τούτων τόκων καὶ [τρο]φ[είων](*) [καὶ]
 ἱματισμοῦ καὶ λαογραφίας κώμης Ὀξυρύνχω[ν καὶ]
 τέλους γερδίων καὶ τῶν τούτων μισθῶ[ν παρ-]
 εἰδόμεθα τὸν ἀδελφὸν ὑμῶν(*) Πασίωνα π[αραμέ-]
 νοντα αὐτῶ ἐνιαυτὸν ἓνα ἀπὸ τοῦ τε[σσα-]
 ρακοστοῦ ἔτου[ς] Καίσαρ[ος ἐ]ργαζόμενον [κατὰ τὴν]
 γερδιακὴν τέχνην καὶ ποιοῦντα τὰ ἐπ[ιταχθη-]
 σόμε[να] πάντα

... We, Harmiysis and Papnebtynis, both sons of Orsenouphis, Persians of the Epigone, acknowledge that we have received from Pasonis, son of Orsenouphis,

151 Lucian *Somn.* 1, quoted above; Bergamasco (1995) 149 on remuneration; *P. Oxy.* 67. 4596 even specifies that the apprentice receives food and clothing from the master artisan “instead of wages” (l. 15, ἀντὶ μισθῶν). A slave apprentice often moved in with the master, e.g. *P. Mich.* 346a (13 BC), *P. Oxy.* 41. 2977 (AD 239).

152 *P. Wisc.* 1. 4 is the one exception that proves the rule. The apprentice’s father provided the master artisan with fourteen drachmae for clothing, and five silver drachmae a month for food. No other costs or wages are specified. Pace Hawkins (2017), who adduces *P. Oxy.* 4. 725 as an example of the assumption that the cost of apprenticeship was considerable (his n. 32). Although the parents pay for food, and the apprentice starts earning wages only after two years and four months, the master still pays for clothing. It is also the single most unfavourable example from the parents’ perspective; therefore I believe the actual costs generally were less substantial than Hawkins suggests.

16 drachmas of silver, and in return for the (remission of) interest upon this sum and the boy's keep and clothing and poll-tax at the village of Oxyrhyncha and weavers' tax and wages will produce our brother Pasion to stay with Pasonis for one year from the 40th year of Caesar and to work at the weaver's trade and perform all that he is bidden...¹⁵³

In this text, two brothers 'hand over', or 'entrust' (the verb is a form of *parechomai*, commonly used for 'apprenticing out') their brother Pasion to a master weaver, Pasonis, for the duration of one year, in exchange for a loan of 16 silver drachmae; Pasonis in return will charge no interest on this sum, and see to Pasion's food and clothing as well as the weaver's tax. The advantages to the family are evident: Pasion's brothers save the expense of his keep, and they stand to gain not only from the remission of interest on the silver drachmae, but also from their brother's (unspecified) wages.

There are other such instances. It appears that Hermaiskos, son of Herakleides, was apprenticed out to the nailsmith Nilus in return for a loan of 100 drachmae, made out to his father and a certain Taurion. This we learn from *BGU* 4. 1124 (Alexandria, 18 BC), a document specifying the annulment of the teaching contract (that has not been preserved), because Herakleides and Taurion had paid off their debt with Nilos.¹⁵⁴ Similarly, *P. Oxy.* 67. 4596 (AD 264) is an apprenticeship contract for four years, where the instruction takes place in return for a loan of 400 drachmae to be returned – explicitly without interest – at the conclusion of the contract.¹⁵⁵ In this contract, a girl is to be educated as a weaver.¹⁵⁶ The text adds the significant clause that the father "is not allowed to take away his daughter within this period nor after the end of this period until he repays the four hundred silver drachmae in full".¹⁵⁷ An apprentice as surety for a loan therefore seems to me the more conclusive reading of these particular texts.¹⁵⁸ These loans have sometimes been explained the other way around, that is, as caution money ensuring

153 Translation by the editors of *P. Tebt.* 2.

154 In my opinion this document is about a loan, not a return of an advance payment of wages, as (very) tentatively suggested by Sijpesteijn (1967) in his commentary of *P. Wisc.* I. 4, lines 9-10. Compare *BGU* 4. 1154 (Alexandria, 10 BC) which demonstrates a similar construction, the *synchoreisis* explicitly drafted to pay back a loan. *P. Oxy.* 31. 2586 also includes the sum of 400 drachmae from master to father, to be returned at the end of the contract; unlike the other examples, however, this contract also specifies wages for the apprentice.

155 See J. David Thomas' 2001 edition of the papyrus, and Bergamasco (2004) 35–38 for its date.

156 An interesting detail is that she is taught in the weaving trade by an overseer (*histonarches*) rather than a weaver, on which see Migliardi Zingale (2007) 207-8.

157 Lines 21-25: οὐκ [ἐξόντος αὐ-] τῷ ἐντὸς τοῦ χρόνου ἀποστῆ[ν τὴν θυ-]γατέρα αὐτοῦ οὐδὲ μετὰ τὸν χρόνον [-ca.?-] πρὶν ἂν ἀποδῶ τὰς τοῦ ἀργυρ[ίου] δ[ραχμὰς] [τετρ]ακοσ[ίας πλήρη]ς. Translation David Thomas, editor.

158 Compare Pudsey (2013) 503–4 for pledging of children, with references in n.20.

that the master craftsman fulfilled his obligations to the parents/carers. The clause of *P. Oxy. 4596* is clear, however. The explanation of caution money does not clarify the early termination of Hermaiskos' teaching contract either (*BGU 4. 1124*).

In line with this interpretation, it may be pointed out that the master artisan had most to lose in case of an early termination of the contract, not the parents or carers: the students' labour input becomes more valuable after some time of training. The implication may be that artisans were not always keen on accepting apprentices. However, I believe that apprenticeship was actually appealing for craftsmen, too, because it added a relatively cheap pair of extra hands in the workshop. There is no other way to explain why Pasonis, for example, would agree to bear all the costs for Pasion in a relatively short-term contract.¹⁵⁹ The fact that many apprentices, Pasion included, receive wages from day one is a clue that their labour was valuable – even if their wage usually only increases with time spent in training.¹⁶⁰ As an extra precaution, there usually is a monetary penalty set to the parents or owners in case they should take the child away before the contract ends.

The cost of apprenticeship may therefore have been relatively low compared to the benefits. The exception seems to lie in the luxury trades on the one hand, as exemplified by the slave apprentice flute player, which fits in nicely with our understanding of the concept of conspicuous consumption. The stenographer on the other hand may perhaps be seen as an investment in a highly skilled slave that may fetch a nice price on the market or prove his worth in the household itself. The non-economic, social benefits of apprenticeship should not be underestimated either.¹⁶¹ But there were still restrictions in access to job-training. One of them was the availability of positions and the social network to get in; the other was gender.

Pausiris

The relative abundance of documentary papyri results in the added advantage that we can sometimes trace the same person in several documents over time. Four first-century documents pertaining to apprenticeship mention the same man: Pausiris, son of Ammonios, who lived in the Cavalry Parade Quarter of Oxyrynchos.¹⁶² This set of documents

159 Unless of course Pasion was already experienced to a degree, continuing the apprenticeship he started elsewhere with Pasonis. Hermaiskos the nail smith's apprentice (*BGU 4. 1124*) whose contract was terminated would also have to engage in another apprenticeship to finish his training, so this is a possible scenario.

160 *P. Oslo Inv. 1470*; *PSI 10. 1110 verso 1*; *P. Oxy 14. 1647*; *P. Oxy. 38. 2875*; *P. Oxy. 31. 2586*; *PSI 3. 241*.

161 Liu (2017) 219; Munck, Kaplan and Soly (2007) 5.

162 The family archive of twenty-three documents, referred to as the archive of Pausiris Jr, son of Pausiris, is the subject of Gagos, Koenen and McNellen (1992). The documents are listed in their appendix II on pages 201-204. There is a family tree on page 181. On page 181-2 they announce their work on a forthcoming text-edition.

offers an interesting insight in economic family strategy over (part of) the life cycle. One is an apprenticeship contract, the others concern apprenticeship registrations – apparently for tax purposes, since two texts are explicitly addressed to the *ekleptoreis gerdiôn*, tax farmers of the weavers' tax. Let us take a closer look at Pausiris and his family.

In *P. Mich.* 3. 170 from AD 49, Pausiris asks for registration of his eldest(?) son, Ammonios, as the apprentice of Apollonios, master weaver. Because it concerns a registration, the particulars of the contract itself, other than the year it commenced, are unknown. It is specified, however, that both Pausiris and the master artisan are based in the same part of the city. Four years later, an apprenticeship contract (*P. Wisc.* 1. 4) testifies to the fact that Pausiris sends another son, Dioskous, to the same master artisan, Apollonios. The boy is to learn from Apollonios "the whole weaver's trade, as he also knows it himself".¹⁶³ Apparently Dioskous stays with Apollonios for the year of his apprenticeship despite their physical proximity, because the master is compensated by Pausiris for the boy's maintenance.

So far there is little that is unusual about these arrangements. As it turns out, however, Pausiris is a master weaver himself.¹⁶⁴ *P. Mich.* 3. 171 (AD 58) is a copy of a letter to Panechotes and Ischyron, farmers of the weaver's tax. It is a request from a certain Helen to register her orphaned nephew, Amoitias, as apprentice to Pausiris. And in AD 62, Pausiris writes to register a third son, Pausiris junior, as apprentice in the weaver's trade. This time, however, Pausiris entrusts his son not to Apollonios, but to Epinikos son of Theon – the aforementioned Helen's husband (*P. Mich.* 3. 172).

It is clear that Pausiris had his sons trained in the weavers' trade, presumably to succeed him in the family business when the time came. But if Pausiris was a master weaver, why did he not instruct his sons himself? Similarly, why did Epinikos not take on his wife's nephew as an apprentice, rather than entrust him to Pausiris?

Reputation and quality control have been suggested as reasons not to train one's own child.¹⁶⁵ There is no denying that the proposition makes good sense. The suggestion that some sort of minimum standard was upheld, would be corroborated if the apprenticeship contracts offered evidence for something like a final exam to assess the acquired skills – as scholars have tentatively suggested that they do.¹⁶⁶ However, a closer look at the four texts adduced by Bergamasco in this context, illustrates that the passages are at the very least ambiguous and in need of careful reconsideration.

163 Line 5-7: ὄστ[ε μ]αθεῖν τὴν γερδιακὴν τέχνην πᾶσ[αν αὐτὸ]ν ὦ[ς] καὶ αὐτὸς ἐπίσταται. Translation Sijpesteijn (1967) 13.

164 This can also be gathered from *P. Mich.* 10. 598 from AD 49, which is a receipt for four installments of Pausiris' payment of the weaver's tax.

165 Laes (2011a) 191; see also Schulz-Falkenthal (1972) 210.

166 Bergamasco (1995) 133-4; Laes (2015a) 476 and idem (2011a) 191. Laes also adds *P. Oxy.* 2. 275, but in it I see no references to the apprentice undergoing a test.

In *P. Fouad*. 1. 37 (AD 48) the master writes in ll. 7-8 that he will present (ἐπιδείξομαι) the apprentice weaver to his father “before [*vel sim*] three colleagues” (ἐπὶ ὁμοτέχνων τριῶν). It may be that a similar wording recurs in *SB* 22. 15538 (13 BC), where a slave boy is to be taught how to play the flute. The heavily damaged text is reconstructed as [... ἐξετασθήσεται ὑφ’ ὁμοτέχ]νων τριῶν (l. 10), in which case the boy would “be examined by three colleagues”, but the reference to an examination remains conjectural.¹⁶⁷ The *epideixis* – demonstration – of *P. Fouad*. 1. 37 could of course refer to an exam. But both phrases may just as well have been included to prevent favouritism from the master. If what is meant in these two texts therefore is not an exam, but the simple clause that the apprentice is to be treated equally to the other apprentices, there is an unambiguous example which illustrates that this is a good possibility: this principle is also known from *P. Oxy.* 4. 725.¹⁶⁸ The other two texts that may indicate the existence of a master exam, are difficult to interpret for other reasons. The apprenticeship contract for a slave girl in *P. Mich.* 5. 346a (AD 13) states the consequences for the master “if she is judged unfledged” (ἐὰν ... κρίνηται μὴ εἰδύειαι, l. 9-10).¹⁶⁹ Bergamasco concedes that *krinetai* here does not necessarily refer to an official judgment, but may merely mean that the owner is dissatisfied with the slave’s progress.¹⁷⁰ The last possible reference to a master exam is *P. Aberd.* 59, which is not only a late example (late fifth, early sixth century AD) but which is also extremely fragmentary. I am hesitant to use this text to substantiate any argument.¹⁷¹

The attestations are few, and at least two of them refer to slave apprentices. While it is therefore difficult to exclude the possibility of a master exam altogether, I do not believe that it was very common, or that the quality control it exemplifies could be the reason to apprentice out a son to another weaver.

Perhaps part of the answer to why Pausiris did not tutor his own sons, should rather be sought in fluctuations in labour supply and demand.¹⁷² In the household of Epinikos and Helen, for example, Helen’s nephew probably was an unexpected addition to their family when Amoitás’ father suddenly passed away. It is therefore not unlikely that Epinikos

167 = *BGU* 4. 1125 line 1-15.

168 AD 183; this similarity was pointed out by Scherer, the editor of *P. Fouad*. 1. 37. In *P. Oxy.* 4. 725 the possibility of an exam is unlikely because of the context. It should be noted, however, that unlike myself and (in his view) contrary to *P. Oxy.* 4. 725, Scherer believes that *P. Fouad* 1. 37 does refer to an exam of sorts.

169 Interestingly, the penalty is to pay what he has received, but an instruction fee is not specified.

170 Bergamasco (1995) 134.

171 For the date, see *BL* 5, page 1; cf below, n.189.

172 The main point of Hawkins (2016), (2006) is that the lives of urban artisans in Rome are governed in large parts by such fluctuating demand; cf Saller (2013) 75-76: “Apprenticeship was a mechanism that allowed labor to be moved from the natal family to a household where it was needed and could be supported with food”.

already had apprentices and labourers under contract at that time, which is why for them it was more profitable to apprentice out their nephew Amoitais.¹⁷³ Although we do not have such contextual evidence in the documents concerning Pausiris, if he, too, had sufficient men (or women) at work in his workshop, it might have been a reason to send his sons elsewhere to learn the trade. We can at least infer that when Pausiris took in Helen's nephew, Pausiris junior was still too young to add anything to the weaving business: He must have been under 10 years of age in AD 58, because he was still referred to as a minor (in Roman Egypt that means under 14 years of age) in his own registration as an apprentice in AD 62.¹⁷⁴

Alternatively, having a son apprenticed out to another weaver might refer to different types of weaving, which points to specialization and diversification of the weaver's trade, partly to preclude competition.¹⁷⁵ This suggestion cannot be substantiated, however. To my knowledge only one apprenticeship contract casually refers to a specific type of weaving: *P. Fouad* I. 37 speaks of 'horizontal' weaving.¹⁷⁶ Moreover, the history of another family of weavers suggests that it is legitimate to speak of a family business, regardless of whether a son was educated in the craft at home or not.

Whereas these explanations may all be true to some extent, I believe that the most convincing explanation is in socio-economic networks. Recently there has been considerable attention for guilds as professional networks, and the social and familial ties of guild members, all of which are relevant here.¹⁷⁷ It is obvious that the exchange of apprentices between Pausiris and Apollonios on the one hand, and Pausiris and Epinikos on the other hand, indicates the existence of social and economic bonds between the weavers of Oxyrhynchus.¹⁷⁸ This does not preclude the interpretation that these documents offer glimpses of the professional network provided by guilds, through which the weavers found each other and which helped to minimize production costs and transaction costs. In the case of Pausiris and Apollonios, we may presume that weavers in the same part of town knew each other well; as we have seen both were from the Cavalry Parade Quarter.¹⁷⁹ It should, however, be emphasized that there is no explicit reference to *collegia*.

173 This may be the reason that orphan apprentices are relatively prominent, a pattern that is more often attested historically (Lemerrier for 19th-century France); however, Laes (2015a) 476 points out that the percentage of apprentices without a father is in line with the expected percentage of boys without a father at that age.

174 *P. Mich.* 3. 172, l. 8.

175 Hawkins (2006) 176-7; also Sijpesteijn (1967) 14 in his commentary on *P. Wisc.* 1. 4; Biscottini on the Tryphon-archive (1966) 65 ff.

176 Sitting down as opposed to standing up.

177 Liu (2017); Hawkins (2006) 125-133, spec. 132, idem (2012); Venticinque (2010). See also chapter 5.

178 Liu (2017) 217-221; Venticinque (2010) 291.

179 Hawkins (2006) 126-33; Liu (2017) 217-224 with figure 10.1 on p. 218.

Tryphon

The weaver Tryphon was born in 8/9 AD; like Pausiris and his family, this family lived in the first century AD. It is a stroke of luck that much of the family archive has survived.¹⁸⁰ It tells us that Tryphon's grandfather, Dionysios, was a weaver, and so were his father, also named Dionysios, his uncle, and one of his two brothers (who were both younger than he). Therefore, it comes as no surprise when we learn that Tryphon's eldest son started paying the weaver's tax from age 10.¹⁸¹ For Tryphon himself, and for his eldest son, however, there is no apprenticeship contract. Therefore, it is possible that in this family we have two instances of the eldest son learning the trade at home, from his father.

For the other weavers in the family, an apprenticeship contract was recorded. By the time Tryphon's younger brother Onnophris was of an age to start his apprenticeship, in AD 36, Tryphon's father may have passed away: the contract, *P. Oxy.* 2. 322, was drawn up by their mother, with Tryphon acting as a guardian. Tryphon was now of an age to take on apprentices of his own (27–28 years old), yet it was decided that Onnophris should be apprenticed out to another weaver.¹⁸² In AD 66 Tryphon's second son, Thoonis, was apprenticed out (*P. Oxy.* 2. 275). This decision may have had to do with Tryphon's advancing age, or the fact that he lost part of his eyesight some years before.¹⁸³ Other considerations unknown to us may have played a part as well: the network theories outlined above with the more elaborate example of Pausiris are evocative. It appears that some learnt their trade within the family, and others were apprenticed out – but all save one remained in the family business.¹⁸⁴ Perhaps the simplest solution is also the most elegant: whenever a son was his father's apprentice, there was no apprenticeship contract. But absence of evidence is not evidence of absence.

The archives of Pausiris and Tryphon give evidence for two or more generations of weavers each; and although there usually is very little evidence for what happens between generations, here at least we can point to intergenerational persistence ensuring the next generation's entry into the weaving trade.

180 Piccolo (2003); Pestman and Clarysse (1989) 74-80; Vandoni (1974); Biscottini (1966); Brewster (1927).

181 *P. Oxy.* 2. 310, 56 AD, cf Brewster (1927) 147 chart B.

182 It is not specified at what age artisans could take apprentices, which in any case had to do with skill not age, but the master carpenter in *P. Mich. Inv.* 4238 is 25 years old, and the master weaver of *P. Tebt.* 2. 385 is about the same age as Tryphon was here.

183 Brewster (1927) 140 suggests that it is because of his incapacitation. However, Biscottini (1966) 64–5 points out that Tryphon can nevertheless be seen actively involved in the weaver's trade, as his purchase of a new loom dates still later than the accident.

184 According to Brewster (1927) 138, Tryphon's other brother (Thoonis) left the district "without trade and without means" in AD 44 – with reference to *P. Oxy.* 2. 251.

Freeborn female apprentices

Slave apprentices concern both boys and girls, in roughly equal numbers.¹⁸⁵ Most of the freeborn apprentices, however, were boys. But not all. Bradley's often-cited conclusion that there were no freeborn female apprentices should therefore be qualified, as Van Minnen attempted to do in 1998.¹⁸⁶ At the time, Van Minnen's publication failed to convince many scholars, but the publication of a new papyrus from Oxyrhynchus has added another persuasive example of a freeborn female apprentice.

In *P. Heid.* 4. 326 (AD 98), included by Van Minnen, the girl Syairûs is apprenticed out by her parents Ischyras and Didyme to another married couple, Isidorus and Apollonari-on.¹⁸⁷ The document is extraordinary in many ways. The text does not state explicitly that we are dealing with an apprenticeship contract, nor does it say anything about wages, or about what exactly the girl is to be taught. The information we need comes from another contract, dating to a year later: AD 99. In this contract, *P. Heid.* 4. 327, the son of Ischyras' deceased (?) brother Nikanor is apprenticed out by Ischyras (this time without mention of Didyme) to Apollonari-on (the wife) to learn the *somfiake techne*, an unknown art which appears to be the work of an undertaker. In lines 35-39 they refer to their previous arrangement.

***P. Heid.* 4. 327, 33-40**

ἐπὶ δὲ τούτοις καὶ τὴν Ἀπολλ/
 λ[ωνά]ριον μη[δ]ὲν παραβῆν[α]ι
 ἢ ἔ[νοχ]ος ἔσται τῷ [ἴ]σῳ ἐπιτίμῳ, με-
 νο[ύ]σης κυρί[ας ἧ]ς ἔχει ἡ Ἀπολλω-
 νά[ρι]ον τοῦ [Ἰ]σχυ[ρ]ᾶδος ἐτέρας
 συ[γχα]ρῆ[σεως] διδεσκαλείας
 [τῆς θυγ]ατρὸς ἀ[ύτ]οῦ Συαιρ[ο]ῦδος.

Unter these terms, Apollonari-on will be bound not to trespass or she will be subject to the same penalty, while the other teaching agreement remains applicable, [the one] Apollonari-on holds from Ischyras, concerning his [i.e. Ischyras'] daughter Syairûs.

The connection between 326 and 327 seems to be a safe one: Syairûs is a name that we hear of more often, but it is only spelled like this twice – in our documents. Therefore we

185 Laes (2015a) counts 12 slave-contracts of whom 6 were girls; appendix 2 has 11 (5 girls).

186 Voiced by Bradley (1991) 108-9. Van Minnen (1998).

187 This text and its connection to *P. Heid.* 4. 327 is also explained in Van Minnen (1998).

may presume that *P. Heid.* 4. 326 was indeed a *synchoresis didaskaleias*, the term used in *P. Heid.* 4. 327 (l. 38) to refer to the earlier text: an apprenticeship contract for a freeborn girl.

Another girl is now also securely attested in *P.Oxy.* 67. 4596 (AD 264), a relatively recent discovery:¹⁸⁸ Aurelia Aphrodite is the daughter of Aurelios Polydeukes (line 7) and apprenticed out to learn the weaving trade. Their name (Aurelius, -a) is a clear indication of citizen status, so there is no doubt that Aphrodite was born free.

In addition to female apprentices, there are a few female master artisans.¹⁸⁹ That fact also suggests some form of job-training for women.¹⁹⁰ The woman Apollonariion was already referred to in my description of two apprenticeship contracts (*P. Heid.* 4. 326-7). A master weaver, Aurelia Libouke, features in the apprenticeship contract *P. Mich. Inv.* 5191a = *SB* 8. 13305. Finally Aria, a master of unknown trade writes a letter (*P. Mich. Inv.* 337) to her son about the financial problems she has to support her (male) apprentice.¹⁹¹

The scarce attestation of freeborn females in the apprenticeship contracts is likely not coincidental. That does not mean that women necessarily were without an occupation, however. Van Minnen suggested that girls were more likely to learn a job at home to preserve their chastity: "That was safer".¹⁹² Girls could be married in their early teens at an age when other children, that is mainly boys, began their apprenticeship.¹⁹³ The age of most apprentices is unfortunately lost to us, but apprenticeships seem to commence shortly before age 14.¹⁹⁴ The marriage pattern of Roman Egypt was perhaps not all that different from that of Roman Italy: nonelite girls seem to have started marrying from age 12 onwards, but with a similar peak in the (mid and) late teens as their counterparts in Roman Italy.

Human capital theory would nevertheless suggest that investment in human capital for girls was less extensive than investment in boys, based on the expectation that women's future earnings were lower than what could be expected in the case of men. That is not just because of the expectation that a girl would be married soon, and that

188 *P. Oxy.* 67. 4596 was already briefly referred to above in the context of loans and apprenticeship.

189 I hesitate to include the fragmentary example of *P. Ross. Georg.* II. 18. 450 (AD 140) that merely hints at an apprenticeship contract for a girl; it has the occurrence of some form of the verb *manthanein* in connection with the accusative *auten*. Nor am I inclined to bring in the late example of *P. Aberd.* 59 (late 5th–early 6th c.) which is also very fragmentary. Van Minnen names two others besides *P. Mich.* 4. 326: on pages 202–3 he suggests a conjecture through which *P. Mich. Inv.* 5191a = *SB* 8. 13305 would also include a freeborn girl, but the suggestion has not been widely accepted; he also refers to an eight-century Coptic text far outside of the scope of my research (*KSB* 1. 045).

190 Van Minnen (1998) 201 pointed me to the existence of female artisans in the contracts as evidence of job-training for women, though again he did not have all the texts we have now and has to resort to a late example.

191 On *P. Mich. Inv.* 337 = *SB* 11588, see Bergamasco (2006a).

192 Van Minnen (1998) 203 and *passim*.

193 For the Egyptian marriage pattern, Hübner (2013) 48-50; Bagnall and Frier (1994) 110-16.

194 Bradley (1991) 107-8; Van Minnen (1998) 201.

she could therefore spend less time in the labour market. There was a strong gender bias on the labour market as well. Women had fewer job opportunities and because of that they probably earned less, as was the case in many historical periods. Though Roman women are sporadically attested in all types of jobs, there seems to have been a limit to female labour participation, and the apprenticeship contracts suggest that this may have limited investment in their human capital through formal apprenticeships.¹⁹⁵

FAMILY MATTERS: ECONOMIC STRATEGIES

All business was family business, if not always in the literal sense. There were of course family businesses in a literal sense: they were mostly entrepreneurial families working together in a workshop. Other, wage-earning, families hired out their labour in a necessarily more diversified approach to the labour market.

The urban population of Rome was dense, hence unskilled labour was probably in ample supply in the Roman cities and wages were accordingly low; and though skilled labour was more exclusive and the work paid good money, securing a job as a skilled wage-labourer may have proven difficult. In most nonelite households, therefore, it is likely that all family members – men, women, and children – were required to contribute their labour power merely to maintain, or to rise above, subsistence level.¹⁹⁶ Skilled work was the most important differentiating factor that had the potential to lift the family up from the poorer masses. Even for skilled artisans and craftsmen, however, fluctuating demand in the urban economy necessitated the availability of a flexible work force.¹⁹⁷ The most flexible work force, and the cheapest place to find additional labourers when business was good, was one's family. Conversely, when demand was low, family members were also the labourers whose time was most easily redirected towards the more rudimentary tasks in and around the house.¹⁹⁸ Labour allocation among family

195 See introduction s.v. human capital and chapter two s.v. gender. Cf Saller (2007) 106: "the effect of the ideology may have been to limit the training or human capital of freeborn women".

196 See chapter two on living standards and skilled labour; Groen-Vallinga and Tacoma (2017) section 4; Scheidel (2010a) 454: "Since wages for adult male workers were often so modest, labor force participation by both adult women and minors must have been high in order to fend off starvation".

197 Hawkins (2016); (2013).

198 Cf. Hawkins (2017), (forthcoming) who names this as an advantage of slaves in the permanent work force; In my view, this holds equally well for non-slave family members; Knotter (1994) 68 on the sudden growth of the cloth-production in the Dutch Republic of the nineteenth century: "Gezinsarbeid is een voor de hand liggende oplossing voor gebrek aan arbeidskrachten".

members, and between domestic work and the labour market, therefore, is the most basic form of family adaptive strategy.

Male labour: Occupational pluralism and seasonal labour

It is interesting to note that the ideology surrounding male labourers has received little scholarly attention, certainly when compared to studies into contemporary views about Roman women. That presumably has to do with the fact that literary sources were written from a male perspective in a patriarchal society, by elite men who concerned themselves with putting women in their place.¹⁹⁹ The elite views about artisans and craftsmen outlined in the introduction to this thesis, for example, are implicitly about male labourers. There is very little material in terms of an ancient discourse about labour allocation between husband and wife. A passage of Xenophon's *Oeconomicus* in which a farmer called Ischomachos recaps at length a conversation with his wife on how the gods as well as the law viewed the tasks of husband and wife. He concludes: "for to the woman it is more admirable to stay in the house than to be in the open air, but to the man it is more shameful to stay in the house than to attend to the work outside."²⁰⁰ In other words, male labour was allocated to the non-domestic sphere one hundred per cent, be it on the farm as in the case of Ischomachos, in the workshop, or in the form of wage labour; the women, conversely, were allocated to the domestic sphere.

This extreme labour division between husband and wife is still common, even if it is no longer the only option available. The ideal has prevailed for a long time and has blended into reality, even if adhering to a labour division was regularly impossible to adhere to, because of the vital contribution women's income was to the family finances. I suspect that the prevalence of this labour pattern until the later twentieth century is one of the reasons why scholars never felt the need to explicate it for ancient Rome. Economic theory even predicts that it is often economically rational, on the assumption that women have a comparative advantage in the home.²⁰¹ It may be safely concluded that Roman men were expected to be the bread-winners of the family, as head of a workshop, as merchant, wholesaler or wage-labourer. Male wage-labourers were expected to find an income through a job, or when there was none, through other means. An unfortunate *faber* from Apuleius' *Metamorphoses*, for example, finds himself without work and without pay unexpectedly one day, and decides to sell a *dolium* so that he

199 See chapter 2.

200 Xen. *Oec.* 7. 30-1: τῆ μὲν γὰρ γυναικὶ κάλλιον ἔνδον μένειν ἢ θυραυλεῖν, τῷ δὲ ἀνδρὶ αἴσχιον ἔνδον μένειν ἢ τῶν ἔξω ἐπιμελεῖσθαι.

201 See introductory chapter s.v. male and female labour for this ideal of separate domains, with reference to Hemelrijk (2015) 9–12; and for economic theory with reference to Cigno (1991) part I, e.g., 24, 41-2.

can afford a meal in the evening.²⁰² Apuleius' carpenter seems to have had a relatively steady job with his boss for the time being. As a result of the male-female labour division, adaptive strategies for men were not concerned with the division of their time between home and work, but they were aimed particularly at battling unemployment and economic insecurity.

An interesting historical example of adaptive strategy is my grandfather. Born in 1920, my grandfather Wim was a house painter, before he was drafted to serve in the royal navy during World War II. After the war, he found work in a butcher's shop, and then as an overseer in the mines of Limburg. Two things are relevant about this historical case. The first is that as one of twelve children to a farmer, Wim only received a relatively basic education. House painter and butcher are both job-titles we might consider (semi-) skilled, but he was self-taught (the navy and the mining corporation provided additional training). Although this is just one modern case, it puts into perspective the ways in which much of the human capital may have been accumulated in the Roman world. Strategic adaptations like these must have been a general occurrence in the Roman world as well, but they are virtually impossible to trace. Perhaps the fact that there are relatively few occupational inscriptions also has to do with the fact that there were few Romans who identified with only one particular job. Specializing too far makes for less flexibility. Of course the circumstances were highly specific after the second World War, the ruins of which increased labour demand and decreased labour supply. My grandfather's career switches were responses to that demand. But the Roman world was not devoid of stochastic shocks either.

A certain flexibility was necessary to find employment. The seasonal and cyclical changes in demand for labour in the Roman world were considered in the previous chapter. The agricultural calendar, the building trades and the shipping trades all contributed to seasonal labour migration flows between town and country, and it was pointed out that recurring circumstantial factors such as the political calendar at Rome, religious festivals and even the weather also influenced a cyclical demand for luxury and other goods in the urban market.²⁰³ Seasonal fluctuations in labour-intensive trades are most likely to have impacted larger numbers of unskilled labourers. As a result, many unskilled male wage-labourers performed more than one different job during the year: an adaptive strategy termed occupational pluralism. Similarly, in the nineteenth century the shipyard workers of Nova Scotia were often part-time farmers or lumberjacks.²⁰⁴ If a worker was unemployed for part of the year, however, the alternative historical example of early twentieth-century

202 Apul. *Met.* 9.5-6, also cited in chapter 2.

203 Chapter 2; See especially Erdkamp (2016) and (2008) for seasonal labour migration and Hawkins (2016) for unstable demand.

204 McCann (1999).

Dutch dockworkers shows wives (or children) going out to find temporary work instead.²⁰⁵ This is a useful reminder that the contribution of the other family members should also be considered. It should be kept in mind that in a high mortality regime like Rome, there may not have been an adult man in the home to be the bread-winner, and even if there was, he may not have earned enough money to sustain the family.

Female labour

A persistent traditional view of the woman in the household envisages her movements as limited to domestic work and raising children. That was the Roman ideal as well – in practice, however, women must have contributed a lot more than unremunerated domestic work.²⁰⁶ Women stepped in when the family income was insufficient, or when labour demands were high. In the family life cycle women's monetary contribution was the greatest in the year(s) before the birth of any children. Presumably their input went up again from the moment that older children could start looking out for their younger siblings.

There were no serious legal restrictions to do business with female shop-owners, saleswomen, or artisans, nor were there any legal obstructions for hiring women. Having said that, a perception of female weakness did uphold the system of *tutela*, or legal guardianship.²⁰⁷ In practice, however, it is questionable that the male guardian had anything to do with business transactions, unless they were related to a woman's patrimony – which is true only for a restricted number of goods, such as land, houses, and slaves.²⁰⁸ A woman was equal to a man in the labour market, at least according to the law.

In practice, when Roman women entered the labour market, their options were nevertheless restricted by the prevailing gender biases.²⁰⁹ Looking at the occupational inscriptions, the range of jobs open to women was far less wide than that for men: my catalogue of job titles contains 549 entries of jobs for men, and 62 for women, of which 47 are attested for men and women alike. There are a mere 15 solely for women.²¹⁰ These figures illustrate a clear pattern, though the biases in the material should caution us not to take them at face value. Historically, women's work was (and is) sometimes recorded

205 Knotter (2004) 222.

206 Cf Scheidel (1995) for an extensive argument about women's contribution in agricultural (wage-) labour.

207 Dixon (1984).

208 Gardner (1995) 378.

209 See chapter 2 on engendered dual labour markets.

210 See appendix 1. Cf Treggiari (1979a) 66; Harris (2002) for a similar gender pattern in classical Athens.

in broader terms than men's.²¹¹ A lack of differentiation in the (census) records therefore need not mean that women's jobs were less differentiated than men's to the same extent in reality; although for all the reasons mentioned before, a smaller range of occupational possibilities should surely be assumed. Epitaphs for Roman women in general were less numerous than those for men.²¹² Women were perhaps also even less likely to have a stable job – with a specific job-title to record – than men. Moreover, it was common to give prevalence to family relations in the image constructed on the epitaph for a woman, to the exclusion of occupational titles. When occupation is mentioned alongside family relations, however, it is generally placed *before* familial bonds, as in *CIL* 6. 9616:

***CIL* 6. 9616**

D(is) M(anibus) / Terentiae / Niceni Terentiae / Primaes(!) medicas li/bertae fecerunt / Mussius Antiochus / et Mussia Dionysia / fil(ii) m(atri) b(ene) m(erenti)

To the divine spirits. To Terentia of Nicaea, doctor and freedwoman of Terentia Prima. Mussius Antiochus and Mussia Dionysia her children set up (this monument) to their well-deserving mother.

As this epitaph demonstrates, Roman women and their next of kin were not always devoid of a sense of female occupational pride.²¹³

In line with Roman views of femininity, most of the professions recorded for women in occupational inscriptions are 'feminine' jobs, in the service sector or otherwise in the domestic sphere. The one occupation that is most frequently attested is *nutrix*, wet-nurse, second is *ornatrix*, or hairdresser; not surprisingly a broad spectrum of

211 Ann Ighe talking about the development of the Swedish census, 18th–21st century, at the European Social Science and History Conference 2012.

212 Hopkins (1966), (1987).

213 But see Dixon (2001a) 9 for two examples where the women of the family seem to be identified primarily by their familial role and the men by occupation.

wool-work, spinning and weaving in particular, is also well-attested.²¹⁴ The domestic and service sector, particularly flexible hours working as a cleaning lady, laundry lady, or seamstress, is where women turned for unskilled casual work in other pre-industrial periods. In Rome, many of the occupational inscriptions in this line of work attest to female slaves and ex-slaves, however. If the predominance of servile women is a reflection of reality, the chances for a freeborn woman to find work in the service sector were severely limited. However, since we know that occupational inscriptions over-represent the servile population by a wide margin, the dominance in this sector need not have been as pronounced as the epigraphic record suggests. There is every reason to believe that women were not only engaged in the service sector. Charting the possible family strategies and checking them against the evidence makes it possible to paint a much broader spectrum of women's work in Roman society.

Women involved in family business

Cooperation of husband and wife in a business is an obvious efficiency drive.²¹⁵ Actual attestations of informal cooperation between spouses, however, are difficult to identify in the Roman world. Women working with their husbands are easily obscured. There are historical examples for the fact that when husband and wife shared the same occupation, it was only recorded for the man, for example.²¹⁶ Within the sample of occupational inscriptions, if husband and wife are both named, and the husband is recorded with job, his wife generally is not.²¹⁷ In the rare inscriptions that record an occupation for both partners

214 E.g. Günther (1987) 40–137 discusses occupations by sector (only for freedwomen); The job of *ornatrix* took (at least) three months of training, which can be inferred from *Dig.* 32.65.3 (Celsus apud Marcianum), but cf Forbes (1955) n. 50: "Other jurists disagreed with this". Barber's 1994 monograph on wool-working has the telling title *Women's work: the first 20 000 years: women, cloth and society in early times*. Larsson Lovén (1998) correctly demonstrated that wool-work in Rome could be a byword for the virtuous matron, though there is very little epigraphic evidence for the use of *lanifica* or *lanam fecit* solely in praise of domestic virtue (in *CIL* 6 I can think only of *CIL* 6. 10230, 11602, 15346, and 37053). In most instances the text strongly suggests that wool-work was a money-earning activity, like *CIL* 6. 6339 which simply reads *Acte quasillaria*: "Acte, spinner". Cf Dixon (2001b) 117.

215 Well-attested also in pre-industrial Europe: Holderness (1984) 425. Cf Van den Heuvel (2008) 218 on commerce in the Dutch Republic: "Scholars generally assume that in commerce wives helped their husbands in the shop, doing the necessary business administration or filling in during their absence"; Van den Heuvel goes on to nuance that view by illuminating various forms of spousal cooperation in retail.

216 This problem pervades sources for early modern England, see Erickson (2008) 282–3 on the lists of women taking apprentices from Christ's Hospital in eighteenth-century London: "The wife's occupation was not recorded in addition to her husband's if the two were identical".

217 There is a handful of instances where a woman is recorded with job and her husband is not.

in a marriage or *contubernium*, husband and wife usually do not share the same job and one or both are engaged with gendered work (see below). On a significant number of funerary monuments, a trade is only represented through an image of tools of the trade.²¹⁸ The deceased are then referred to by means of a portrait bust and/or the accompanying inscription. Although it is tempting to interpret the tools as the husband's in these cases, the possibility that a family business is indicated should at least be left open.²¹⁹

Two reliefs in particular have been adduced to illustrate the probability of an 'unequal' division of labour between men and women within the household business. One funerary relief shows a butcher at work, while his wife sits on a chair holding what look like a stylus and wax tablet – as if she is doing the administration.²²⁰ In this particular instance, however, I believe Zimmer is correct in suggesting that the stylus and the wax tablet refer to the wife's education; the relief proudly advertises that the butcher's wife was so well provided for that she did not have to work.²²¹ The other example is more convincing, however. It is a funerary relief from the Isola Sacra necropolis showing a husband and wife in a smithy: he is hammering away at the anvil to the right, and the woman on the left appears to be engaged in selling the products.²²² Holleran has argued that since retail requires little skill or training and is compatible with childcare, "[f]or unskilled women who married skilled artisans, retailing the products produced by their husbands may have been the easiest way for them to contribute to the household income".²²³ Two or three reliefs from Ostia support the idea of Roman women in retail, and the epigraphic evidence also attests to the non-negligible presence of saleswomen.²²⁴ This type of labour division between men and women may well be true for many historical cases, and there is no doubt in my mind that it was a common feature of Roman society. But it does not account for all the evidence, so we must look at the possibility of other strategies as well.

218 See introduction.

219 Zimmer consistently interprets the tools of the trade to refer to a man's profession, Zimmer (1982) 13.

220 Zimmer (1982) cat. nr. 2, p. 94–5; Kampen (1981) cat. nr. 53, p. 157 thinks that the wife is a book-keeper. More recently, Broekaert (2012) 47 has argued for a similar division of labour.

221 Zimmer (1982) 63; cf Dixon (2001b) 9.

222 Isola sacra, tomb 29; Zimmer (1982) cat. nr. 123, p. 185–6; D'Ambra (1988) discusses the funerary monument and the artistic program on the reliefs and sarcophagus.

223 Holleran (2013) 321. Cf Van den Heuvel (2008) 218 on commerce in the Dutch Republic: "Scholars generally assume that in commerce wives helped their husbands in the shop, doing the necessary business administration or filling in during their absence"; Van den Heuvel goes on to nuance that view by illuminating various forms of spousal cooperation in retail.

224 Kampen (1981) cat. nr. 2, 3 and 4, pp. 138–9 are also part of the six reliefs at the heart of her discussion. I deliberately write 'two or three' because the vegetable seller (nr 4) is not always identified as female; Herfst (1922) 36 suggests that women in classical Athens also must have played a large part in commerce, despite the scarcity of the evidence.

There is evidence to suggest that some women developed skills in arts or crafts equal to those of their husbands. Some did so through formal apprenticeship, as we have seen, but a wife could presumably also acquire skills as an informal apprentice first to her parents, then to her husband, learning by doing.²²⁵ Through ongoing practical engagement with the trade, a woman eventually created her own occupational identity.

A few inscriptions stress the professional equality of both partners by the explicit use of both the male and the female form of their profession.²²⁶ This is the case for Venusta, who married a freeborn nailsmith:

CIL 5. 7023

V(iva) f(ecit) / Cornelia L(uci) l(iberta) / Venusta / clavaria sibi et / P(ublio) Aebutio M(arci) f(ilio) Stel(latina) / clavario Aug(ustali) vir(o) / et Crescenti libertae et / Muroni delicatae

While she was still alive Cornelia Venusta, freedwoman of Lucius, nailsmith, set up [this monument] for herself and for Publius Aebutius of the Stellatine tribe, nailsmith, Augustalis, and for Crescens her freedwoman and Muron her delicata.

As a freedwoman, Venusta may, of course, have picked up the tricks of the trade earlier in her life during slavery in the service of a certain Lucius Cornelius, in which case her trade might have made her an attractive match for P. Aebutius. It is also possible, however, that she became a nailsmith under her husband's guidance. The *conditarii* in *CIL* 6. 9277 provide another telling example.²²⁷

CIL 6. 9277

[Aul(ia)] Mercurian{e}<a> fecit paren/[tibu]s su{bu}<i>s Aul(io) Maximus(!) / [con]ditarius de castris pra/[etor]i{bu} <i>s Aul(iae) Hilaritas(!) condita/ria(e) e{o}<i>s in pace //]unt / [

225 This was probably the case in eighteenth-century London: Erickson (2008) 288. Contra Hawkins (2006) 184, who presents “some of our literary and legal evidence (...) [implying] that women did not enjoy any more access to specialized craft training in ‘male’ occupations within their natal or conjugal households than they did outside of the household”.

226 Contrary to inscriptions such as *CIL* 6. 37781, where a man and freedman, but not the female dedicator, are explicitly indicated as *aurifices*; with Hawkins (2006) 185–6.

227 Other couples in the same trade: *CIL* 6. 9211 (*brattiarum*); 6963 (*brattiarum*); 9934 (*turarium*); 370820 (*purpurarium*); 370826 (*vestiarum tenuarium*, quoted in this chapter below); with Holleran (2013) 315–6 and Groen-Vallinga (2013) 306.

Aulia Mercuriane set this up for her parents Aulus Maximus, dealer in preserved foods at the *castra praetoria*, and Aulia Hilaritas dealer in preserved foods. May they rest in peace.

Maximus and Hilaritas were freedmen, but the inscription suggests to me that they had subsequently set up their own independent family. Hilaritas, too, probably learnt her profession as a slave. Most examples of men and women working in the same business concern freedmen, but we shall see shortly that the same holds true for couples with distinct job-titles: most of the occupational inscriptions represent ex-slaves, and the evidence for conjugal couples conforms to this pattern.²²⁸

Work within the family business was the most acceptable alternative to domestic work in line with gender ideals of domesticity and feminine jobs. Whereas it is very likely that many women did help out in the family business – in line with the model of the family economy, in which the family is the unit of production – the examples just presented demonstrate that caution is necessary towards the often implicit assumption that they did so “on unequal terms”.²²⁹ Moreover, such an assumption fails to explain those instances of independent women, that is women with a job different from that of their husband, or women without a husband – but with a profession.

Independent women

Women who are attested with a job different from that of their husbands must have been engaged in the Roman equivalent of a double-business household, or have worked as independent wage-labourers hiring out their labour. Such scenarios go beyond the family economy, or even the family wage economy, and represent a wider range of adaptive family strategies.

The occupational inscriptions show a noticeable pattern for non-slave couples belonging to this category. Many attestations of men and women with a distinct job-title appear to be of independent freedmen. It is significant that both husband and wife can generally be traced back to an elite household: they were ex-slaves, who were either still part of the elite household after manumission or who subsequently established a nonelite household of their own and are therefore part of the current analysis.²³⁰ The example of *CIL* 6. 9824 shows a conjugal couple who probably were manumitted by members of the same family:

228 Cf Broekaert (2012) 46.

229 Saller (2007) 105–6.

230 In fact, most attestations are for slaves or freedmen from a *columbarium* in Rome, in which case the couple was probably still employed in an elite household at the time of their death, e.g. *CIL* 6. 33794; 6342 cited in chapter 4.

CIL 6. 9824

Critonia Q(uinti) I(iberta) Philema / popa de insula / Q(uinti) Critoni |(mulieris) I(iberti) Dassi / scalptoris v(as)<cu=UC>lari(i) / sibi suisque poster(isque) / eor(um)

Critonia Philema, freedwoman of Quintus, cookshop owner, [set up this monument] for Quintus Dassus, freedman of a woman, carver of vessels, for herself, and for their dependants and their descendants.

Philema was set free by a Quintus Critonius, and Dassus was manumitted by a woman; that woman must have been related to Q. Critonius to give Dassus his *nomen*.²³¹ Even if there is some discussion as to what *popa* may mean, as well as about the correct reading of *vascularii*, it is clear that these two people did not share the same business.²³² It is very well possible that in slavery, both Philema and Dassus had been employed in an elite family in very different activities. They may well have formed a family there, and retained their separate jobs after their manumission upon forming their own family unit. A similar insight explains an altar, with three inscriptions collected as *CIL 6. 37469*.²³³

CIL 6. 37469

Nostia |(mulieris) I(iberta) / Daphne / ornatix de / vico Longo //
M(arcus) Nerius M(arci) I(ibertus) / Quadratus / aurifex de / vico Longo //
Nostia / Daphnidis I(iberta) / Cleopatra / ornatix de vico / Longo

Nostia Daphne, freedwoman of a woman, hairdresser from the Vicus Longus.
Marcus Nerius Quadratus, freedman of Marcus, goldsmith from the Vicus Longus.
Nostia Cleopatra, freedwoman of Daphne, hairdresser from the Vicus Longus.

231 Alternatively, one may have freed the other (either way around is possible, judging from their nomenclature). Manacorda (2005) suggests that Philema's patron may be the Cretonius from Juvenal's 14th Satire (vv. 86–95); Richardson Jr (1992) 209 hazards a suggestion on the identity of Dassus as the owner of an *insula Q. Critoni*.

232 For *popa* = *popinaria*, compare *CIL 14. 3709* (Tivoli); *vascularii* has been supplemented as *vir clarissimi* in *CIL 6*, which I would think unlikely because of his libertine status. The variant reading "*ocularius*" has also been proffered. *Scalptor* has not been doubted, however, so it is clear that Dassus was a carver of some kind.

233 *CIL 6. 37469* combines *ILS 9426* with *CIL 6. 9736* and 3895; see Di Giacomo (2010) for the most recent edition with *CIL 6. 9736*. Contra Solin (2000) 168 who argues that Daphnidis does not refer to Daphne. Treggiari (1979a) 75 already suggested the connection with *CIL 6. 9736*.

Nostia Daphne and M. Nerius Quadratus, judging by their names, are freedmen who probably originate from two different households. The monument does not state explicitly that Daphne and Quadratus are husband and wife, but it is a distinct possibility. Slave unions crossing household boundaries are not unheard of; alternatively the marriage may have been formed only after manumission.²³⁴ Husband and wife have very different jobs, but the shared monument suggests that the newly formed family set up shop together in the Vicus Longus. Cleopatra is Daphne's freedwoman, of the same occupation.

Virtually all of the rare instances of a conjugal couple holding different occupations, outside of the *columbaria*, can be similarly explained by them maintaining a job learnt in their former household or households.²³⁵ Having said that, it should also be noted that as a general rule one or both of the spouses held an exclusively female or exclusively male job, which may also have prompted the commemoration of both professions: there is no male equivalent to the *ornatrix* or *popinaria* for example, and no female *aurifex* or *sculptor* is attested. In such instances this may help to explain why both professions were recorded. Even in the case of spouses holding gender-specific jobs, however, a joint enterprise is possible. *CIL* 6. 37811 shows a couple of freedmen who ran what looks like a barbershop together.²³⁶

CIL 6. 37811

Pollia C(ai) / (mulieris) l(iberta) / Urbana ornat(rix) de / Aemilianis ollas II / M(arcus)
Calidius M(arcus) l(ibertus) to(n)sor / Apoloni(us) de Aemilianis

Pollia Urbana, freedwoman of a woman, hairdresser from the Aemiliani, two urns. Marcus Calidius Apolonius, freedmen of Marcus, barber from the Aemilian district.

Widows

Roman Italy, particularly its cities, suffered from high mortality rates. It was argued above that most women got married at a relatively early age, and that there was probably a significant age-gap between spouses. These factors predict the existence of a relatively

234 See chapter 4; cf also *CIL* 6. 9732; 9775.

235 Same household: *CIL* 6. 8958; 8711 (imperial); 8554 (imperial); other households: *CIL* 6. 37811, perhaps also 9792.

236 A "uni-sex establishment" was suggested by Treggiari (1979a) 75 with n. 47.

large group of young widows in Roman society.²³⁷ Even without an age-gap, women who survived were likely to be widowed at some point in their lives.

The loss of a husband did not just have an emotional impact, but also had economic consequences. In some instances this was solved by the dissolution of the nuclear family: Hübner illustrates that in the extended family in Roman Egypt, the widow generally went back to her natal family, while the children remained in the house of their father's family.²³⁸ Because it is likely that the nuclear family was the dominant family form in an urban environment, however, the situation may have been different in cities. The widow had become the new household head, who had to deal with the life cycle squeeze that was the structural loss of the family's main income, and who now carried sole responsibility for possible children. The widow may therefore have needed to find additional income, and if she was not employed in a money-earning occupation already, this was the time to start looking for a job.²³⁹

Widowed female household heads were freed of male supervision and freed from the 'stigma' attached to the maiden, had greater liberty in society, and implicitly also in the economy. Widows' economic endeavours were probably based on their employment during marriage. Widows could of course continue their independent jobs or work as a wage labourers; an artisan's widow may have taken over from her husband.²⁴⁰ It should be stated that a widow would not inherit the household or the business in intestate succession: in the common variant of *sine manu* marriage the wife was not legally part of the family, thereby excluding her from a share of the inheritance. What survives of Roman testamentary practice indicates, however, that spouses were generally accounted for in wills.²⁴¹ It is therefore not unlikely that widows would have access to a workshop or other property. If an artisan rented rather than owned a workshop, that would facilitate continuing the family business.

237 Pudsey (2011) 61; Hübner (2013) 94-5 for a similar pattern in Roman Egypt. Saller's micro-simulation is not helpful for percentages of surviving husbands, since he presupposes universal marriage and universal remarriage until the age of 50 for women and 60 for men in accordance with Augustan marriage legislation: Saller (1994) 46.

238 Hübner (2013) 99, 103.

239 Cf Tilly and Scott (1978) 51; Wall (2007); Pudsey (2012) 167 has five examples in Roman Egypt of a male adult lodger living in with a single woman (widows?).

240 Unlike in early modern times, there were no guild restrictions to taking over. A widow was not always a full member of the guild, although she was often allowed to continue the workshop and take on apprentices of her own: Erickson (2008) 290, Prior (1985) 103, 105 for early modern England; the 'widow's right' in the Dutch Republic ensured she could continue the business if there was a master journeyman to accompany her, Schmidt (2001) 146-54, (2007) 273.

241 Champlin (1991) 112-13, 120-26, especially 124.

It is difficult to find attestations of working widows. Treggiari suggests that because a husband was also the prime commemorator, a young widow who had taken over her husband's shop or workshop was perhaps less likely to receive commemoration in an epitaph.²⁴² Occupational inscriptions include only a few women with job-title who may have been widows. Claudia Trophime in *CIL* 6. 9720 was a midwife who died age 75, and who is commemorated by her son and grandson. Her age, the fact that she has a son and grandson, and the absence of a husband among the dedicators, make widowhood the most plausible hypothesis for Claudia Trophime. The example of *CIL* 6. 9498 is a little less straightforward.

***CIL* 6. 9498**

D(is) M(anibus) / Iuliae Soteridi / Ianipendae v(ixit) a(nnos) LXXX / fecerunt / M(arcus) Iulius Primus / Iulia Musa Iulia Thisbe / Iulia Ampliata Iulia Roman(a)

To the divine spirits. For Iulia Soteris, wool-weigher, who lived eighty years. Marcus Iulius Primus, Iulia Musa, Iulia Thisbe, Iulia Ampliata and Iulia Romana set this up.

The inscription is open to various interpretations. It specifies names, but not the relationship between the recorded individuals. The epitaph may have been set up by five children of Iulia Soteris. It is also possible that M. Iulius Primus was not a son, but her husband. If the four Iuliae were daughters of Soteris, their father must after all have been a Iulius, too. Iulia Soteris' advanced age makes it implausible, though not impossible, that the father of her children was still alive, however. Finally, the epitaph could also be interpreted as a monument set up by her freedman and –women. Based on these scenarios, it is highly likely that this wool-weigher who died at the respectable age of eighty was a widow.

Two final examples are a *resinaria* (*CIL* 6. 9855) and a shoemaker (*sutrix*, *CIL* 14. 4698); both inscriptions are accompanied by a relief that depicts the profession. From the fragmentary image we gather that Iulia Agele, the *resinaria*, was not just a dealer in resin, but also seems to have performed beauty-treatments with it.²⁴³ The inscription was set up by her freedwoman. The inscription for Septimia Stratonice, *sutrix*, was set up by a friend "because of her benefactions towards him", *ob benefacta ab ea in se*. In these last two cases, it appears that there was no family (left) to commemorate these women. They appear to be truly independent, and relatively well-off at that. Treggiari is right to point

242 Treggiari (1979a) 77.

243 Zimmer (1982) 204–5.

out that “[w]omen who appear on epitaphs alone may of course be in trade in their own right. But they may also be carrying on the business of a dead husband.”²⁴⁴ However, carrying on the business of a dead husband is not very likely in the case of the midwife, the wool-weigher, or even the *resinaria*;²⁴⁵ and the shoemaker at least shows no evidence of it. These examples incidentally illustrate the various social networks that a widow could depend on: the bond with her children, her freedmen, or a ‘friend’.²⁴⁶

“The chaste widow who refrains from remarriage after her first husband’s death is a nearly universal paradigm of female virtue across societies.”²⁴⁷ We saw that Rome, too, subscribed to the ideal of the one-husband woman, the *univira*. It is equally universal across societies that the nonelite could not afford to keep up with this ideal and that of economic necessity many widows remarried sooner or later.²⁴⁸ Despite marriage ideals, the emperor Augustus implanted a law stating that all Roman women were to be married, and it stipulates explicitly how long a widow could, or should, mourn before remarriage.²⁴⁹ We can therefore expect remarriage to have been a fairly common economic strategy, especially for younger widows.

The benefits of marriage ties to the family economy have been outlined above. The widow of an artisan who had access to his workshop may have been a particularly well-desired match. In early modern England a widow’s new spouse, if he had the proper training, was allowed entry into the profession and into the guild; hence the stereotypical image of the widow marrying an apprentice.²⁵⁰ Even if the guild restriction was not an issue in the Roman period, widows with substantial capital are likely to have been desirable marriage partners, and if she inherited a workshop, that certainly qualified as substantial capital. It may also have been in the widow’s interest to remarry within the business. Widows were not always able to continue the business on their own because they did not have the skills or the resources, or lacked both.²⁵¹ By analogy with the stereotype of a widow marrying an apprentice, Roman widows may have married their

244 Treggiari (1979a) 76.

245 The male equivalent for *obstetrix* and *resinaria* is to my knowledge not attested. There are several male *lanipendi* from elite *domus*: *CIL* 6. 3976; 3977; 6300; 8870; 9495; 37755; Herfst (1922) 53 notes a similar preference of the assistance of midwives rather than male medics in classical Athens.

246 Cf Müller (2010).

247 Hübner (2013) 92.

248 Goody (1990) 202. Even in Roman Egypt: Hübner (2013) chapter 6, contra Bagnall and Frier (1994).

249 Even though this law is thought to have been most effective in the upper classes, it is saying something that the period of ten months is based on the period in which a child of the deceased husband could still be born – the suggestion is that if it were not for a possible pregnancy, a quicker remarriage was better.

250 E.g. Brodsky (1986) 142 London, contra Todd (1985) 70-1 Abingdon.

251 Cf Hawkins (2006) 186.

freed slaves, particularly if they themselves did not have the skills to continue the family firm.²⁵²

This is not to say that all widows remarried. Especially in the case of wealthy widows, it was in the interest of their birth family to keep them from remarrying and preserve their property, including a workshop, or tools, within the family – witness the lawsuit filed against Apuleius by the children of his new wealthy wife Aemilia Pudentilla.²⁵³

To sum up: Women evidently assisted in the family economy in various ways, despite the existence of pervasive gender biases. Gender ideals seem to have guided the first choice in labour allocation within the family. Thus, it was considered appropriate for women to engage in housework and childcare, which from a theoretical point of view can be seen as an economically profitable form of labour differentiation. Women who engaged in the labour market were employed mostly in feminine jobs, or participated in the family business in various ways – in administration, retail, or the arts/crafts – under the leadership of their husbands, which was an acceptable alternative to domestic work. When necessary, however, it can be seen that women stepped up: on the death of their husband they would take over as the new household head, which illustrates that in many instances the wife's skills were probably no less than the husband's. Freedwomen (and freedmen) sometimes continued their earlier job, as shown by the various examples of double-business households.

Child labour

The Romans did not have a clear concept of child labour: it appears to have been self-evident that children would contribute to the family economy to the best of their abilities. As a consequence, child labourers are seldom explicitly mentioned. This may be the reason that scholarship on child labour in Antiquity is relatively limited.²⁵⁴ Child labour must nevertheless have been commonplace, for the simple reason that it often was economically indispensable. In many historical societies, from a certain age onwards children's labour was preferred over the mother's labour. The gender patterns in early imperial Rome discussed above presumably led to a situation where many women earned less than their children outside the household.²⁵⁵

252 This is suggested by Temin (2004a) 529 with reference to Garnsey (1998) 30-37; cf Broekaert (2012) and Treggiari (1979a) tentatively suggesting marriage to men in the same business.

253 Fantham (1995). This story is but one example of the Romans' fear of inheritance hunters.

254 The 2013 *Oxford handbook on childhood and education in the Roman world*, for example, includes no paper focussing on child labour, although it features in some of the papers. For child labour, see especially Laes (2011a) 148-221, Petermandl (1997), and Kleijwegt (1991); Bradley (1991) 103-24 ('Child labor in the Roman world') deliberately focuses on apprenticeship contracts. For Late Antiquity, see Laes (2015b), Vuolanto (forthcoming).

255 Hawkins (2006) 193; Knotter (2004) 225-6 with references.

If the Romans did not have a clear concept of child labour, they did display a general awareness of 'childhood'.²⁵⁶ For many, both slave and free, their childhood jobs were probably more like chores. This is reflected in the fact that responsibilities assigned to children appear to have been adjusted to what they could do at their age. Columella for example signals bird keeping and weeding as children's work (*puerilis opera*).²⁵⁷ Herding chickens and other animals, and taking care of younger siblings are all known activities for children. Even if they could not make a full contribution to the household income yet, the children will have ensured that the adults had more time on their hands for productive work. "Child labor was a function of people's basic struggle for survival, a means of acclimatizing children to the common realities of material life around them".²⁵⁸

The economic contribution of children to the family economy could take various forms. An artisan with his own workshop, as we have seen, may have instructed his children in the trade or apprenticed them out. Holleran has argued that children (like women) may also have taken to retailing the produce from the workshop, a job that required little training.²⁵⁹ Gaius notes that many (*plerique*) left boys and girls in charge of *tabernae*.²⁶⁰ Children from poorer families could also turn to vending, if they were not scavenging the streets begging and searching for food. In nineteenth century London, "child sellers tended to hawk cheap products that required little capital outlay, such as oranges, apples, or watercress; girls also sold flowers", and child hawkers are still common among the poor in many places today.²⁶¹

Children were also judged on their individual merits, being singled out for a number of individual occupations. They were popular performers, and are attested as actors, mimes, dancers, acrobats and musicians; there were also child athletes who competed in agonistic festivals. In the mines, too, collecting rubble from the narrow mineshafts was specifically reserved for children, who were relatively small and agile. If comparative evidence is anything to go by, on the low end of the poverty scale children might also end up in prostitution.²⁶² A late antique legal case from Hermopolis suggests prostitution

256 See, e.g., Evans Grubbs and Parkin (2013) on the history of scholarly recognition that there was a concept of childhood in Antiquity.

257 Petermandl (1997) 119 with reference to Colum. *RR* 2.2.13 (weeding, *quod vel puerile opus*, "work that is surely child's play"); 8.2.7 (for bird keeping as suitable to old ladies or children (*anus sedula vel puer*)), among other examples.

258 Bradley (1991) 118.

259 Holleran (2012) 224, (2013) 316.

260 *Dig.* 14.3.8 *Nam et plerique pueros puellasque tabernis praeponunt.*

261 Holleran (2012) 220; The number of children hawking on the street in contemporary Nigeria, to name but an example, is increasing, see e.g. Ojo (2013), George (2011), Umar (2009), Oyefara (2005) – in this research there is a particular focus on the risks involved for girls.

262 Laes (2011a) performers 195-197; sports 197-200; the poor 200-206; mines 212-216

provided a necessary income for some families in the Roman Empire: mother Theodora sues a councillor involved in the death of her (adult) daughter, a prostitute. The prefect assigns to her a substantial sum of money, for the sole reason that with the death of her daughter, she had lost her main source of income.²⁶³

Only a small number of young children with a job title can be identified in funerary epigraphy. In large part that is a result of the nature of the evidence. It is not very often that age is commemorated, and it is not very often that a profession is recorded: as a result, children are especially unlikely to be represented with an occupation. Moreover, children were not always assigned a particular occupation, when they were too young to have picked up a trade. And especially in the case of very young children, it is likely that familial bonds preceded ties of labour in their epitaphs. Nevertheless some of the occupational inscriptions were set up for young children. Their jobs range from unskilled to highly specialized occupations. A boy of four years old was commemorated as a tailor of fine clothing (*vestiarius tenuarius*); in this case I am inclined to think it was the job he was expected to take up later in life rather than a current occupation, although he may well have participated in the labour process in some small way.²⁶⁴ Another, twelve-year-old boy is commemorated by his sister as a shoemaker (*sutor*); he, too, was probably a shoemaker in training.²⁶⁵ In most cases, however, it is likely that the (semi-)skilled work was actually performed by the young employees themselves. Nine year old Vicentia was a gold spinner (*auri netrix*) for example, and we know of a few hairdressers (*ornatrices*) who were still quite young.²⁶⁶ And a boy named Pagus was commemorated for his skills as a jeweller or goldsmith (*gemmarius*) in an elaborate epitaph:

CIL 6. 9437

D(is) M(anibus) / quicumque es puero lacrimas effunde viator / bis tulit hic senos
primaevi germinis annos / delicumque fuit domini spes grata parentum / quos
male deseruit longo post fata dolori / noverat hic docta fabricare monilia dextra
/ et molle in varias aurum disponere gemmas / nomen erat puero pagus at nunc
funus acerbum / et cinis in tumulis iacet et sine nomine corpus / qui vixit annis XII
/ mensibus VIII diebus XIII ho(ris) VIII

263 *BGU* 4. 1024. 6-8 exc. G; discussed by Bagnall (1996⁴) 196–8, with n. 87 refuting the comment that the text may be fictional; Compare Crobyle sending her daughter Corinna to become a courtesan in Luc. *DMeretr.* 6.

264 *CIL* 6. 6852.

265 *CIL* 6. 10546; cf *Dig.* 9.2.5.3 quoted earlier in this chapter for an unlucky apprentice cobbler.

266 *Aurinatrix*: *CIL* 6. 9213, *ornatrices* *CIL* 6. 9726 (12 yrs), 9728 (13 and 19 yrs old), and 9731 (9 yrs).

To the divine spirits. Whoever you are, traveller, shed your tears for this boy. Two times six years he carried the years of budding youth. He was the love of his master, the thankful hope of his parents, who did not deserve to mourn long after the end. He knew how to make intricate bracelets and to gently set various gems in gold. The name of this boy was Pagus, but now his ashes lie in a tomb, after a premature demise, a corpse with no name. He lived for 12 years, 9 months, 13 days and 8 hours.

It is evident that the labour input of children was of vital importance to the family. Their contribution started at an early age, with simple tasks. Like Pagus, however, young children with an actual job title generally appear to be of servile descent. The four-year-old boy tailor mentioned above, too, was commemorated as a freedman.²⁶⁷ Viccentia, the gold spinner, is likely to have been a slave girl because of her single name, though this is not stated explicitly. Many of these young slaves would have been trained within wealthy elite households, which seem to have catered to their own slaves' education.²⁶⁸ As we have seen, however, there are clear indications that freeborn boys and girls also had access to job-training, and it is likely that children adapted their labour power to the family economy in whatever way they could.

The hereditary nature of jobs

Based on the foregoing discussion, many Roman children may be expected to have followed their parents in their choice of career. Informal learning in the households was identified as one of the most economical solutions to build up human capital. That strategy automatically confers the family trade onto the next generation. The examples of formal apprenticeship also showed continuity of profession within the family, even if children were sometimes apprenticed out rather than taught by their father, as illustrated by the weaver families of Pausiris and Tryphon. Indeed, family ties occasionally are proudly stated in occupational inscriptions, as in that of the two brother carpenters of *CIL* 6. 9411 (*duo fratres tignuarii*), or that of the brother painters of *CIL* 6. 9796 (*fratres pigmentarii*). Presumably the brothers were involved in a family trade. At other times a family business is not stated, but can fairly securely be inferred.²⁶⁹

267 It is suggested in chapter 4 that this is probably a case of death-bed manumission.

268 See chapter 4. Laes (2011a) 184-189; Saller (2013).

269 As in *CIL* 6. 33809, discussion in Groen-Vallinga (2013) 307; A spectacular instance of family continuity that falls outside the scope of my current research is the mention of a *bapheus* from Thyatira, "the sixth of his line to head the shop", ἐπισησάμενον τοῦ ἔργου ἀπὸ γένους τὸ ἕκτον, *IGR* 4. 1265; translation MacMullen (1974) 98 with n.23 p 188.

Continuing in the line of work of one's parents does not equal working in the household of birth. In his analysis of 'commemorative links' in the occupational epitaphs from the city of Rome, Cameron Hawkins found that artisans were rarely commemorated by their sons or daughters – ties of dependency between patrons and slaves or freedmen are much more common.²⁷⁰ On the plausible assumption that the commemorator frequently was also heir to the deceased, Hawkins concludes from these findings that few Romans inherited a (household) business from their parents, which seems to have fallen to freedmen instead. Hawkins deserves credit for stressing the importance of freedmen as heirs to the household business. This finding might well be related to the predominance of freedmen in the arts and crafts: combined with the fact that the freed had relatively few freeborn children, their own freedmen became the natural successors.²⁷¹ But Hawkins' conclusion that children who did not inherit invariably had a different occupation from their parents does not hold; Hawkins himself points out that when fathers and sons were demonstrably active in the same trade, they were often working in separate workshops. That observation actually sits nicely with the outcome of my discussion of family form above, which suggests that in an urban context sons as well as daughters as a rule moved out to constitute their own economic household unit upon marriage.

Thus, Hawkins' analysis should not be taken to mean that children generally did not follow in their parents' footsteps, or that family labour was inconsequential when compared to servile labour in the household.²⁷² The evidence for family ties in occupational inscriptions, in my view, is inconclusive about the frequency of inherited occupations. Occupational inscriptions are rare, and rarer still among those with family ties to commemorate: a preference for recording familial bonds rather than profession is the main reason why freedmen and slaves are overrepresented in the occupational inscriptions to such a high degree.²⁷³ Family labour therefore is easily obscured. Likewise, the theory of intergenerational persistence does not require that persistence to be in the same job, but it would have been the obvious choice. It is reasonable to presume that inherited jobs were more frequent than the sources suggest, even if their actual share must remain unknown.

There is evidence both for continuity and diversification of occupation. Both are often implicit in the same source. Thus, Richard Saller adduces as evidence for informal learning at home Vitruvius' remark that architects used to train their own children on the

270 Hawkins (2006) 147-159 and 269-271. Only 10% of the artisans in his sample were commemorated by their children, p. 157.

271 De Ligt and Garnsey (2012) 85-90, and see below.

272 As e.g. Laes (2015a)(2015b) seems to suggest.

273 Joshel (1992).

job.²⁷⁴ Vitruvius' reference to past practice may still have been valid during the Principate, but he could also be reminiscing about times long gone in a silent complaint that sons were not trained as architects anymore.²⁷⁵ Legal texts attest to fullers who engaged both sons and apprentices in their workshop.²⁷⁶ The census documents from Roman Egypt provide a handful of examples of extended households that record the employment of adult males from different generations, where some sons hold the same occupation as their father, and others have a different job.²⁷⁷ Lucian initially started out in the family trade of sculpting, before he made a career switch to writing. Pausiris and his sons were all weavers, but Tryphon is known to have also had a brother who was not a weaver. Finally, there are some indications for family bonds within professional associations, but the evidence is scanty and very rarely indicates more than one generation.²⁷⁸

In an urban context, as we have seen, the Romans needed to be flexible enough to adapt to the fluctuations in the market, which is one explanation for some children not following an inherited vocation.²⁷⁹ Successful entrepreneurs will have continued their business, though, and it is likely that some of them did so through their children. The adaptive family strategies of continuity or diversification both evidently were possible during the Principate, and both strategies were actively employed. Market forces seemed to have functioned well to fulfil labour demands for a long time: it was only in the fifth century that the emperor Honorius felt the need to coordinate the process of continuity of trades: he made membership of the professional organizations hereditary, in what reads like an attempt to tie artisans' families to their job.²⁸⁰

Patrons and freedmen: the freedman economy²⁸¹

The Romans had a wide spectrum of options available for continuing the family name, and the family business. Biological children could or did not always take over, for various reasons. Adoption of an heir presented the Romans with an alternative, but to find the preferred choice of an adult male relative who was of the right age, as well as educated

274 Saller (2013) 75; Vitruvius 6 pr 6.

275 Cf Hawkins (2006) 146.

276 Flohr (2013) chapter 2.

277 Bagnall and Frier (1994) 72–4, with some discussion by Hawkins (2006) 144–5.

278 See chapter 5; Venticinque (2010) 279–82; Liu (2009) 181–3. Hawkins (2006) 143 notes that “because most members of professional associations appear to have been independent artisans who ran their own enterprises, fathers and sons who held contemporaneous memberships in the same association were arguably proprietors of separate workshops rather than co-workers in a family business”.

279 Hawkins (2006). Briefly touched upon by MacMullen (1974) 98–99.

280 *Cod. Theod.* 14.3.21, 403 AD; Waltzing, vol. 2 (1896) 306–7.

281 This refers to the title of Verboven (2012a).

in the right trade (see above), may have been more complicated than looking to the trusted and experienced slave labourers of the household and setting them free. A manumitted slave became quasi-family, and was family in name because the *nomen gentilicium* of the patron was bestowed on the freed slave.²⁸² Manumission thus seems to have been at the heart of a particularly Roman form of family business, made up of patron and one or more freedmen, or of *colliberti*.²⁸³ This phenomenon is well-attested in epigraphy, and it is noteworthy that the patron when recorded regularly was a freedman himself – which led to a pattern of multiple generations of freedmen. If, as has been argued, freedmen had few children of their own, that explains their choice for this inheritance strategy.²⁸⁴

Verboven would go so far as to say that “slavery was a passing phase necessary to produce [skilled] freedmen”.²⁸⁵ The number of freedmen with skilled jobs and responsible positions recorded in occupational inscriptions does suggest that the presence of such freedmen in the family business was fairly common. Their role in the family firm could vary: “Probably some freedmen (...) were branch-managers, some had separated from the parent firm, some may have inherited businesses from their patrons”.²⁸⁶ Others will have stayed with their patron under the same roof.

Many of the separate nonelite, freedmen households must have originated from larger elite *domus*. Others were set up by the freed slaves of nonelite patrons. The connection between patrons and freedmen could take various forms, but the bond was never completely severed. It has recently been argued that the entire institution of manumission in fact depended on the continued guidance of freedmen by their former master. Patrons (or his/her heirs) could rely on a number of informal and formal ways to ensure their freedmen’s loyalty.²⁸⁷

In terms of labour economics there was a distinction between slaves who bought their own freedom, and slaves who were freed: those who were granted their freedom remained in the debt of their patron. These freedmen owed their patron a certain amount of labour input called *operae libertorum*. *Operae* were a legal obligation that was generally specified as a number of working days, for which a patron could call on his or her

282 Mouritsen (2011a) 36–51.

283 Mouritsen (2011a) 218–9.

284 Notably in the demographic model for Herculaneum by De Ligt and Garnsey (2012) 85–90; cf Garnsey and De Ligt (2016) 83 n. 38.

285 Verboven (2012a) 88.

286 Treggiari (1979a) 72; cf Verboven (2012a) 93.

287 “[D]efined in vague terms of *obsequium*, *reverentia*, and *pietas*”, Mouritsen (2011a) 51–65 (‘controlling freedmen’) at 57. Mouritsen in this chapter stresses the importance of social discourse, and the (limited) options in Roman law, for keeping freedmen ‘in their place’; cf Hawkins (forthcoming).

freedmen (who, in turn, could subcontract these working hours). Hawkins stresses the importance of these *operae fabriles*, particularly in the case of skilled work. In his view, manumission was a powerful tool to battle the risks of fluctuating demand that was characteristic of Roman society. The labour of freedmen could be called upon whenever the patron chose; such a flexible workforce of freedmen saved much in transaction costs in times of high labour demand.²⁸⁸ This interpretation of freedmanship as a solution in times of fluctuating demand is based on a majority of freedmen moving out, so that they did not need maintenance but could be drawn upon as a labour force.²⁸⁹ The subject of *operae* looms large in the juristic literature, although it remains to be seen how widespread *operae* were.²⁹⁰ However, *operae* were not the only method of economic cooperation between patron and freedmen.

Verboven envisages the bonds between patrons and freedmen as “trust networks”, where freedmen benefited from the funds and economic advocacy of their patron; they in turn promoted their patron’s interests, as agents or business partners for example.²⁹¹ It is likely that economic benefits for both sides would have resulted from the economic bond.

Funerary monuments set up by freedmen to their patron provide convincing evidence for economic cooperation after manumission, as in this example of two axle-makers from Rome.²⁹²

CIL 6. 9215

M(arcus) Sergius M(arci) l(ibertus) / Eutyclus / axearius sibi et / M(arco) Sergio M(arci) l(iberto) / Philocalo / axeario patron(o).

M. Sergius Eutyclus, freedman of Marcus, axle-maker [set up this monument] for himself and for M. Sergius Philocalus, freedman of Marcus, axle-maker, his patron.

288 Hawkins (forthcoming); (2006) 214 ff.

289 Hawkins (forthcoming). He acknowledges that some freedmen could and did remain in the household, for which see Mouritsen (2013) and my chapter 4.

290 On the possible marginality of *operae*, see Mouritsen (2011a) 224–6. When a slave bought his/her own freedom, he/she was not liable for *operae*; Hopkins (1978) 128–9 believed this was the majority of freedmen.

291 Verboven (2012a) 98–100; see also Mouritsen (2011a) 213 on the “practical economic opportunities for the new freedman”. For associations as trust networks, see chapter 5.

292 CIL 6. 9215. Joshel (1992) 128–145, specifically 136–7 for the example of the axle makers.

There is no doubt about their relative positions or occupations. Another example is a little more complex, but illustrates a similar situation.

CIL 14. 2721 = 2722

P(ublius) Licinius P(ubli) l(iibertus) / Philonic[us] // P(ublius) Licinius P(ubli) l(iibertus) / Demetrius patrono fecit²⁹³

[For] Publius Licinius Philonicus, freedman of Publius. Publius Licinius Demetrius, freedman of Publius set up [this monument] for his patron.

This text is inscribed on a relief with two portrait busts (*figure 3.1*): presumably Philonicus is the younger man on the left, and Demetrius the older man on the right (their names are written under their portraits). In its shape it conforms to the well-known type of family portrait groups of *liberti*, signalling that Demetrius meant to represent their bond as a family unit. The portraits are lined by prominent motives: *fascēs* on the left, the tools of a carpenter on the right and on the tympanon. In my view, this must mean that Demetrius set up this relief for his patron Philonicus, and that they were bound by a shared occupation as carpenters.²⁹⁴

293 CIL 14. 2721 = CIL 14. 2722, photograph: Clauss-Slaby database. I have added the square brackets for Philonic[us], and the word *fecit* in accordance with the text in George (2006) n.24, though they are lacking in the Clauss-Slaby transcription. Photos clearly show that this is justified. The meaning of the text or even the names of the Licinii were never in doubt, however.

294 George (2006) 22-3 believes that they are *colliberti* and that Demetrius set up this or another monument for their (common) patron. It is my contention that *patrono fecit* here must refer to the monument itself, and that therefore the younger man on the left, Philonicus, also a freedman (not coincidentally the one with the *fascēs* by his side, hence possibly a *sevir augustalis*) is the patron of Demetrius on the right. The structure of the text incidentally is an exact parallel of CIL 6. 9215 above.



CIL 6. 37826, finally, records no less than four 'generations' of freedmen in one epitaph.

***CIL* 6. 37826**

[Camer]ia L(uci) l(iberta) Iarine fecit / [L(ucio)] [Cam]erio L(uci) l(iberto) Thrasoni patrono / [et] L(ucio) Camerio L(uci) l(iberto) Alexandro / patrono eius et / [L(ucio) C]amerio Onesimo lib(erto) et / [vi]ro suo posterisque omnibus / [vest]jariis tenuariis de vico Tusc(o)

Camera Iarine, freedwoman of Lucius, set this up to Lucius Camerius Thrasonus her patron, freedman of Lucius, and to Lucius Camerius Alexander, freedman of Lucius, his [i.e. Thrasonus'] patron, and to her own freedman and husband Lucius Camerius Onesimus and all their descendants, fine tailors from the Vicus Tuscus.

The text indicates the freedmen's working relationship in a workshop (or workshops – plural?) located in the Vicus Tuscus in Rome. The text records that Lucius Camerius Alexander was the one who freed Thrasonus, who in turn manumitted Iarine, who freed

(and married) Onesimus. Because L. Camerius Alexander, who is at the top of the pyramid in this epitaph, was himself a freedman, we know that there was in fact at least one more L. Camerius (...). Their shared profession and shared location suggests that they were probably working closely together. Trying to maximize the information from this text, it could be argued that even the marriage between Cameria Iarine and L. Camerius Onesimus was part of an economic strategy.²⁹⁵

If economic ties between master and slave were regularly maintained after manumission, then what about the independent freedman? Garnsey has argued persuasively for the economic independence of the rich freedman: with wealth came autonomy.²⁹⁶ In this view, the freedmen made up a new class of self-made men that fulfilled a particular, prominent position as traders and craftsmen in the Roman economy. Garnsey's views have been widespread in the historiography of freedmen as the *nouveaux riches*. That there was some competition between the new freedmen and the established patron is evident from the fact that the jurists consider extensively the possibility that a patron would object to his freedman exercising the same trade as he, in the same place. If a patron did object, the law prevented him to do anything about it.²⁹⁷ More recently, however, Mouritsen has postulated that it generally was the economic support of a patron, and thus dependence rather than independence, that brought forth the wealthy freedman.²⁹⁸ Even if the death of the patron de facto secured a freedman's independence, the legacy of having worked for that patron may have remained influential. The *familia Veturia*, for example, appears to have brought forth many freedmen who had mastered the art of purple dying: *purpurarii*.²⁹⁹ Doubtlessly these freedmen learnt the trade as slaves in the household. They were rewarded with manumission and the opportunity to set up shop themselves, presumably aided by the financial support as well as the name

295 Cf Broekaert (2012) 46 "We can therefore imagine that Roman businessmen tried to encourage inner-family marriages between freedmen with the same specialization as some kind of guarantee for prolonged cooperation."

296 Garnsey (1998) 28–44 = Garnsey (1981), with d'Arms (1981) 144–8, specifically on Augustales in Ostia and Puteoli.

297 *Dig.* 37.15.11 (Papinian) for a freedwoman(!); *Dig.* 37.14.2 (Ulpian); *Dig.* 37.14.18 (Scaevola); The jurists are quite resolute in their protection of freedmen rights, but see *Dig.* 38.1.45 (Scaevola), "Can a freedman of a cloth merchant exercise the same trade in the same society and the same place as his patron – who does not want this? He responded: 'I can profer nothing, why he should not, if the patron experiences no damage from it'", *Libertus negotiatoris vestiarum an eandem negotiationem in eadem civitate et eodem loco invito patrono exercere possit? Respondit nihil proponi, cur non possit, si nullam laesionem ex hoc sentiet patronus*. Cf Verboven (2012) 96; Mouritsen (2011a) 212 n 28.

298 Mouritsen (2011a) 228–247, e.g. at 234: "Since the one advantage which the freedmen enjoyed was their familial background and patronal connection, an 'independent' freedman would generally have been a disadvantaged freedman".

299 Dixon (2001b) collects the evidence: *CIL* 6. 9498 and 37820; *CIL* 14. 2433; *NS* 1922, 144.

of their patron(s), which appears to have become a distinguished purple-dyers' brand: *Veturius*.

In sum, the occupational inscriptions suggest that freedmen constituted "extended *familiae*".³⁰⁰ Economic family ties, it should be added, ran horizontally between *colliberti* as well as vertically between patron and freedman.³⁰¹

CONCLUSION

The family lay at the heart of Roman society. It was crucial in determining the life course of an individual in every way, ranging from their birth, to investment in education and participation in the labour market. This chapter attempted to show the importance of the family in economic decisions.

The Roman family was ubiquitous. It was constituted upon marriage, and for free-born Romans and for Roman women in particular, marriage was virtually universal. A largely neo-local marriage pattern was identified in the city, which means that every marriage constituted a new economic family unit. The family itself was characterized by the dynamics of demographic and cultural determinants: the prevailing cultural norms were that the couple would have children; the prevailing high mortality regime predicted that the marriage would not necessarily last very long. The urban family generally started out as a conjugal couple and expanded with children, with the possible addition of slaves or freedmen. In an urban context, it appears that the dominant family structure was the simple family, with extensions of slaves, freedmen and/or relatives. That should not obscure the fact that the family changed quickly over time as it fell apart, and was subsequently reconstituted.

The family changed over time in a natural life cycle as well. The demographic life cycle presented economic restrictions to the economic contribution of individual family members: a mother's labour opportunities were restricted by childbirth and the care of young children; very young children were not yet able to contribute (much), even if they were put to work from a very early age onward. This chapter underlined the fact that the money-earning activities of women and children were vital to the family. The economic benefits of family cooperation are clear. In this context it is significant that in the Roman empire, the family included servile labour. Servile labour is not restricted by demographic restrictions to the same extent as free labour of family members is. Where the adaptive element of the early modern family largely consisted of women and

300 Extended *familiae*: Verboven (2012) 99.

301 *Dig.* 17.2.71.1 (Paul) mentions a *colliberti societas*. For more examples of inscriptions with *colliberti*, see chapter 4.

children, therefore, the slave component made the Roman family more versatile and capable of adapting to the market. Slaves could be bought, educated, hired out, sold, or manumitted, all according to needs. Children could only be educated or hired out. Even in the continuity of the family business, substitutes for biological children in the form of foundlings, adoptive children and freedmen were not uncommon.

An interpretation of Roman society on the basis of the family economy model would expect to find predominantly small workshops or artisans and craftsmen in the city: family businesses with one or two slaves and/or apprentices. That does not explain all of the sources, however. There were variations to the theme of 'family business', notably because of the significant role that freedmen played in the economy: freedmen were part of the extended family and were therefore included in family ties. Sometimes they even made up an economic unit of *colliberti* with or without their patron. The evidence attests to a complex web of labour relations that extended beyond the household. Household businesses are most likely to explain the situation of artisans and craftsmen – not surprisingly also the group that is best attested in the occupational inscriptions, but not everyone was an artisan or craftsman. The pull of the city must have attracted large numbers of unskilled workers as well, seasonal workers as well as permanent migrants. Particularly in the city the importance of skilled and unskilled wage-labour should therefore not be underestimated.

Chapter 4

Family economics: elite *domus*

INTRODUCTION

The occupational inscriptions include a striking number of working individuals who can be connected to a larger elite household. Slaves and ex-slaves in the epigraphy from the city of Rome are especially likely to reveal a connection with one of the aristocratic houses. A correlation between the presence of aristocratic households and urban slavery will have had a significant impact on employment opportunities for the free urban population. It will be argued that the elite *domus* were a non-negligible presence in the larger cities of Roman Italy, and that this had important consequences for the urban economy. The elite *domus* and their role in the labour market might be termed the '*domus* economy'.¹

The elite *domus* of this chapter should be offset against the smaller family units of the preceding chapter. Whereas it is difficult to present a clear-cut definition, I take elite *domus* to be wealthy families, who could afford to have most of the required labour production carried out by subordinates rather than by their own hands. Although some of these dependent workers were freeborn, it must be presumed that in practice this characterisation implied a significant servile presence in the household. Smaller families may of course have included a modest number of dependent labourers, including apprentices, slaves and/or freedmen but, in contrast with the elite, in smaller families the household head and his or her direct relatives would actively contribute their own labour power. It was argued that nonelite families' labour strategies were largely governed by economic motivations. Financial restrictions can be expected to have been less decisive in the more wealthy households of this chapter. Throughout the text I refer to the elite *domus* as upper-class *familiae*, aristocratic households, large domestic household, or other synonyms indiscriminately.

A large servile presence certainly was characteristic of the Roman aristocratic family. Examples abound. Cicero's household staff, for instance, has been charted from his literary output; it is revealed that most of his living-in staff as well as hired labourers were slaves or ex-slaves.² Part of the newly-found riches of Petronius' fictional character Trimalchio was that he could boast a substantial number of personnel, and plenty of his slaves, many of them with highly specialized occupations, feature in the *Satyricon*.³ The consul of AD 43, L. Pedanius Secundus, was said to have owned 400 slaves.⁴ Sizeable elite households are attested epigraphically as well: several large columbarium tombs provided collective burial space for the domestic staff of aristocratic families.

1 The insightful term '*domus* economy' was suggested to me by Rens Tacoma.

2 Park (1918) 55-79. Largely slaves and ex-slaves: concluding remarks on pp. 88-9. See also Treggiari (1969b).

3 Cf. Baldwin (1978).

4 Tac. *Ann.* 14.42-45.

The reasons for having numerous slaves were not just economic, regardless of the fact that many of them were put to work. *Noblesse oblige*: for the elite, the number of slaves owned was a significant status indicator. It could be argued that slaves were more important to their aristocratic owners as a visible token of wealth than as labourers. In that scenario, slaves did not need to work to perform their primary, ideological function as a status symbol.⁵ Slave-holding for appearance's sake may be classified as conspicuous consumption. And the Romans were not alone in their traditional value judgments of slavery:

[I]n a great many slaveholding societies masters were not interested in what their slaves produced. Indeed, in many of the most important slaveholding societies (...) slaves produced nothing and were economically dependent on their masters or their master's nonslave dependents.⁶

This particular form of conspicuous consumption must have been a great stimulus to the presence of slaves within cities.

It follows from the above that aristocratic households probably were among the most important employers of the slave part of the urban population. If adaptive strategies of the nonelite family were mostly implemented by means of the labour participation of women and children, for the elite *domus* they were probably largely concentrated in the management of slaves and ex-slaves. Wealthy Romans could easily respond to changes in their situation, chiefly through buying, selling, and manumitting slaves. Conversely, elite expenditure was crucial to urban production as a whole, which will have provided employment for the urban freeborn as well. The freeborn population was engaged both directly and indirectly with the elite: as employers, and as market consumers. All of these processes to some extent must have contributed to the reality of the urban market for labour. Elite households made up a very specific sector of the urban labour market that to date has not received proper analysis as such. The aim of this chapter is to illuminate

5 Mouritsen (2011a) 194–5; Bradley (1994) 15–6; cf Joshel (1992) 150 and *passim*.

6 Patterson (1982) 11.

the ways in which the aristocratic household shaped and influenced the workings of the urban labour market of Roman Italy.⁷

Chapter outline

This chapter starts off with an attempt to attach a rough sense of magnitude to the concept of a *domus* economy, trying to determine the share of the labour force that the large *domus* stood for. Once the market share of larger *familiae* has been established, we can take a closer look at their workforce. It is apparent at the outset that marked differences in size and make-up between nonelite and elite families are likely to come up. In line with this structural divergence, we may also expect to find distinct cultural or economic considerations and strategies concerning the labour market participation of the (members of) elite *domus*.

The larger household was subjected to a family life cycle of its own. The family life cycle predicts that labour supply and demand within the family change over time, because of the dynamics of demography, notably mortality and fertility, but also because of fluctuations in economic circumstances. Like the nonelite family, the aristocratic household workforce was therefore not a static entity. Quite the opposite is likely to be true: because of its considerable size, the elite family can be expected to have been even more dynamic than the nonelite family, because there were more variables to consider – it concerns more individuals, and even whole families within the *familia*, or even surpassing the boundaries of the household in a wider *domus*-network.

The slave component of the elite *domus* stands out. It will become clear that buying, breeding, selling, and manumitting slaves played a significant part in the adaptive labour strategies of the elite household. Another potentially major economically strategic opportunity for the elite, however, was investment in human capital. Although this thesis has argued that the freeborn, artisans and craftsmen in particular, regularly invested in some kind of job-training for their family, it has often been assumed that much of the available education in the Roman empire actually took place within the

7 The ultimate elite household, the *familia Caesaris*, features in this chapter only through the personal, domestic households of members of the imperial family. Imperial slaves and freedmen concerned with matters of state are deliberately left out of the analysis: because of their exceptional status, their occupations can be studied more productively in a study focused on the *familia Caesaris* itself, or in an analysis of the administrative machinery of the empire, rather than in this account of servants and slave-jobs within the context of larger households. Such aspects of the *familia Caesaris* have received excellent coverage in Chantraine (1967), Weaver (1972), and Boulvert (1974). Penner (diss. 2013) 9, correctly points out that especially in the early empire, “the boundaries between public civil service and private domestic service were porous and undefined”. As a result, much of her dissertation on the imperial households of the Julio-Claudians is also relevant here.

elite household.⁸ Slave and ex-slave labourers from the aristocratic *domus* are attested in a wide variety of jobs that range from unskilled to highly skilled. With regard to the more skilled labourers, this raises the question how and where they learnt their trade. The answer reflects economic strategies of investing in human capital. It is commonly suggested that slaves in the larger household had exceptionally good opportunities to acquire skills, and that (as a result?) skilled work was the prerogative of slaves and ex-slaves. This chapter shows that possibilities for the education of slaves were indeed extensive, and that investment in human capital was high on the household agenda. But the question to what extent this posed limitations to the free population's labour opportunities and, consequently, to what extent we can speak of an integrated labour market, demands a more differentiated and intricate answer.

The final section of this chapter is concerned with columbarium tombs. These so-called *columbaria* are large-scale funerary monuments that are exclusive to the city of Rome under the Principate. Their importance for this chapter lies in the fact that the columbarium tomb population has generally been equated with elite households, in the sense of the elite *domus* which are the topic of this chapter. *Columbaria*, moreover, are exceptional in that they provide us with a relatively well-defined context for the inscriptions they hold. Many of the epitaphs from these tombs also record the profession of the deceased, and occasionally that of the commemorator. The sample thus makes for a perfect case-study of the labourers from the elite *domus*. It is readily admitted that the equation of the tomb population with an aristocratic household is not one hundred per cent accurate for most samples: it will become clear that such direct overlap between columbarium and *domus* is limited to a handful of 'single-family tombs'. It will be argued that the equation is helpful to the current analysis, however, because in most instances the tomb occupants can indeed be related to elite families, even if they are not necessarily from the same household unit.

DEMOGRAPHY: THE SERVILE PRESENCE IN ELITE HOUSEHOLDS AND FREE HIRED LABOUR

This section considers the demographic context for the elite households in terms of the larger urban population or, more specifically, in the context of the available workforce in the cities of Roman Italy. On the reasonable assumption that most of the labourers of the *domus* were slaves and ex-slaves, it deals with the concept of urban slavery first, and tries to establish whether there is any correlation between urban slavery and the

8 This is voiced among others by Mohler (1940), esp. 262-3; Mohler, Forbes (1955), and Booth (1979) all focus on slave education because of this presumption. Schooling as a slave prerogative is still implicit in the recent work of Saller (2013), for example.

presence of elite households. The free labourers in the service of elite *domus* are investigated subsequently. On the basis of the ancient evidence it remains difficult to find out just how prominent the elite households were within Roman society; this section on demography is a modest attempt to situate the elite household as an employer in the labour market, in terms of its market share.

Slave labour and the city

The elite tended to cluster together in towns. This is both a contributing factor to, and a result of, high urbanization rates.⁹ A strong elite presence in cities should therefore certainly hold for Italy, the heavily urbanized political heart of the Roman empire, which attracted the upper classes from all over the empire. The elite invariably employed slaves, to underline their status. With the consistent presence of the elite in the cities, it can be surmised that there were relatively many slaves in the cities, too. It has indeed been estimated that the percentage of slaves in the city was higher than the percentage of slaves in the countryside,¹⁰ even if many upper class Romans owned a rural estate with its own staff in addition to their property in the city.¹¹ With the exception of Rome, with its large population of urban freeborn, many urban settlements may have had a slave population of no less than 40 per cent.¹²

A correlation between urban slavery and wealthy households matches the pattern that is evident in the occupational inscriptions. No less than 73.8 per cent of slaves with job-titles were connected to a wealthy household in Joshel's calculations for the capital. This pattern of employment has prompted Joshel to suggest that many of the occupational epitaphs of slaves belonged to aristocratic households, even if we cannot now trace them confidently to a known household.¹³ Based on Joshel's findings, equally 73.8 per cent of the occupational inscriptions that are connected to an elite *domus*, concerns

9 De Ligt (2012) 196-7, based on the work of Jongman (1988) 192-8, sp. 196.

10 See also Jongman (2003); Scheidel (2005a) 66; Scheidel (2011a) 289. Conversely, Bradley (1994) 71 apparently does not feel a need to substantiate his claim that "most slaves were *rustici*".

11 Bradley (1994) 58 for the distinction between the urban and rural staff of a slave-owner, the *familia urbana* as opposed to the *familia rustica*.

12 Cf De Ligt (2012) 190 table 4.3; De Ligt and Garnsey (2012) for Herculaneum.

13 Joshel (1992) 74, 98 and table 4.2 on page 99 for the percentage, and at 103 she writes: "Further, I believe that many of the slaves and possible slaves whose epitaphs lack signs of social context did in fact belong to large households. The pattern of their employments resembles that of slaves whose epitaphs confirm their membership in upper-class *familiae*". Moreover, Borbonus (2014) 119 notes a strong similarity in general of status distribution in the *columbaria*-inscriptions, and other *CIL* samples, and remarks: "A factor that probably contributes to this similarity is the provenience of inscriptions that are listed in the *CIL* without context: many of them may stem from now-destroyed *columbaria*".

slave workers.¹⁴ Borbonus' analysis of the combined columbarium tomb population, however, results in a significantly smaller estimate of 25.5 per cent slaves.¹⁵ There should be an explanation for the difference in these two estimates. The criteria to define which inscriptions belonged to a larger household, and which did not, are not easy to define. Most inscriptions lack context, and with the limited information they record the relation to an elite *domus* often cannot be identified. With that in mind, what do these numbers really tell us?

It is clear that slaves and ex-slaves make up a large majority of the occupational inscriptions, and it is also clear that for many of them a connection to an elite *domus* is likely: this in itself underlines the hypothesis of a correlation between slavery and elite presence. But biases in the material evidence may also partly account for the apparent connection between slaves and aristocratic household. For one thing, the well-preserved columbarium tombs from the city of Rome are likely to have swelled the relative numbers attested for slaves in an aristocratic household. It is particularly noteworthy that those in the category 'slaves in a columbarium' are the ones most likely to mention their profession: 44 per cent of slaves in *columbaria* does so.¹⁶ The discrepancy between Borbonus' lower count of 25.5 per cent slaves in the elite household, and Joshel's higher finding of 73.8 per cent slaves recording an occupational title in a private context, is thus explained in part by the difference in a sample of 'occupational inscriptions from *columbaria*' on the one hand, and '*columbaria*-inscriptions in general' on the other.

Slaves and ex-slaves in an aristocratic family were perhaps also more likely to be commemorated than others of the same legal status; servile labourers may have received a proper burial in a smaller household, in the family tomb even, but it was not always a named burial – implicit in the common use of the formula *libertis libertabusque posterisque eorum*. There is no doubt in my mind that servile labourers from elite *domus* are overrepresented in the epigraphic evidence. For all these reasons, an estimate placing 73.8 per cent of the urban slave workforce in elite households in accordance with Joshel's results, is likely to be too high.

To put the epigraphic evidence into perspective, we may compare another way to quantify the slave presence in elite *domus*. Although few scholars have taken up the challenge, Walter Scheidel touches upon the number of slaves in aristocratic *domus* in

14 Joshel (1992) table 4.2 on page 99 provides the numbers from which I calculated the slave percentage in the elite household (slaves in a private context (346)/ all inscriptions from a private context (469), x 100). It appears to be a mere coincidence that the percentage is exactly the same.

15 Borbonus (2014) 121 table 5.

16 Borbonus (2014) 126. Cf the numbers for the *monumentum Liviae* in Treggiari (1975a) 59 table D: only 5 out of 41 slaves do not record a job. It is interesting that in Treggiari's account of Livia's household, almost 50% of the freedmen also record a job there.

an attempt to quantify the slave population of Roman Italy.¹⁷ His model provides us with a very tentative sense of scale. There is no hard evidence for these numbers, but they should be read as informed guesses that are good to think with.¹⁸

Scheidel's understanding of elite, for calculating purposes, is the total of all senators, knights (*equites*) and councillors (*decuriones*). The number of senators is set at 600, knights at 5,000, and councillors at 20,000. Scheidel takes every senator to have owned 80 slaves, every knight 20 slaves, and every decurion 5 slaves, which makes for a total of 248,000 elite household slaves. This working definition of the elite is of course substantially less inclusive than my definition of the larger household, and Scheidel acknowledges that there are more elite *domus* beyond the three *ordines* that may have owned quite a number of slaves.¹⁹ The resulting figures should therefore be read as a minimum estimate.

Scheidel's numbers can be used to calculate the percentage of elite household slaves. In order to do so, we need to know the total of all slaves in the city as well. Smaller households may also have owned a slave or two, who should be added to the number of urban slaves.²⁰ Scheidel does so by analogy with the census-data from Roman Egypt (1 slave: 5.8 freeborn). For an urban population of 1.4–1.6 million non-slave and sub-elite urban residents, that means adding another 240,000 – 275,000 slaves living in non-elite households. The calculation leads to a total of ca 500,000 slaves in the cities of Roman Italy. Since most of the numbers fed into the model are likely to be too low, Scheidel doubles the minimum estimates in "controlled speculation". He goes on to say that "[i]f we schematically place all senatorial slaves, half of the equestrian slaves and half of all sub-élite slaves in the capital, we arrive at approximately 220,000 to 440,000 slaves in

Table 4.1: Urban slavery and the percentage of slaves in elite households. Numbers derived from Scheidel (2005a).

	Rome	Other cities in Roman Italy
Slaves in urban elite households	100,000	150,000
All urban slaves	220,000	280,000
Slaves in urban elite households (%)	45.4	53.6

17 The following paragraphs are based on the model for "non-agricultural slavery" in Scheidel (2005a) 66-7.

18 Cf Scheidel (2005a) 66 n. 15.

19 Senators, *equites* and *decuriones* add up to 25,600 households. Scheidel (2006) argues for 40,000 elite households. It is reassuring that 40,000 x 6 provides a similar number – 6 being Flory's educated guess for the average number of slaves in a household, Flory (1978) 85.

20 See chapter 3 on slaves in smaller households.

Rome and 280,000 to 560,000 in the other cities.”²¹ I tabulated the lower range of these numbers to calculate the percentage of slaves in elite households in table 4.1 – but doubling all estimates leads to the exact same percentages, of course.

What can be gathered from Scheidel’s model, therefore, is that approximately 50 per cent of urban slaves should be located in the elite households. This number is likely to be too low, because of Scheidel’s limited working definition of the elite.²²

If we offset the epigraphic evidence against the model of Scheidel, a plausible range can be established for how many urban slaves were employed in elite *domus*. Scheidel’s theoretical 50 per cent for Roman Italy is likely to be too low, whereas the 73.8 per cent extracted from Joshel’s sample for the city of Rome is likely to be too high. That leaves me with the hypothesis that most urban slaves, between 50 and 74 per cent, were employed in large domestic households. This finding seems to endorse the proposed correlation between urban slavery and elite presence in the cities. However, Scheidel’s model cannot shed light on the question what proportion of the workforce in the elite *domus* was made up of slaves. The widely differing results from Joshel (73.8 per cent of occupational inscriptions for slaves originate from a private context) and Borbonus (25.5 per cent of the columbarium population were slaves) leave us with something of a conundrum – but perhaps balancing these findings with the data for freedmen can shed some light on the matter.

Freedmen

The connection between elite *domus* and urban slavery prompts the related question how the elite households tied in with freedmanship. If somewhere between 50–74 per cent of urban slaves were employed in the aristocratic household, it is not too far-fetched to presume that many freedmen were closely related to those households, too; the previous chapter illustrated the fact that ex-slaves often maintained a close relationship with their patrons, and it will become clear that this was no less true for freedmen of wealthy patrons. It is generally presumed that proximity to the master increased the chances of manumission, and such proximity was perhaps most likely in the personal service of a wealthy family – the elite had plenty of employment for slaves in their per-

21 Scheidel (2005a) 67; compare De Ligt (2012) 190 for 700,000 urban slaves in 28 BC, which suggests that Scheidel’s doubling of the estimates was perhaps too crude.

22 Scheidel (2005a) 67 himself notes that “a more pronounced (...) concentration of slave-ownership in the top ranks of Roman society would help redress the apparent imbalance between centre and periphery”. Cf Harper (2011) 38–60, esp. 58–60 with table 1.1 who proffers a similar model for rural and urban households combined to conclude that, “the wealthiest 1.365 percent of Roman society owned 49 percent of slaves”. Harper’s focus is on the later empire, but the numbers fed into this model are equally relevant for the Principate.

sonal vicinity, which should be understood quite literally in the case of, for example, bedchamber servants (*cubicularii*).²³

Most of the freedmen in *columbaria* are relatively easy to identify as such, since their full names – when recorded – reflect their owner's names.²⁴ Joshel attributes only 25.9 per cent of the freedmen with occupational title securely to domestic service.²⁵ Her numbers suggest that, conversely, around 21.3 per cent of work 'in a private context' was filled in by freedmen.²⁶ The elite *columbaria* attest to many freedmen who were buried there, 22 per cent in Borbonus' calculation.²⁷ The fact that these numbers sit much closer together than the numbers for slaves, however, should not trick us into believing they mean the same. According to Borbonus, only 11 per cent of the freedmen recorded an occupation.²⁸ More than half of the individuals with named burial in a columbarium belong to the uncertain category of those who carry the *tria nomina*, but for whom there is no other indication of whether they were free or freed: surely some of them were freedmen, too.²⁹ On the sole basis of these percentages, we should therefore probably attribute more than 21.3 per cent to freedmen labourers.

A brief exercise may confirm a rough order of magnitude for the number of freedmen. If the 2:1 ratio for slaves:freedmen in the general urban population is applied, as postulated by Garnsey and De Ligt, the percentages for slaves mentioned above (25.5–73.8 per cent) would lead to somewhere between 12.7–37 per cent for freedmen.³⁰ Since it is impossible to go above 100 per cent, however, the maximum cannot go beyond 33.3 per cent. Joshel's finding of 21.3 per cent does sit nicely in the middle, and would imply a highly plausible 42.6 per cent for slaves. Since there were few if any freeborn in the household (see below), however, to get to 100 per cent we can tentatively place the percentage of freedmen at a third, which leaves two thirds of slaves.

Freedmen, however, may have stayed in the *domus*, but may as well have left after manumission to set up their own workshop and family. The nature of the evidence of

23 Mouritsen (2011a) 196–200.

24 There are exceptions to the rule: some we know were free(d) chose not to sport the *tria nomina*, esp. in 'homogeneous' tombs, Borbonus (2014) 123; there were also 'unrelated freedmen' with a distinct *nomen*, see below.

25 Joshel (1992) 98.

26 Joshel (1992) table 4.2 on page 99, from which I calculated the freedmen percentage in the elite household (freedmen in a private context (109)/ all inscriptions from a private context (469), x 100).

27 Borbonus (2014) 121 table 5 records 50.9 per cent free/d.

28 Borbonus (2014) 126.

29 Borbonus (2014) 121 with table 5.

30 De Ligt and Garnsey (2012), Garnsey and De Ligt (2016); Incidentally the ratios of slaves to freedmen in the Statilian household tomb shows something like this, 68: 32 per cent – though not the Volusian tomb, which has 54: 46 per cent, see Mouritsen (2013) 46–7.

columbaria-inscriptions is such that it only accounts for freedmen who were buried in the household tomb. The previous chapter expanded in more detail on how economic bonds between patrons and freedmen continued either way, with or without the formal *operae libertorum*, because freedmen were considered as a quasi-extended family. In other words: freedmen could be linked to the elite household in more than one way, not all of which meant that they would be buried in a columbarium. We may therefore estimate the contribution of freed labour to the elite *domus* to be less than a third, but more than Joshel's 21.3 per cent. Joshel's tally admittedly does go beyond the *columbaria*, but her text indicates that her definition does not include freedmen "in the public world", bankers, salespeople, and artisans, for example – a group that is likely to have been non-negligible.³¹ This finding of somewhere between 21.3 and 33.3 per cent freedmen labour in the *domus* also further specifies the numbers for slaves, to more than 66.7 per cent.

One explanation for the freedmen buried in *columbaria* could be that manumission was a deathbed gift. This is particularly plausible for those who died as freedmen under the legal minimum age of 30: under-age death-bed manumission was tolerated. Examples of very young freedmen are not hard to come by.³² This type of freedman was never truly free and remained a slave their entire lives. Age is not a common feature to record, however. One could therefore plausibly argue that age is recorded particularly to underline special circumstances, such as an early death³³ and, potentially, deathbed manumission. Significantly, of those recorded with age, most under 30 were slaves, and "most slaves were not freed until after the age of twenty".³⁴ To my mind, therefore, deathbed manumission accounts for no more than a small proportion of the evidence.

In addition to potential deathbed manumissions, there is also the theoretical possibility that freedmen maintained the right to be buried in the household columbarium after leaving the household – and some ostensibly unrelated freedmen gained their burial rights because they were related to one of the tomb's 'inhabitants'.³⁵ There is thus always a possibility that the freedmen in the *columbaria* were not, or no longer, working for an elite *domus*. All these arrangements are virtually impossible to trace and come to the fore only occasionally.

There is, however, compelling evidence for the fact that at least some of the freedmen did remain within the household after manumission – which suggests that they kept

31 Joshel (1992) 98.

32 The example of the 4-year-old *vestiarius tenuarius*, L. Anicius Felix (*CIL* 6. 6852 cited above) springs to mind.

33 Hopkins (1966) remains the locus classicus; for other problems with age such as age rounding, Scheidel (1996).

34 Mouritsen (2013) 52-53 for both the Volusii and Statilii.

35 See the example of *CIL* 6. 7290 = *CIL* 6. 27557 from the columbarium of the Volusii, discussed below.

working there, too.³⁶ Such a pattern was perhaps more common in some households than others.³⁷ The reasons for freedmen to stay are not difficult to think of. Especially in larger households, it is likely that the newly freed had previously engaged in personal relationships with other household members.³⁸ Joshel points out the simple truth that service occupations like that of a foot servant (*pedisequus*, -a) were rather difficult to carry out in the absence of someone to escort.³⁹ A good example of a resident freedwoman is Iulia Elate in *CIL* 6. 4002, *pedisequa* to Livia, whose husband M. Iulius Carisius (for whom no occupation is recorded) is also from the same household – the bond with her husband and her service job would be two compelling reasons for her to stay.⁴⁰ Even if their job was more ‘marketable’, however, freedmen may have stayed. Thus, we know that Cicero’s gifted and well-educated freedman, Tiro, did not leave Cicero’s side until after his patron’s death.⁴¹ A passage in the *Digest* likewise records a case of a slave who continued his employment as a banker after manumission.⁴² Examples like these suggest that many of the *columbaria*-inscriptions do indeed commemorate privileged, freed slaves who still lived and worked in the elite *domus*. Mouritsen recently went even further, arguing that the high manumission rates from the columbarium inscriptions of the Statilian and the Volusian tombs indicate that, in these two households, slaves were freed on the assumption that they remained in the household.⁴³

The evidence can only securely attest to continued burial rights of freedmen, however, not continued residence patterns. Whereas Mouritsen may well be correct about the Statilii and the Volusii, many occupational inscriptions from outside the columbarium tombs, conversely, attest to ex-slaves who set up their own household, regularly conjugal couples originating from the same *domus*. It is known that the bulk of all epitaphs was set up by freedmen. This phenomenon is generally attributed to the wish of the

36 Cf. Edmondson (2011) 343: “manumitted slaves (i.e. freedmen and freedwomen) quite frequently remained part of the household even after manumission, as in the household of the Statilii Tauri”.

37 As suggested by Penner (2012) 147 who suggests that the percentages of slave-freed-free of the *monumentum Marcellae* could indicate that this tomb encouraged continued bonds after manumission, in contrast to the Statilian tomb; the latter finding at least sits well with Mouritsen (2013) 58-61. See below.

38 The classic article is Flory (1978); more recently, see Mouritsen (2013) 55 on the mixed status of nuclear families in the households of the Volusii and Statilii; Mouritsen (2011b); and Edmondson (2011). And see below.

39 Joshel (1992) 101.

40 Libertination and marriage are not explicitly mentioned in this epitaph, but the context is strongly suggestive.

41 Park (1918) 63 for a very brief summary (with references) of Tiro’s services to Cicero, including those after manumission; more elaborately, McDermott (1972).

42 *Dig.* 14.3.19.1 (Papinian). To be precise, the slave was an *institor’ apud mensam pecuniis accipiendis’*.

43 Cf Mouritsen (2013) 58, 61.

freedmen population to display their lifetime achievements in public, more than any other social group in the empire.⁴⁴ Considering this prominence of freedmen in funerary epigraphy, combined with the significant percentage of slaves who were working for aristocrats, it is highly likely that many of these 'independent freedmen' originally came from elite families. *CIL* 10. 3957 from Capua is an unambiguous example of this: the inscription clearly refers to a separate family tomb for a cabinet maker and his wife, both freedmen by the same principal and therefore probably from the same *domus*.

CIL 10. 3957

M(arcus) Avidius M(arci) l(ibertus) Aesopus sibi et / Avidiae M(arci) l(ibertae)
Zosimae coniugi / fab(e)r intestin(arius) / h(oc) m(onumentum) s(ive) s(epulcrum)
e(st) hh(eredes) n(on) s(equetur)

Marcus Avidius Aesopus, freedman of Marcus, [set up this monument] for himself and for Avidia Zosima, freedwoman of Marcus, his wife. He was a cabinet maker. This monument or tomb will not go to the heirs.

This is a clear example of independent freedmen who had left the *domus*, which underlines once more that the attested columbarium tomb population can only provide a minimum for the freedmen percentage in the elite *domus*.

It can be gathered from the above that the elite market share in servile labour was very large by any account. Adding Borbonus' numbers for the slave and freed presence in the columbarium tombs adds up to 47.5 per cent of the household, which is a bare minimum that could potentially be as high as 98.4 per cent – 100 per cent minus the 1.6 Borbonus securely identified as freeborn.⁴⁵ That leaves some room for freeborn labourers in elite employment, but it was not necessarily very much.

Free hired labour

In 53 BC Cicero writes to Tiro: "make sure that the doctor is promised whatever wage he demands".⁴⁶ Apparently, at the time of the letter in 53 BC, Tiro is unwell and a doctor is hired. Imported products, perishables, and custom-made luxury items could not all be produced within the elite *domus*. If out shopping for exclusive jewellery or other luxury items, the elite might parade the porticoes of the *Saepta Iulia*; if in need of first-quality

44 Mouritsen (2011a) 127–8.

45 Borbonus (2014) 121 table 5.

46 Cic. *Fam.* 6.14.1–2; *Medico, mercedis quantum poscet, promitti iubeto.*

meat, the *macellum* was the place to be.⁴⁷ The aristocratic houses must have hired labour and bought produce from free labourers, in addition to the labour or goods provided or produced by their own servile staff and freed labour relations.⁴⁸ This pool of free labourers significantly includes independent freedmen. I take 'independent' freedmen to refer to those unrelated to the particular elite *domus* looking to do business with them. To avoid confusion between these independent freedmen and the freedmen labourers who were associated with the household, the latter will be excluded from the following discussion on free hired labour.

Free hired labourers in ancient Rome were not very likely to become a part of the elite family, *familia*, or household. From a broader historical perspective, this statement is not necessarily so obvious as it sounds to our modern western ears: even today, there are families with a living-in *au pair*, for example. In early modern times, certainly, it was common for a free servant to move into the house and be considered as family for the time of their appointment. Young girls from the countryside regularly moved to the city to work as a maid for a few years, and then returned and settled in a marriage. The early modern live-in household staff could be substantial, and included maids, butlers, doorkeepers, child attendants, cooks, and others.⁴⁹ In the Roman world, however, most of these service professions were practiced by slaves or ex-slaves. Hired free artisans or craftsmen, conversely, would not be prone to move in – in either time period.⁵⁰ Taking in freeborn apprentices or the Roman equivalent of journeymen also was much more likely to be confined to the nonelite household, because the elite *domus* included slave children and youngsters who took this place.

If there were freeborn workers in the elite household, they are hard to trace. The epigraphic record does not include many instances of freeborn domestic workers. For the city of Rome, Joshel found that only one individual who is certainly of free birth can be related to a wealthy household. If we include those she has identified as uncertain freeborn, there are a few more attestations (N=10). These *incerti* of elite households were mostly "architects, doctors, or teachers".⁵¹ This enumeration corresponds exactly

47 Holleran (2012) 232–57 on elite consumption.

48 Park (1918) 78–9 lists tradesmen "from whom Cicero himself bought", among whom some *ingenui*, and mostly *liberti*.

49 Cf, to name but one example, the well-attested household of Joyce Jeffreys in 17th-century Hereford: Spicksley (2012).

50 Park (1918) 61 finds that Cicero's *familia* "did not supply skilled artisans", nor "regular artisans". The household of Joyce Jeffreys only supported a jack-of-all-trades.

51 Joshel (1992) 99–100. She suggests that many more *incerti* may have been connected to an elite household, as many *incerti* from an unknown context (public or private) were engaged in "the most typical household jobs", such as the nurse and child minder cited above, or as a personal servant; Joshel (1992) 205 n. 19.

with the jobs that Cicero holds to be “respectable for those whose status they befit”, and this might be one of the reasons why Joshel prefers to see them as freeborn rather than freedmen.⁵² In reality, identification of these *incerti* as freeborn workers remains entirely hypothetical.

Borbonus’ analysis of the columbarium tomb population confirms that the freeborn make up only a minority there, 1.6 per cent.⁵³ Because such people are unlikely to have lived in the household in the first place, this should not come as a surprise. It is rather more noteworthy that *ingenui* are attested in the *columbaria* at all. A closer look at Borbonus’ results brings out once more the significant group of 50.9 per cent ‘free/d’, who carry the *tria nomina* but who cannot otherwise be identified as either *libertus* or *ingenuus*.⁵⁴ An estimate of 1.6 per cent may therefore be considered low. Having said that, with Borbonus, I do believe that the majority of this group of ‘free/d’ were in fact freed.

Ingenui were less inclined to record their profession than slaves or ex-slaves; indeed the freeborn tended to put up fewer inscriptions altogether. It has been suggested that freeborn employees were more likely to be commemorated by their family than by the *collegia* that in many cases were responsible for the collective columbarium tombs.⁵⁵ On this basis one would expect to find a modest freeborn presence in the *columbaria*. Not all of the funerary monuments for the freeborn urban population were inscribed, and not all of those that were graced with an inscription have survived. The more humble grave monuments were probably also the more common, such as amphorae or small markers in the ground that are likely to have been lost over the centuries – that is, if a funerary monument was erected for the burial at all, because not everyone could afford one.⁵⁶ These biases in the ancient evidence are another part of the explanation why so few freeborn workers are attested, and why even fewer can be linked to aristocratic *domus*. Still, the pattern is remarkably consistent and suggests that freeborn town-dwellers working and living in the elite household were indeed scarce.

52 *Quibus autem artibus aut prudentia maior inest aut non mediocris utilitas quaeritur ut medicina, ut architectura, ut doctrina rerum honestarum, eae sunt iis, quorum ordini conveniunt, honestae:* Cic. *Off.* 1. 151, translation Finley (1973)² 41–2.

53 Borbonus (2014) 121.

54 Borbonus (2014) 121 this group was already referred to above, under ‘freedmen’.

55 Hasegawa (2005) 81–8. Patterson (1992) 23 emphasizes the likelihood of the family and *collegia* working together for an individual burial, which would also facilitate the creation of burials outside of the *columbaria*.

56 E.g. Hope (2009) 159–166 on the variation in funerary markers.

That at least the possibility of working in an elite household existed for the freeborn is proven by Lucianus' satirical piece *On salaried posts in great houses*.⁵⁷ It does not become clear exactly what kind of posts are meant, but Lucian talks of educated men in a position of what I would describe as a 'glorified foot servant'; in terms of an actual task, the text merely hints at the possibility of teaching the master's children (19). The existence of other, unskilled positions in the household that were filled by the freeborn poor, however, are also mentioned in passing. Even if Lucian's words are hardly a recommendation for the job – which he sees as selling oneself for wages into the service of an elite employer – the hundreds of thousands looking for a job in the city must have been happy to take up a position in the domestic service of a wealthy master. Lucian acknowledges that for unskilled labourers domestic service is no worse than other jobs (4, underlining his sentiments against 'wage slavery' once more). Apart from the income earned, such labourers perhaps hoped to benefit from the master's patronage. Lucian's second-century satire obviously is not the most factual account, but other literary references are in short supply.

A passage from the jurist Marcian has been adduced as evidence for free *mercennarii* living in their employer's house.⁵⁸

Dig. 48.19.11.1

Furta domestica si viliora sunt, publice vindicanda non sunt, nec admittenda est huiusmodi accusatio, cum servus a domino vel libertus a patrono, in cuius domo moratur, vel mercennarius ab eo, cui operas suas locaverat, offeratur questioni: nam domestica furta vocantur quae servi dominis vel liberti patronis vel mercennarii apud quos degunt subripiunt.

If domestic thefts are relatively minor, they are not to be punished publicly, nor is an accusation of this sort to be granted, when a slave shall be brought to question by the master, or a freedman by the patron in whose house he is staying, or a contract worker by him, to whom he hired his labour: because those thefts are called domestic that slaves steal from their masters, or freedmen from their patrons, or contract labourers by those with whom they live.

57 *De mercede conductis*, which in the Loeb edition is characterized by Harmon (1921) 411 as "[a] Hogarthian sketch of the life led by educated Greeks who attached themselves to the households of great Roman lords – and ladies".

58 *Dig. 48.19.11.1* (Marcian); Brunt (1980) 100; Treggiari (1980) 50: "this does not amount to a declaration that all *mercennarii* (or all *liberti*) lived in, nor does it put them on a par with slaves".

Although there has been some debate about the term *mercennarius*, it is now commonly accepted that it generally refers to free labourers – it is certain that there were slave *mercennarii*, too, but whenever reference is made to them it says so explicitly in the texts.⁵⁹ This passage from the *Digest*, therefore, presents the possibility that free hired labourers would sometimes (temporarily) move in with their employer. Free *mercennarii* living in the house were not legally part of the family, but that does not mean that they were not considered as such by the outside world.⁶⁰ Marcian explicitly indicates that free hired labourers were subject to the ‘justice’ of the employer. Brunt points out that the *mercennarii* from this particular text are likely to have been engaged in occupations other than domestic service.⁶¹ That suggests that there was at least some opportunity for the freeborn to work in the elite *domus*, outside of the domestic sector.

We might expect to find some additional evidence for living-in freeborn workers in sectors such as child care. It seems natural that wet-nurses and pedagogues would have lived in with their charges, just like a governess, nanny, or *au pair* did in later periods. Scholars have indeed emphasized the strong and often lifelong ties maintained between child minders and the family. The bond is evident from the epigraphic record, where nurses and others are frequently linked with the family who employed them.⁶² The following texts may illustrate this.

CIL 6. 6686

Dis Manibus sacru[m] / Ti(berio) Claudio Neothyrsu / qui vix(it) annis XXIII dies
 XI[3] / Ti(berius) Claudius Stephanus / patrono bene merito de / se et Cacia
 Restituta nutrix / eius et sibi et suis po(s)terisq(ue) / eoru(m) ita uti cippi fine /
 fecit libe(n)s animo / [

59 Brunt (1980) pp 100ff. Bürge (1990) has argued at length that the term *mercennarii* refers exclusively to slaves unless explicitly stated otherwise: *mercennarius* in his opinion must refer to another man’s slave (renting himself out) living in the employer’s *domus*. His claim is convincingly refuted by Möller (1993), however. See also the comments of Scheidel (1994) throughout pages 153–202.

60 To my knowledge it is only when the law states that *publicani* are liable for wrongful acts committed by their subordinates that it includes the freeborn in their *familiae*, and then only “if they were similarly employed”, i.e. in tax-farming. This situation would not be very common; *Dig.* 39.4.1.5 (Ulpian).

61 Brunt (1980) 100: “It is interesting that some *mercennarii* might actually live in the employer’s house; we might perhaps think of craftsmen employed in a business, which was carried on in the employer’s home; it seems unlikely that free *mercennarii* were used as domestic servants”.

62 Günther (1987) 86, 96 adds that nurses’ own families are notably absent from the epigraphic record.

Sacred to the divine spirits. To Tiberius Claudius Neothysus who lived 24 years and 11(?) days. Tiberius Claudius Stephanus to his well-deserving patron from his own funds and Cacia Restituta, his [i.e. Neothysus'] nurse, set this up willingly; also to himself, his [family] and their descendants; as far as the boundary stone.⁶³

CIL 6. 10766

D(is) M(anibus) / P(ublius) Aeeius(!) Placentius / nutritori filiorum suorum / dignissimo / M(arco) Aurelio Liberali / b(ene) m(erenti) f(ecit)

To the divine spirits. Publius Aelius Placentius set this up to the carer of his sons, the most honourable and well-deserving Marcus Aurelius Liberalis.

Restituta the nurse and the child minder Liberalis both probably were freeborn workers, considering the fact that they sport the *tria nomina*, while their *praenomen* and *nomina* are different from that of the families they worked with. The majority of child minders, however, were of servile origins.⁶⁴ Moreover, even if a nurse were freeborn, we know that nurses did not always move in with their charge. In wet-nursing contracts from Roman Egypt it is regularly specified that the infant will reside in the home of the freeborn nurse.⁶⁵ Although that points to labour demand for freeborn women in this sector, it does not make them part of the elite *domus*.

The aristocratic families are more likely to have made extensive use of the labour and produce of free hired labourers living elsewhere than of free living-in staff. As stated above, the elite presence in the city generated ample demand for the (luxury) products and services of free artisans and craftsmen, and so provided a livelihood for many. The doctor hired for Tiro is one example, the architect in *CIL* 10. 8093 is another.⁶⁶

63 The Latin here is difficult to translate though the meaning of the words is perfectly clear; I have taken *sibi* etc. to refer to Stephanus and his family; *ita uti cippi fine* is meant to confirm what has been said before: the monument is open to them, on this burial plot, as far as (in a rare use of *fine* with genitive, Lewis and Short s.v. *finis* I.B2) the *cippus* (which may carry both the meaning of boundary stone and grave marker here).

64 Bradley (1991) 19–20 for nurses, all of servile background, but that finding is outdated. Restituta is not on the list for example; page 82 for *tatae* and *mammae*. Tacitus, *Dial.* 28.4 writes of an *emptae nutricis*, a “bought nurse”, and therefore a slave. Aulus Gellius, *NA* 12.1.1–5 however, writes *adhibendas nutrices*, where *adhibendas* leaves open whether the nurses-to-be-acquired were bought, or hired.

65 See, e.g., *P. Reinach* 2. 103, a wet-nursing contract from Oxyrynchus, 26 CE.

66 *CIL* 10. 8093 = *AE* 2006, 356 (Grumentum). Architects were mostly freeborn.

CIL 10. 8093

T(itus) Vettius Q(uinti) f(ilius) / Ser(gia) architectus / porticus de peq(unia) / pagan(ica) faciund(as) / coer(avit) / A(ulo) Hirtio C(aio) Vibio / co(n)s(ulibus)

Titus Vettius Sergia, son of Quintus, architect, arranged for the colonnade to be built, paid for by communal funds, in the year that Aulus Hirtius and Caius Vibius were consuls [43 BC].

It is widely believed that as a rule, free artisans and craftsmen were independent labourers and many business encounters with the elite will indeed have been of a temporary nature, be it a single transaction to buy bread or cater to a dinner, or a contract for the construction of a tomb complex that would take a certain period of time to complete. Rens Tacoma and I have argued elsewhere that the most important document for prices in ancient Rome, Diocletian's *Prices Edict* of 301 AD, underlines the importance of hired labour in the market: it presents daily wages for all kinds of jobs, including those for which we might rather expect priced items, such as a baker, or a gold- or silversmith.⁶⁷ What the *Edict* cannot tell us, however, is who were hired: free, freed, or slave labourers. Nor does it tell us whether they lived in with the contractor for the duration of a contract. And although this section presented some evidence for free hired labour, like Cicero's doctor, Park demonstrated almost a century ago that Cicero in fact, insofar as he mentions it in his writings, hired chiefly (someone else's) slaves and ex-slaves.⁶⁸

The evidence taken together suggests that occasionally the freeborn will have worked in elite households. The epigraphic evidence implies that when they did, they were unlikely to be remembered for it. The scarcity of the evidence is thus likely to reflect reality, indicating that the freeborn employees living in the elite *domus* were not numerous. If correct, this implies that the freeborn poor could not find long-term employment within the elite *domus* easily. The market for produce they shared with independent freed labourers, leaving them only a small niche in the urban economy.

This crude demographic analysis of the living-in workers in elite households confirms the suggestion that urban slave labour centred around upper-class *familiae*. The aristocratic *domus* was an important employer in the city, particularly for its numerous slaves and ex-slaves: the resulting lack of vacancies in the household will have restricted labour opportunities in domestic service for the freeborn, and indeed very few free domestic workers are attested.

67 Groen-Vallinga and Tacoma (2017); the *Edict* includes some prices for piecework, too, but the prevalence of hired labour is significant.

68 Park (1918) 71–7.

THE DYNAMICS OF DEMOGRAPHY WITHIN LARGE SLAVE-OWNING HOUSEHOLDS

The composition of the aristocratic household, like that of a nonelite family, was always changing. The marriages and remarriages of the nobility are relatively well documented – Bradley aptly refers to their “matrimonial careers”.⁶⁹ It is certain that many of these marriages concerned strategies, meant to form or strengthen political alliances, because they often reflect contemporary politics.⁷⁰ It is not unthinkable that economic aspects also played a part in the marriage practices of the elite, as they did for the nonelite family.⁷¹ In fact, all of the basic demographic ‘strategies’ that were identified for the nonelite will also have been practised by the elite to a certain extent. Children, and the number of children, mattered to the elite family, too: ideally, the family fortune was split up as little as possible.⁷² Although the discussion in the previous chapter showed that the extent to which the Romans acted upon such ideals by means of infanticide or exposure is difficult to grasp, the wish for an heir or a son may have induced a form of family planning. Adoption to preserve the family line and the family fortune is one strategy that was perhaps more common among the elite than among the (supposedly) more prolific and (certainly) less affluent nonelite; the evidence for elite adoption at least is more abundant, though that is partly the result of the fact that the elite is better documented overall. Within the aristocratic family, then, the available demographic strategies were broadly similar to those for nonelite families.

The main difference between elite *domus* and nonelite households in terms of demographic changes over the life cycle, is that many of the structural changes to the larger family took place in the servile segment of the family, precisely because slaves and ex-slaves made up such a large part of the household. On the one hand, slaves and ex-slaves were passively subjected to the events in their principal’s life, such as death or divorce: because ‘his’ slaves were legally distinct from ‘her’ slaves, they were separated into two *familiae* if the marriage was broken up.⁷³ The life course of individual slaves, on the other hand, also contributed to the family life cycle. Slaves were regularly replaced upon death, disease, sale and upon manumission; and slaves could procreate.

69 Bradley (1991) 156.

70 Corbier (1991) 49–63, Bradley (1991) 156–176.

71 Broekaert (2012) and my chapter 3.

72 Champlin (1991) 114–117 illustrates a pattern where sons tended to receive a substantially larger share of the inheritance than daughters. They were clearly favoured over their sisters, who held a smaller share that was often in the form of their dowry. Champlin says nothing about shares for brothers. In my view, such wills were effectively keeping (landed) property together as much as possible.

73 Cf. *Dig.* 29.5.1.15.

Slaves could buy slaves of their own – these *vicarii* are not uncommonly attested – again increasing the number of slaves in the *familia*. Structural change of the family was therefore based on somewhat different demographic factors than the factors influencing the demographic life cycle of smaller families.

An additional slave in the house increases family expenditure through the cost of maintenance, but he or she would also add to the family's collective productivity, or maintain it in case of a replacement. If a slave fell in value because he or she was elderly or unwell, this might prompt the decision to sell.⁷⁴ A slave could also be 'removed' from the household through manumission. The motivations underlying manumission are rather more complex than those concerning sale. The question then becomes to what extent economic considerations shaped these deliberate changes in the slave labour force of the aristocratic household. The process of structural change in the large family is impossible to follow, because we simply do not have the data to do so. Following a similar approach to that of the previous chapter, however, we can analyse the ways in which new slaves were added and other slaves removed from the household.

The sources of slaves

Where did elite families get their slaves from? It is not too difficult to come up with various possible sources of slaves in the Roman empire, but it has proven far more complicated to decide on the relative importance of such sources during the Principate.⁷⁵ It has been argued that the slave-market gradually transformed into a system of predominantly home-born slaves under the high empire.⁷⁶ During the expansion of the empire, numerous captives of war were put up on the stands.⁷⁷ Initially, this will have been the most important source of slaves for sale. In the period under consideration, however, the slave-influx from war and conquest dwindled, for lack of war and conquest. To maintain

74 Cato *RR* 2.7 encourages the sale of everything that is superfluous: e.g., surplus produce, but also old tools or dead-beat oxen – and old or sick slaves.

75 Much has been said in the pioneering work of Jones (1956), and Bradley (1994) 31–56; Finley (1980) 128 is still to the point; the 'grand debate' took place between Harris (1980)(repr. 2011) 57–87, (1994), (1999)(repr. 2011) 88–109; and Scheidel (1997), (2005a), (2011a). See now Silver (2011) for a strikingly different approach.

76 Jones (1956) 193, and especially Scheidel (1997)(2005a), with critique from Harris (1999) who contends that the slave population would have become stable only after the high empire (p. 75): "Something like Scheidel's model (...) must in the end have imposed itself. When?"

77 Scheidel (2011a) 295: "The scale of enslavement was primarily a function of the geographical reach of Roman imperialism"; Welwei (2000) for captive slaves under the Republic; cf Finley (1983⁴) 174 on the continuity of "the army as a slave-supplying instrument"; similarly, at (1980) 128 he notes that although the massive expansion ended, "war did not".

slave numbers, other sources, such as natural reproduction among slaves, must have played an ever more important part.

The means of acquiring slaves was not just a response to the available supply: it also reflects economic considerations, which is why it deserves separate analysis here. We can say that new additions to the slave population of the elite *domus* conform to one of three categories: slaves were bought, inherited, or born within the household.⁷⁸

Buying and selling slaves

Evidence for the slave-trade under the empire is unmistakable, even if the specifics – such as the identity of actual slave-traders – are sometimes difficult to identify.⁷⁹

The (unnamed) *mango* or *venalicius/venaliciarius* (both mean slave-trader) is a familiar stock figure in literature, which suggests he was a familiar figure in the streets of Roman Italy, too. Think of Martial's complaint when a slave boy he wants – excessively priced by the *mango* at a hundred thousand sesterces – is bought instead by the equally excessively wealthy Phoebus, in epigram 1. 58. Although Phoebus' conduct is mocked by the satirist, the passage does suggest that slaves did not come cheap.

This clue from Martial is corroborated by other, scattered indications of slave prices.⁸⁰ Slaves are listed as a commodity in Diocletian's *Prices Edict* of AD 301.⁸¹ In the *Edict*, the maximum price is set at 25,000 *denarii* for an adult female slave, and 30,000 for a male of the same age category. The prices for a skilled slave could add up to double that amount.⁸² To get a sense of real slave prices, we can compare these sums with the average daily wage in the *Edict* of 50 *denarii* a day for skilled labour and 25 for unskilled work. It means that the cost of buying an unskilled slave amounted to the equivalent of 500–600 days of work for a skilled labourer, and twice as long if that slave was paid for

78 Mouritsen (2013) 67 n. 53 with reference to ps-Quintilian, *Decl. Min.* 311.7 – *aut natus aut relictus hereditate aut emptus*.

79 Bodel (2005), Bradley (1994) 42–3 offers some compelling evidence for the continued importance of the independent slave trade, that was drawing on “a combination of sources”; Finley (1983⁴) on continuous trade in enslaved people, especially from the Danubian and Black Sea regions, from the late 7th century BC to the 6th century AD; Harris (1980) 129–31 notes on p. 129 “the reticence which surrounded an occupation that was naturally despised by the elite”. *CIL* 10. 8222 (Capua – the slave-trade can only be inferred from the accompanying relief) nevertheless suggests that they sometimes took pride in their trade.

80 For slave prices, see Scheidel (1996), (2005b) esp. 2–8, Ruffing and Drexhage (2008); and Harper (2010) on late antiquity.

81 *Prices Edict* chapter 29; with Scheidel (1996), and Salway (2010).

82 29.8: *Pro mancipio arte instructo pro genere et aetate et qualitate artium inter emptorem vel venditorem de praetio placere conveniet ita ut duplum praetium statutum in mancipium minime excedere*.

by unskilled work.⁸³ The *Edict* is a late source, but it is reassuring that scattered price data from Roman Italy for the high empire fall in the same order of magnitude.⁸⁴ It is clear that, even for the well to do, buying a slave was costly. It is also clear that slaves were being bought and sold regardless.

“Where did the merchandise itself come from when slaveowners were ready to buy?”⁸⁵ The attestation of foreign slaves is indicative of a continuous influx of slaves who in all probability were not born into slavery. For some of the slaves in aristocratic households, a foreign background can be inferred from their nomenclature: some have foreign names, and in rare instances their origins have been explicitly recorded.⁸⁶ Thus, the couple in *CIL* 6. 6343 is referred to as *Dardana* and *Dardanus*, which suggests that they both came from the province of Moesia (superior, modern Serbia).

CIL 6. 6343

Messia Dardana / quasillaria / fecit Iacintus / unctor Dardanus

To Dardanian Messia, spinning woman. Dardanian Iacintus masseur set up [this monument].

The epitaph, that was recovered from the Stilian household tomb, clearly stresses a common background for this pair, which may be the reason it is included in their epitaph. If not in the case of this particular example, the onomastics of slavery are generally difficult to interpret. Greek names predominate for slaves and ex-slaves in the first two centuries AD. The explanation of this undeniable pattern is rather complex. It was demonstrated that Greek names are a likely indication for servile status – that is, those with Greek names as a rule were (children of) slaves and ex-slaves – but that

83 The daily wage is taken here excluding the food allowance. On prices and wages in the *Edict*, and on the validity of relating these price data to each other and to the world outside the *Prices Edict*, see Groen-Vallinga and Tacoma (2017).

84 Scheidel (2005b) page 5 on Roman Egypt, page 8 on Roman Italy; slaves remained an expensive good into Late Antiquity, Harper (2010) 230.

85 Bradley (1994) 31.

86 Mouritsen (2013) 58; Hasegawa (2005) 75-9.

such names do not necessarily suggest Greek or even more generally foreign origins.⁸⁷ Even so, the popularity of Greek names for slaves may well indicate a continuing and significant presence of bought slaves: in a recent study, Christer Bruun analysed the names of home-born slaves, for whom he finds demonstrably more Latin *cognomina* than for the slave population at large.⁸⁸ As Bruun himself points out, the implication is that many individuals on the slave market were not home-born slaves, but ended up there through different channels: if *vernae* had been in the majority, we should expect to find mostly Latin *cognomina* among the servile population, rather than the attested pattern of mainly Greek names for slaves and freedmen.⁸⁹

Many of the slaves in Italy came from within the empire, and often they were locals.⁹⁰ This suggests that at least some of them were born as *vernae*. An unknown number may have been enslaved only later in life, by various means. Thus, piracy and kidnapping were known, but are difficult to quantify. Roman society was also familiar with a form of penal slavery, although this was probably a marginal phenomenon, if only because of its often temporary nature.⁹¹ Self-sale and the enslavement of freeborn children, conversely, may not have been quite so marginal.⁹² Morris Silver deserves the credit for restoring a focus on the significance of what he calls 'voluntary' or 'contractual slavery'.⁹³ Since it was established that many Romans lived at or under subsistence levels, it does make sense that for some Romans self-enslavement became a reasonable economic strategy to avert chronic poverty and destitution.⁹⁴ If certain jobs, and job-training, were more easily accessible to slaves and freedmen, as I believe to have been the case, this

87 Solin (1971) demonstrated the earlier supposition that Greek *cognomina* denote a servile status or servile background (p. 121–145), and added the finding that Greek names do not generally refer to Greek or foreign origins (p. 146–158). Silver (2011) 87–8 conversely, hypothesizes that the name-pattern indicates that foreigners from the Greek East of the empire voluntarily sold themselves into slavery to finance migration to the Italian heartland. In his view, their presence in turn inspired a taste to give slaves Greek names.

88 Bruun (2013).

89 Bruun (2013) 33. Either that, "...or they were born in conditions where they never encountered their master and the names were given by a *vilicus* or someone else who routinely chose typical slave names, which mostly were Greek".

90 Silver (2011) 84 with references; cf Scheidel (1997) 164; Finley (1980) 128.

91 On penal slavery: Groen-Vallinga and Tacoma (2015), Millar (1984).

92 Harris (1999), Ramin and Veyne (1981). Both maintain that self-sale was a major source of slaves, or at least "commonplace" (Harris (1999) 73).

93 Silver (2011).

94 See chapter 2 for an indication of living standards. Silver (2011) emphasizes the inherent draw of contractual slavery, however, whereas I believe slavery will always have been a last resort, cf also the comments in Tacoma (2016) 68 with n. 95, and 182–183 with n. 64.

strategy becomes all the more rational. Particularly so, perhaps, if it can be shown that there was also a real chance of early manumission.

Legal evidence acknowledges and accommodates the possibility of becoming a slave willingly.⁹⁵ Seneca comments that “the slave-trader benefits those for sale”, which appears to indicate that those for sale actually want to be sold.⁹⁶ As noted by Silver, many texts might be interpreted as referring to voluntary slavery. The fact that he sees contractual slaves absolutely everywhere, however, has understandably worked against him.⁹⁷ In addition to this, I fail to grasp the significance of singling out this group as a distinct status category, different from freeborn, freed and slave. Freed status will always trump one’s freeborn origins in the eye of the Roman beholder.⁹⁸ Examples of ‘freeborn freedmen’ are limited in number and provide inconclusive evidence: they are extraordinary in that they are from the *familia Caesaris*, and from the provinces. One T. Flavius Helius from Asia who holds the curious job-title of *eirenophylax* (peacekeeper), set up a dedication that records both that he is a freedman of the emperor Vespasian, and that he is the son of Glycon, son of Timaos; the text tells us also that Helius is married to a freeborn woman.⁹⁹ Compare the following inscription from Africa:

95 Silver (2011) 75–81.

96 Sen. *De ben.* 4.13.3, *mango venalibus prodest*. Harris (1999) records legal references to self-sale in his n. 84 on p. 73. I believe both references to Ulpian are flawed: *Dig* 21.1.17.12 does not refer to self-sale but to fugitive-slaves who seek refuge with a statue of Caesar. *Dig.* 28.3.6.5-6 casually refers to penal slavery, not self-sale.

97 Silver (2013) is a good example, where he argues that contractual slavery was the catalyst for the slave mode of production in the third century.

98 Silver (2011) 90 especially n. 15 makes a point of the fact that Mouritsen (2004) never considered the *incerti* with a ‘respectable’ Latin name to have been voluntary slaves.

99 For the inscription (in Greek): Drew-Bear and Naour, *ANRW* II 18.3 (1990) 1967–77, no. 15 and Kearsley (2001) 118 ff, no. 144. See Weaver (2004) 200 with n. 28; Silver (2011) 90; Tacoma (2016) 182 n.63 notes two additional examples: the first is *CIL* 6. 13328, where an imperial slave (named Numida) at Rome has a free (or freed, but not imperial) mother (Aemilia Primitiva), which probably implies that he was born free, as does their origin in Africa. If I understand correctly, however, Weaver (1972) 177f indicates that a union between imperial freedmen and freeborn women could also produce imperial slaves, so an alternative explanation is that the unknown father was an imperial freedman. The second is *P. Oxy.* 46. 3312, which seems to suggest that a certain (freeborn) Herminos has become a freedman, *pace* Weaver (2004). It states ‘γινωσ οὔ[ν] ὅτι Ἑρμῖνος ἀπῆλθεν ἰς Ῥώμ[ην] καὶ ἀπελευθέρως ἐγένετ[ο] Καίσαρος ἵνα ὀπίκια [= *officia*] λάβ[η].’: “You should know that Herminos has gone off to Rome and become a freedman of Caesar so he can get official posts”, in the translation of Weaver. Though his freedom may plausibly be inferred, technically Herminos’ original legal status is not stated.

AE 1979, 656

C(aius) Iulius Aug(usti) l(ibertus) Felix / Accavonis f(ilius) pius / vixit annis LXV h(ic) s(itus) e(st) / C(aius) Iulius C(ai) l(ibertus) Felix f(ilius) patri / posterisq(ue) eius d(e) s(ua) p(ecunia) f(ecit)

Caius Iulius Felix, freedman of Augustus, the pious son of Accavo, lived 65 years, [and] is buried here. Caius Iulius Felix, Jr., freedman of Caius set this up with his own funds to his father and his [father's] descendants.

Weaver and Silver are convinced that these individuals are examples of freeborn men who were freeborn, (voluntarily?) enslaved and subsequently freed.¹⁰⁰ In my view, that is not necessarily what these texts indicate: in the epitaph just cited, Caius Iulius Felix junior used exactly the same form of filiation and libertination as his father does, despite the fact that the son was surely born a slave – or he would not also have been freed. My contention is that the filiation in these examples is a positive appraisal of biological family ties among slaves and ex-slaves, more than anything else – similar to the use of *coniux* for conjugal partners in a union that was not actually recognized by the law. In defense of Morris Silver, however: there must have been many who opted for slavery.

From the viewpoint of the buyer, there were a number of practical economic concerns, which created a continuous demand for slaves. In the words of Mouritsen:

Elite households would have seen a steady influx of newly purchased slaves, who supplemented existing staff members who had died. Slave functions were often highly specialized and vacancies might occur unpredictably before home-born apprentices had been fully trained. Slaves from the market were therefore a natural supplement to the self-regeneration of the *familia*.¹⁰¹

Moreover, owning and training skilled slaves of every type may have been exceedingly expensive for all but the wealthiest households. Varro remarks that for the farm, at least, to hire the services of doctors, fullers, and builders from a nearby city (if available) could

100 Weaver (2004) 200 with n. 31; Silver (2011) 90.

101 Mouritsen (2013) 58; Treggiari (1979b) 188-189: "A young Roman considering how to encourage the production of children by the slaves he had inherited from his father might not be able to foresee that he would marry a woman whose dotal estates would unexpectedly involve him in, say, marble-quarrying for which he would need a special staff, or that he would have eight daughters who would need an unusually large complement of maids, or that his only son would be a scholar who needed research assistants with expertise in Etruscan".

be wiser than training its own slaves, “for sometimes the death of one artisan wipes out the profit of the farm”.¹⁰²

Buying slaves at great expense is also a form of conspicuous consumption: because domestic slaves were somewhat of a luxury product, buying slaves – particularly male slaves – was also a means of showing off. Scheidel contends that the continued existence of slavery can only be explained by accepting that ideology and tradition, not economic rationality, lay at the heart of ancient slavery.¹⁰³ The cultural expectation that an elite *domus* should entertain numerous slaves, was real. As noted by Mouritsen, however, economic considerations also played a part. The question whether slave-holding was economically viable has not been answered decisively.¹⁰⁴ Nevertheless, it was definitely possible to reap a substantial profit by selling or hiring out slaves. The value of slaves and (skilled) slave labour will be explored further in the section on human capital below.

It seems reasonable to conclude that the slave trade continued under the high empire, but also that a demonstrable shift in the sources of slaves occurred from mainly war captives under the Republic, to a variety of sources in the Principate – including contractual slaves, foreigners, and home-born slaves.

Home-born slaves

An increasing number of slaves must have been born into slavery. Home-born slaves were called *vernae* or, more matter-of-factly in a legal context, *partus ancillarum* (literally the ‘offspring of slave women’).¹⁰⁵ They had a firm reputation of trustworthiness, for which they were valued highly by their masters.¹⁰⁶ The particular status is proudly advertised in inscriptions by both *vernae* and masters.¹⁰⁷ *Vernae* sometimes record it even

102 RR 1.16.4, *quorum non numquam unius artificis mors tollit fundi fructum* tr. Hooper and Ash (1934, Loeb Classical Library); the passage was brought to my attention by Silver (2011) 100. It is interesting that in this context Varro speaks of a “yearly contract” (*anniversarios*) for doctors, fullers and builders (*medicos, fullones, fabros*).

103 Scheidel (2005b), (2008); White (2008) is unhelpful for a purely economic comparison from the perspective of the owner’s investment, because his argument focuses on welfare economics and allocative efficiency, which is an ethical approach that includes the value of freedom (immeasurable).

104 See introductory chapter.

105 Sigismund-Nielsen (2013) 293 writes on *vernae*: “But it is not under this term that we meet them in the *Digest*. We know them only as the *fili* of a male, high-status slave and his *contubernalis*”. The *Digest* also refers to *partus ancillarum*.

106 Rawson (2013); Bradley (1994) 33 remarks that *vernae* had “a certain *cachet*” (his italics). On *vernae*, see especially Hermann-Otto (1994). Sigismund-Nielsen (2013) 293 seems not to have been able to substantiate her earlier doubts about the special position of *vernae* on the basis of the literary material, (1991) 226.

107 Sigismund-Nielsen (1991) analyses inscriptions from CIL 6.

after manumission, like Anicetus for example, an imperial freedman architect and *verna* referred to in *CIL* 6. 5738, the epitaph for his wife Aurelia Fortunata. More commonly it is used as a term of endearment for a slave-child by his or her master, suggesting ties of affection; although presumably the mention of a home-born slave also advertised the fact that the master possessed the resources to raise one. *CIL* 14. 472 is an elaborate example.

CIL 14. 472

D(is) M(anibus) / Melioris calculatoris / vixit ann(os) XIII hic tantae memoriae et scientiae / fuit ut ab antiquorum memori[a] usque in diem / finis suae omnium titulos superaverit / singula autem quae sciebat volumin[e] potius / quam titulo scribi potuerunt nam / commentarios artis suae quos reliq(u)it / primus fecit et solus posset imitari si eum / iniq(u)a fata rebus humanis non invidissent / Sex(tus) Aufustius Agreus vernae / suo praeceptor [i]nfelicissimus / fecit / in f(ronte) p(edes) II in ag(ro) p(edes) VI / excessit anno urbis condita / DCCCXC VII

[Sacred] to the divine spirits. To Melior, *calculator*, who lived 13 years. He was of such wisdom and knowledge that he surpassed the renown of all from the memory of the ancients until the day of his passing. The singular things (*singula quae*) that he knew were more voluminous than they could inscribe on his headstone; for the commentaries that he left behind of his art, he was the first to make, and only he could duplicate them, if the hostile fates had not begrudged him the human realm. Sextus Aufustius Agreas to his *verna*, [his] most unhappy instructor, set up this monument. Two feet wide, six feet long. He passed away in the year 897 from the founding of the city [145 AD].

A child born to a slave mother was a slave and belonged to the mother's owner. This was of obvious benefit to the master, and it must have been one of the reasons why slave unions were allowed. If women were kept in slavery longer than men, as can plausibly be argued, this is probably no coincidence and it should be explained in part by the fact that the women were still of child-bearing age.¹⁰⁸ It is a commonplace that at least some slaves were sexually exploited.¹⁰⁹ As a result of sexual exploitation of slave women by their owner, an unknown number of slave children were in fact the biological offspring of the master himself. It is also possible that in some instances the sexual relations of a slave with another slave were forced: Bradley suggests that slave offspring was "so convenient" to owners, that for slave unions "perhaps more than approval was involved".¹¹⁰ To my knowledge there is no hard evidence for this.

There are certainly clues that the ability to beget children was valued in a slave woman. A female slave was priced highest at the time when her reproductive capacity was highest, between 16–40 years of age.¹¹¹ It should be noted, however, that this is also the age when male slaves are most expensive. The *Digest* offers more compelling evidence that slave-owners took an interest in their slave women's offspring. Women who had given birth to several children could apparently be rewarded by manumission, which indicates that there was some encouragement, or at least appreciation, of the fact.¹¹² Moreover, one could go back on the purchase of a slave woman who was sold "with her offspring added", if she turned out to be infertile or over fifty – which was really the same thing in Roman law.¹¹³ Conversely, it is spelled out that the sale of a woman was considered valid also when she was pregnant – Ulpian continues: "after all, the first and foremost task of women is to conceive and to take care of the child".¹¹⁴ Elsewhere, however, the same Ulpian notes that "slave women were not simply purchased for that

108 Drawing on the data for Roman Egypt: Scheidel (1997) 160–2, Bagnall and Frier (1994) 94 with n.10 and the age-table (D) on page 342–3.

109 Both male and female slaves, though for obvious reasons the emphasis is on slave women here; Scheidel (2009b) 284–99; repeated in (2011b) 113–4; cf Treggiari (1979b) 192–194, who in addition references the possibility that owners fell in love with slaves, or protected their female slaves from prostitution by contract.

110 Bradley (1994) 50–51, see also Bradley (1987b) on 'slave-breeding'.

111 Cf Bradley (1987a) 55 on thirty Egyptian contracts of sale that demonstrate a correlation "between the age of adult female slaves at the time of sale and the period of expected reproductivity".

112 *Dig.* 1.5.15 (Ulpian); *Dig.* 34.5.10.1 (Ulpian); cf also Colum. *RR* 1.8, 19.

113 *Dig.* 19.1.21 pr: *Si sterilis ancilla sit, cuius partus venit, vel maior annis quinquaginta, cum id emptor ignoraverit, ex empto tenetur venditor.*

114 *Dig.* 21.1.14.1 (Ulpian): *maximum enim ac praecipuum munus feminarum est accipere ac tueri conceptum.*

reason that they bear children".¹¹⁵ That is to say, women's childbearing potential was definitely a consideration, but it was not the sole reason for purchase.¹¹⁶

Relationships between male and female slaves, ideally, could of course also be voluntary. Many epitaphs of slave partners suggest that their unions not uncommonly developed out of affection. Slaves were regularly allowed to engage in *contubernium*, a *de facto* marriage-bond that was recognised by all but the law, since slaves did not have the legal capacity to marry.¹¹⁷ Whereas it cannot be excluded that slave owners allowed such unions out of the sheer goodness of their hearts, there is some evidence to suggest that consent to *contubernia* was part of a reward system to increase labour productivity – and that would make it a strategic move on the part of the master(s).¹¹⁸ Moreover, we should consider the fact that the dynamics of the slave population simply came with the phenomenon of slave family formation and slave infants – and that process may not necessarily have been easy to control within a large household, even if the owners had wanted to.

More often than not, a slave found his or her partner within the same *familia*.¹¹⁹ The following examples are of such *contubernia* between (ex-)slaves from the same household.

115 *Dig.* 5.3.27 pr. (Ulpian). In context: "slave women's children and their children's children should not be considered proceeds (*fructus*), since slave women were not simply purchased for that reason that they bear children, though their offspring does add to an inheritance." – *ancillarum etiam partus et partum partus quamquam fructus non existimantur, quia non temere ancillae eius rei causa comparantur ut pariant, augent tamen hereditatem.*

116 Cf Treggiari (1979b) 186-188.

117 On the legalities and practicalities of *contubernium*, see Treggiari (1991) 52-4, 410-1 and more through her index s.v. *contubernium* and *contubernales*; see also Flory (1978) "Family within *familia*".

118 Bradley (1987a) 50, 51: "permitting marital and familial associations among their slaves could contribute positively to the preservation of social and economic order". Varro *RR* 1.17.5 mentions marriage as a reward for the *vilicus*: "The foremen are to be made more zealous by rewards, and care must be taken that they have a bit of property of their own, and mates from among their fellow-slaves (*coniunctas conservas, e quibus habeant filios*) to bear them children; for by this means they are made more steady and more attached to the place". Tr. Hooper and Ash (1934, Loeb Classical Library).

119 Mouritsen (2013) 54 table 8, for marriages within the Statilian (and Volusian) households; Edmondson (2011) 347; Flory (1978) 82; Treggiari (1973) on the household of the Volusii (and, in passing, on that of the Statilii). With the approval of both masters, however, a relation could also be maintained over two households – presumably the owner of the male partner would be compensated for the benefit of children resulting from the union, who would automatically be assigned to the *familia* and possessions of the woman's owner, for examples see Rawson (1966).

CIL 6. 33794

Maritimi / Antoniae Drusi l(iberti) / rogatoris // Quintiae / Antoniae Drusi l(ibertae) / cantricis

[Grave] of Maritimus, freedman of Antonia wife of Drusus, questioner.

[Grave] of Quintia, freedwoman of Antonia wife of Drusus, singer.

Maritimus and Quintia both served Antonia Minor, one of the women of the Julio-Claudian family. The juxtaposition of both epitaphs on one memorial plaque suggests that Maritimus and Quintia were partners in a *contubernium*, even if the stone does not record it explicitly. Even if the questioner and singer were not *contubernales*, the existence of other, similar marble plaques juxtaposing husband and wife suggest that they might have been. Leaving no doubts about the nature of the recorded relationship, for example, is *CIL* 6. 6342 from the tomb of the Statilii.

CIL 6. 6342

Italia quasillaria / vixit ann(os) XX / Scaeva tabellarius Tauri / coniugi suae fecit

Italia, spinning woman. She lived 20 years. Scaeva, *tabellarius* of Taurus set this up to his wife.

Scaeva refers to his deceased partner with the word for a lawful wife, *coniux*, which can only be a reflection of sentiment, not of the status of their relationship.¹²⁰ The union of the Dardanians in *CIL* 6. 6343 cited earlier is a *contubernium*, too; in their case it is one that may even have predated their enslavement, since they were both from the same region. If so, it is an interesting detail that the continuity of their union was allowed for by their masters, again the Statilii.

Accommodating family formation among slaves led to valuable slave offspring and slave families also were a contributing factor tying the freed to their former master's household.¹²¹ There are thus very few reasons why aristocratic masters would be opposed to their slaves and ex-slaves forming families of their own. Especially where it concerns domestic urban slavery rather than chattel slavery, the sources indicate that there was no lack of opportunity for slaves to form a family. This, therefore, cannot

120 *CIL* 10. 3957 quoted above is another example. Treggiari (1979b) 195 (with refs.) points out that even the jurists sometimes use *uxor* rather than the correct *contubernalis*.

121 This chapter, above; Mouritsen (2013) 55 also suggested as much.

have been a limiting factor on slave fertility.¹²² *Contubernia* effectually brought an extra demographic factor into play for the household, and could lead to families branching out widely among the servile population of the *domus*.¹²³ Slave families and *vernae* were therefore a common phenomenon, certainly within elite *domus* of the city. However, this does not mean that slave reproduction alone was enough to fulfil the demand for slaves – the previous section already underlined the evidence for other sources of slaves.

Those inclined to tone down the importance of home-born slaves as a source of slaves, have adduced skewed sex ratios as a major limiting factor on slave reproduction: there were too few slave women.¹²⁴ More male than female slave labourers are attested, it is not unlikely that the slaves who were bought in the slave market were chiefly young adult males, and it has been argued that although foundlings perhaps were more likely to be girls, the boys were more likely to be brought up.¹²⁵ It becomes difficult to discard entirely the suggestion that men were in the majority among the slave population. Scheidel forcefully advocates that there were as many slave women as there were men, however, and that the sex ratios will have balanced out by the time of the early empire.¹²⁶

I would argue that the solution to maintaining slave fertility, despite a slight misbalance in sex ratio, lies predominantly in the distinctive life course of men and women. By analogy with the general marriage pattern, female slaves undoubtedly ‘married’ earlier than men, and were more likely to remarry and balance out the marriage market; ‘marriage’ here always meaning the quasi-marital form of *contubernium*.¹²⁷ Add to that the fact that women probably were manumitted later than men (see below) and that as a result, most of their children were in effect born as slaves, and the sex ratio becomes less of a ‘problem’. And there were other solutions that would support fertility rates. Mouritsen’s analysis of the households of the Statilii and the Volusii demonstrates a skewed sex ratio for both *domus*. Importantly, it also shows that the ‘surplus’ of males, slave, freed, and free, was not necessarily celibate – not infrequently they were married to women from

122 Harris (1980) proffers this as one of the main arguments that would lower slave fertility (according to the addenda to the (2011) reprint, p. 108, he still agrees with his earlier argument).

123 Edmondson (2011) 347 notes that “house-bred slaves (*vernae*) might well have had a number of aunts, uncles and cousins”, with examples on page 348: a maternal uncle (*avunculus*, commemorated in *CIL* 6. 6469), and a paternal uncle (*patruus*, commemorator in *CIL* 6. 6619) whose niece resp. nephew were with them in the household of the Statilii.

124 Especially Harris (1980) pp; (1999) 69–72.

125 Male slaves predominating in the market, e.g. Mouritsen (2013) 58; De Ligt and Garnsey (2012) 86; Helpfully contextualising the gender of *expositi* with references: Evans Grubbs (2013) 90–2.

126 Scheidel (2005a) 71–3; Scheidel (2011a) 307–8.

127 The general marriage pattern is discussed in chapter 3.

outside the household.¹²⁸ The incidence of inscriptions that attest to unions between freed slaves with distinct *gentilicia* also supports the suggestion that there were slaves who maintained their ‘marriage-bond’ over two different households.¹²⁹ It will also become clear (below) that a large number of individuals was employed in child care, which underlines a significant presence of infants and older children in the household. In sum, there is no evidence for systematic slave breeding, but procreation was accommodated and perhaps encouraged, because slave children were a welcome side-effect of a larger slave *familia*.

The slave members of the family faced considerable insecurity regarding their own biological families; slave parents, spouses, or children could be sold off. The owner need not take the personal lives of his or her slaves into account, dislocating familial bonds. But the slaves’ story may not always have been as grim as some scholars would have it.¹³⁰ Edmondson notes that there is evidence that now and then the choice was made to sell a nuclear slave family, or a mother and child, together rather than to separate them; presumably this was better for morale than selling off slave children separately.¹³¹ The latter scenario is nevertheless more commonly attested. Upon the death of the master, too, it is likely that the slaves of the household were scattered among heirs, again not necessarily taking into consideration the slave family. Yet there is evidence that slave parents were allowed to keep in touch with their children over two or sometimes more households.¹³² Moreover, there are clues that slave-owners who expected their slaves to be sold off or split up upon their death or, like Cicero for example, upon their exile, were inclined to free more of their slaves in advance.¹³³ Apparently slave-owners did not always let their personal economic gain preside over more humane considerations. And the slaves of the elite *domus* may well have been the more privileged group in this respect, because of the proximity to their masters.

128 Mouritsen (2013) 53–5, the pattern is especially clear for the Volusii, where marriages are better documented: 21 % (N=54) of males married an outsider.

129 Rawson (1966) offers some examples.

130 Harper (2011) 77 and especially Bradley (1987a) 47–80 emphasize implicit insecurity; cf Flory (1978) 87.

131 Edmondson (2011) 349–50 with n. 44 for references to contracts of sale on papyri; cf. Treggiari (1979b) 196–201, considers “the legal attitude to slave families [which] became gradually more humane under the empire” (at 196), respecting slave’s family bonds.

132 Rawson (1966) 78–81 for examples of such ‘broken’ slave families, since, paradoxically, the evidence for broken families itself is proof for a continued bond. Sigismund-Nielsen (2013) 292–3 adds some useful primary references.

133 Mouritsen (2011a) 184–5 with references.

Foundlings or the purchase of infants

Child slaves were not always born in the household: foundlings and bought infant slaves should also be considered in this context. Most foundlings that were taken up, were raised as a slave.¹³⁴ Harris suggested that provincial foundlings – born where life was cheap – were regularly raised to be sold on the slave market in the city of Rome.¹³⁵ Children could be bought at reduced prices: slaves age 0-8 were available at half the price of an adult slave or less.¹³⁶ These children were not always born into slavery. Parallel to self-enslavement, there must also have been parents who sold their free children into slavery, out of practicality perhaps, out of necessity, or for hope of a better future for their newborn than they had to offer.¹³⁷ The legal sources are ambiguous towards the practice, as freedom was absolute in Roman law – but every legal obstacle to child (or self-) sale seems to have had a way around it, including a fictional ‘exposure’ of the infant so that the buyer could claim not to be aware of its free status.¹³⁸ It presumably was a profitable arrangement for both seller, and buyer.

Raising a foundling or buying a slave infant may well have been an attractive investment, not just for slave traders but also for an individual household. An infant was much less costly than an adult slave, both in price of purchase and in cost of maintenance. As with home-born slaves, the cost of raising an infant is more gradual than buying an older slave for a substantial sum to be covered all at once. The possibility that some preferred such gradual payment should not be underestimated. The total cost of raising a foundling seems to have been roughly similar to the price of a young adult slave; moreover, these very young individuals would be raised in the household, and they could perhaps reach the same informal status that was awarded to the *vernae* who were so popular for their alleged loyalty.¹³⁹

134 Corbier (2001) 66-7; Harris, especially Harris (1980), argues for the importance of abandoned children as a source of slaves.

135 Harris (2011) 87.

136 E.g. Diocletian's *Prices Edict* of AD 301 chapter 29, 1-7 lists 15,000 for a male or 10,000 denarii for a female slave age 0-8, compared to 30,000 (m) or 25,000 (f) for slaves age 16-40; cf Scheidel (1996), (2005b).

137 Scheidel's (1997) model for the slave population on pages 164-5 predicts that one in five (in one scenario even one in three) mothers bore a child that would become a slave, a number he then dismisses as unrealistic; Silver (2011) 107 thinks it may not be so unrealistic in view of his argument for the predominance of contractual slavery – at the same time he suggests on page 109 that few if any exposed children will have died, because they were in fact sold into slavery. With that he mitigates the numbers in Scheidel's model, who works with an attrition rate among *expositi* of 33%.

138 Silver (2011) 80-1, 83, 107-8 with references to many legal sources.

139 Saller (2013) 73 n.5 offers a very rough calculation of investment in a female foundling in Roman Egypt, compared to buying an older female slave.

There was a risk to the investment, as infant mortality in particular was notoriously high in ancient Rome.¹⁴⁰ A one-year-old had already lived through the most hazardous times, however, and at the age of five, the original life expectancy of around twenty-five years at birth may have been raised to forty. Perhaps, then, it was smarter to buy a slightly older slave child. Apparently, however, the life of a child slave and his or her prospective earnings were worth the gamble to many. Although it would be a while before labour output would reach its maximum potential, children did put in their labour from a very early age onwards.¹⁴¹ Raising children as slaves was economically rational.

Inheritance

Relocating slaves or acquiring slaves through an inheritance, finally, should probably not be considered as a conscious policy, even if we allow for the possibility that a few master-minds or inheritance hunters did make plans for when their rich aunt, or they themselves, passed away.¹⁴² Although not technically the result of economic strategizing, this way of acquiring slaves may well have been quite common in a high mortality regime.¹⁴³ With the passing of an aristocrat, the number of slaves to be relocated could be substantial. It is unlikely that this posed much of a problem: a son or daughter already made use of that very slave *familia* living in the same *domus*, and if that did not work out slaves could be freed or sold if they were unwelcome in the household – with all due considerations of the factors already discussed under the heading of buying and selling above.

Alternatively, testamentary manumission could provide the heir with a freedman, rather than a slave. From the perspective of the deceased master, this had the benefit of not missing out on the slave's services during his lifetime. Making up a will required a delicate balance between benefiting the heir on the one hand and the (ex-)slave on the other, which is why testamentary manumission often specified certain obligations of the freedman to the heir, sometimes including economic contributions such as *operae*.¹⁴⁴ The *lex Fufia Caninia* of 2 BC specified a maximum for the number or percentage of slaves that could be manumitted by will, which could conceivably also be understood as a contribution to help maintain the balance. It should be recalled also that the patron often was heir to a substantial part of a freedman's property, particularly when the

140 Parkin (2013) 46–50 is a recent, sophisticated account of the available models and numbers, and forms the reference for the numbers in this paragraph.

141 *Dig.* 7.7.6.1 (Ulpian) notes that slaves counted as productive from age 5 onwards; cf Laes (2011a) 165 for this and other references to the value of slave child labour.

142 Or those wanting to win imperial favour, Penner (2012) 128.

143 Penner (2012) 125–130 offers a very interesting analysis tracing the origins/circulation of inherited slaves in the Julio–Claudian *domus* through *agnomina*; cf Mouritsen (2013) 60 with n. 53.

144 Because of this delicate balancing-act, Mouritsen (2011a) 180–5, esp. 182 argues that testamentary manumission was probably fairly limited.

freedman had no (freeborn) children.¹⁴⁵ Moreover, since there is sufficient evidence for the continued bonds between patrons and freedmen – in nonelite and elite families alike – it can safely be said that inheriting a freedmen was in many ways as desirable as inheriting a slave.

That on occasion an inheritance of slaves and freedmen did result in economic strategizing, and that there were economic advantages involved, is suggested by Appian. One of the strategizing masterminds who was not certain of his inheritance of freedmen, because he was not a biological son of the deceased he was to inherit from, was Octavian Augustus. In an interesting passage Appian suggests why Octavian would have wanted the people confirm his adoption by Caesar in accordance with the *lex curiata*:¹⁴⁶

Appian. BC. 3.13 (94)

Γαῖῳ δ' ἦν τὰ τε ἄλλα λαμπρὰ καὶ ἐξελεύθεροι πολλοὶ τε καὶ πλούσιοι, καὶ διὰ τὸ δ' ἴσως μάλιστα ὁ Καῖσαρ ἐπὶ τῇ προτέρᾳ θέσει, κατὰ διαθήκας οἱ γενομένη, καὶ τῆσδε ἐδεήθη.

Among the other splendid accessories of Caesar was a large number of freedmen, many of them rich, and this was perhaps the principal reason why Octavian wanted the adoption by a vote of the people in addition to the former adoption which came to him by Caesar's will.

Octavian wanted to be absolutely certain that his (testamentary) adoption by Caesar was publicly accepted, because – so Appian – he wanted to profit from the large and, so it is poignantly added, wealthy freed entourage of Caesar. Even though political legitimacy was obviously the most important factor in the reconfirmation of Octavian's adoption, it is striking that Appian singles out this very point.

In sum, it is clear that the decision to acquire new slaves or to sell them was based on economic as well as cultural considerations. The same is true for manumission, which has been the subject of incessant debate among historians and which because of the complexity of the matter deserves to be dealt with in a separate section.

145 Mouritsen (2011a) 238: "Freedmen were expected to consider their patrons in their wills, and if they failed to do so and died without direct natural heirs, the patron could claim half the estate (from Augustus onwards)". The converse – freedmen as heirs to their patron – was not uncommon either, see idem 240-2 and chapter 3 above.

146 Appian. BC 3. 13 (94); transl. H. White (1913 Loeb Classical Library).

Changing slaves to freedmen: Manumission

Why did Roman masters free so many slaves? At first sight, it seems amazing. Slaves cost money. Skilled or talented slaves apparently stood the best chance of securing their freedom, and they cost a lot of money.¹⁴⁷

Hopkins sought to explain the economic rationality behind manumission and came up with an answer that was as elegant as it was plausible: slaves generally bought their own freedom, which allowed the owner to buy a replacement.¹⁴⁸ This view has only limited support in the evidence, however. Mouritsen in a recent discussion of the topic has to conclude that in the end, there is no simple economic explanation.¹⁴⁹ This sums up the difficulty in understanding the economics of manumission in twenty-first century terms: manumission does not appear to adhere to any economic rule. Even if the motivations for freeing slaves were not, or not entirely, economically rational, however, freedmanship certainly was an important factor in the way the labour market functioned.

Freedom is considered to be the ultimate reward for slaves. In terms of economics, manumission becomes a positive incentive for slaves, particularly, or so it was argued, for those in “care-intensive” jobs: occupations that required initiative and responsibility from the slave, and that were difficult to supervise.¹⁵⁰ A reward system built around the prospect of freedom can only have functioned if manumission was not granted indiscriminately, which means that slaves working in these positions either stood a better chance to be freed than others, and/or that they were freed at an earlier age. The evidence, however, is not systematic enough to be able to support either of these scenarios. There are a few attestations of very young freedmen: Lucius Anicius Felix for example, a fine tailor (*vestiarius tenuarius*) of only four years old, was freed – though this was probably a case of death-bed manumission. There is also evidence to the contrary. Seventy-year old Oriens, a tailor (*sarcinator*) from Tarentum, judging from his single name, was probably still a slave.¹⁵¹

The fragmentary nature of the ancient evidence, and the biases that it entails, do not allow modern scholars to establish the frequency of manumission with any certainty. With

147 Hopkins (1978) 117.

148 Hopkins (1978) 126–131.

149 Mouritsen (2011a) 202: “The Roman system of manumission gave owners considerable scope for rewarding slaves irrespective of their age, gender, and occupation. The result is a picture that does not conform to any narrow economic logic”.

150 Scheidel (2008) with reference to the work of Fenoaltea (1984); Hawkins (forthcoming). Frequent manumission is also crucial to Temin’s understanding of an integrated labour market, Temin (2004a) 522.

151 *CIL* 6. 6852 (Felix) and *AE* 1972, 111 (Oriens).

Mouritsen I hold that manumission was probably “both very common and very selective”.¹⁵² Manumission was not for everyone.¹⁵³ It remains to be seen whether manumission was frequent enough to be a strong incentive for self-sale.¹⁵⁴ There does not appear to be a clear pattern as to which slaves were freed and which were not.¹⁵⁵ One of the more convincing selection-criteria, however, appears to have been the opportunity to stand out in the eyes of the master – which provided an advantage for slaves in the domestic context of large urban families in comparison with those working on a rural estate.¹⁵⁶ That particular criterion leveled the chances of manumission, which could potentially have functioned as an added labour incentive: “all had a chance and no one was formally beyond hope”.¹⁵⁷

Mouritsen recently postulated that manumission of the domestic staff of the Volusii and Statilii was granted on the assumption that the new freedman did not leave the household. By implication, as the author points out, manumission became a nominal gesture of very little practical consequence to the slaves, which would take away much of its economic function as a positive labour incentive.¹⁵⁸ The household *columbaria* of the Volusii and the Statilii show a freed population of 32 per cent and 46 per cent respectively, suggesting that “between a quarter and a third of the household may have been freed at any time”. This matches with an overall manumission rate of more than 50 per cent for slaves over the age of 30. Considering the limited practical effect of manumission if freed slaves did indeed maintain their own jobs in the household, Mouritsen suggests that the chances of manumission for the Volusian and Statilian slave staff may well have been better than for others.¹⁵⁹

From an elite owner’s perspective, manumission as a strategy to battle the risks of a fluctuating market or to create a flexible work-force is unlikely to have played a part (see

152 Mouritsen (2011a) 140. Mouritsen provides a useful survey of past scholarship on the frequency of manumission on pp. 120–141. On p. 131 he complains that: “Given the state of our evidence, most scholars have remained cautious about the rate of manumission, merely suggesting that many slaves had a ‘good chance’, *vel sim.*”.

153 Interestingly, manumission in Roman Egypt was virtually universal, Tacoma (2006) 257 with reference to the data in Bagnall and Frier (1994).

154 As Silver (2011) 92–3 would have it.

155 Mouritsen (2011a) chapter 5 on manumission, 120–205.

156 E.g. Mouritsen (2013) 59–60.

157 Mouritsen (2011a) 200.

158 Mouritsen (2013) 58–61, at 58: “The high rate of manumission, the commemoration of freedmen alongside other family servants, and the extensive use of *vicarii* all point in that direction”, and at 61: “Manumission was ‘rational’ in the sense that it involved limited losses for the owner, but that does not entail it was therefore part of a logical system of rewards and incentives for slaves performing particularly responsible economic roles”.

159 Mouritsen (2013) 46–7, quote at 53; but see Garnsey and De Ligt (2016) 80 with n. 29 for the implications of Mouritsen’s numbers on general manumission rates.

chapter 3).¹⁶⁰ The manumission tax of 5 per cent is not very likely to have posed an obstacle to a wealthy master, either. In the context of the elite *domus* cultural considerations were equally, if not more, important than strictly monetary concerns. There was social capital in having freedmen. Freedmen brought name recognition, for example, and throngs of dependent freedmen at one's door for the morning *salutatio* can only have been an impressive sight.¹⁶¹ Even the manumission of a slave on his or her deathbed was perhaps not merely a humanitarian and emotional act, but potentially also an opportunity for "social ostentation".¹⁶² Ancient authors also make a number of (disapproving) references to the idea that slaves sometimes were freed by will, only to ensure a good following in the funerary procession.¹⁶³ Whereas we should be careful not to caricaturize this solely as spendthrift of the elite, we may safely concur that "[t]he notion of 'profitable' manumission would have been out of tune with the ideology of the Roman elite".¹⁶⁴

Finally, there were also slaves who purchased their own freedom, which perhaps modifies any 'pattern' that is visible to modern eyes to some extent, and which was conceivably also the way in which many voluntary slaves may have expected to exit slavery.

HUMAN CAPITAL

The high degree of specialisation and job differentiation in Roman Italy suggest significant investment in human capital.¹⁶⁵ Scholars have argued that opportunities for job-training were particularly good for slaves, especially so for the slaves in elite households. Indeed, skilled professions are attested chiefly for slaves and for ex-slaves. Skilled slaves and ex-slaves are a logical result of slave education: because human capital is not transferable, skills remain with the slave upon manumission. This is why the supposedly widespread access to education during slavery is considered to be one of the economic advantages of being a freedman.¹⁶⁶ It is also suggested to be one of the reasons that a freeborn pauper should want to sell himself/herself into slavery in the hope of a better

160 With reference to the work of Hawkins (forthcoming), and (2006) in particular.

161 The possibility of Veturius as a brand name was explored above p. 136.

162 Suggested by Mouritsen (2011a) 187, with references to some literary sources of deathbed manumission. Cf the 4 year old tailor L. Anicius Felix, referenced above, and see also below.

163 Mouritsen (2011a) 184 with references n. 295.

164 Mouritsen (2011a) 196. On testamentary manumission: Gai. *Inst.* 1.42-3 specifies that no more than 100 slaves may be freed in one will.

165 See also chapter 3.

166 Treggiari (1969a) 87; Mouritsen (2011a) 219; Verboven (2012a) 94.

life.¹⁶⁷ Peter Temin takes these notions one step further and states that self-sale was “like the process of apprenticeship in early modern Europe”.¹⁶⁸ To my mind, however, that is pushing the argument too far.

The interpretation of job-training as a slave prerogative has given rise to the idea that skilled labour can be equated with slave labour.

The demand for skilled workers was met by the importation of slaves from abroad or the training of slaves bred in the household (*vernae*). *Ingenui* who were not born into a craft had little prospect of acquiring the skills necessary to compete with slaves.¹⁶⁹

Although Garnsey explicitly mentions the possibility of free artisans who were “born into a craft”, in this quotation he emphasizes the point that skilled labourers were often captives who were already experienced in a trade, or home-born slaves who were taught in the household.¹⁷⁰

To what extent were schooling and job-training really the prerogative of slaves? Did the freeborn have “little prospect of acquiring skills necessary to compete” with them? Surely the evidence for freeborn artisans, and the representation of freeborn children in apprenticeships in the previous chapter counts for something. Nevertheless, investment in the human capital of slaves deserves close examination in its own right.¹⁷¹

Investing in slaves’ education seems to have made economic sense, since skilled slaves apparently were a precious commodity. The produce they were responsible for was worth more, and they would typically command higher prices in the market.¹⁷² Paul refers to a case in which a skilled workman was commissioned by a friend to buy a slave apprentice, who was afterwards sold for double the original price.¹⁷³ Likewise, the slave chapter in Diocletian’s *Prices Edict* includes a clause that a skilled slave could be sold for up to twice the standard price for a slave of the same age and gender.¹⁷⁴ According to Plutarch, the

167 cf. Silver (2011); Ramin and Veyne (1981), who believe it to be one of the main sources of slaves. See above.

168 Temin (2004a) 526.

169 Garnsey (1980) 44; cf Mouritsen (2011a) 219 especially n. 63: “There is little evidence that more responsible or specialist functions were filled with hired labour”.

170 Burford (1972); Cf Park (1918) 49, 88-9, who seems to adhere to this scenario also for unskilled labourers.

171 For which the articles by Booth (1979), Forbes (1955), and Mohler (1940) are still relevant.

172 Saller (2013) 78; Mouritsen (2011a) 219: “The slaves’ status as property meant their value could be improved”.

173 *Dig.* 17.1.26.8.

174 *Edict* 29.8, see above; cf *Col. RR.* 3.3.8 (1st c. AD), estimating the price of a skilled vine dresser at 6,000–8,000 sesterces, roughly three or four times the price of an adult slave.

elder Cato allowed his slaves to buy slaves and train them for a year, with the specific goal of selling them at a profit.¹⁷⁵ Conversely, Crassus personally invested heavily in the education of his slaves and benefited from their labour himself, again going by Plutarch's account.¹⁷⁶ Moreover, it is unlikely that elite *domus* were capable of replacing all of their skilled personnel with a home-taught individual. Death, illness and various other factors that necessitated replacement could not always have been planned for so there was no way to ensure that a replacement was at the ready.¹⁷⁷ Hence, there must have been quite a market for skilled labour – which, in many instances, meant a market for skilled slaves.

Household schools and household schooling

The argument for the training of slaves in larger *domus* comes mainly from various references to the so-called *paedagogium*.¹⁷⁸ A *paedagogium* seems to have been an in-house school for slave boys that was part of some larger households. It is best described as a 'page-school', something Columella refers to as "training-schools for the most contemptible vices – the seasoning of food to promote gluttony and the more extravagant serving of courses".¹⁷⁹ These boys were pretty and well-dressed 'pet' slaves, home-born *vernae* in particular.

The evidence on these page-schools is not so straightforward, however. A reference to the *paedagogium* in the *Letters* of Pliny the Younger is exemplary in the lack of information it provides:

Plin. Ep. 7.27.13

Puer in paedagogio mixtus pluribus dormiebat: venerunt per fenestras (ita nar-
rat) in tunicis albis duo cubantemque detonderunt, et qua venerunt recesserunt.
Hunc quoque tonsum sparsosque circa capillos dies ostendit.

A boy slept in the *paedagogium*, in among many others: two figures in white tunics came through the windows (so he says) and shaved the sleeping boy, and went back the way they came. The day shows this boy bald and amidst scattered locks of hair.¹⁸⁰

175 Plut. *Cato* 21,7.

176 Plut. *Crass.* 2.4-6; cf Saller (2013) 78: "Plutarch's phrase *organa empsucha* might be translated, with some license, as 'human capital'".

177 Mouritsen (2013) 58, 60, quoted above.

178 Mohler (1940); Forbes (1955); Keegan (2013) 73-5.

179 Forbes (1955) 335; Columella 1 praef. 5; *contemptissimorum vitiorum officinae, gulosius condiendi cibos et luxuriosius fericula struendi*, translation Ash, Loeb Classical Library.

180 Plin. *Ep.* 7.27.13; I translated *ostendit* as a *praesens historicum*, in accordance with the analysis of the narrative modes in Pliny 7.27 by Kroon (2002). See her p. 196 for the probability of reading *ostendit* as historical present rather than perfect.

We are informed that many boys slept over in the *paedagogium*, which is why Mohler takes it to be a kind of boarding school.¹⁸¹ Unfortunately Pliny offers no further details as to what goes on in the *paedagogia*.

The remains of two archaeological structures in Rome have been nominated as a possible locus for the imperial *paedagogium*, one on the Caelian, one on the Palatine hill. In an analysis of graffiti from the Palatine *paedagogium*, Peter Keegan attempts to demonstrate that slave boys were educated in reading and writing.¹⁸² It is the only evidence that suggests that the *paedagogium* is “where urban slave children were taught the elements of letters and numbers, as well as the finer arts of elegant domestic service”.¹⁸³ Keegan’s tentative suggestion is that the *paedagogiani* may even have had the opportunity to learn a job,¹⁸⁴ because a *custos, ianitor* (both doorkeepers), *opifer* (helper),¹⁸⁵ and a *perfusor* (bath-servant)¹⁸⁶ are identified in the scribbles. Whereas I am willing to accept that some or even most boys obtained a very basic literacy, I do not think that this necessarily happened in the *paedagogium* (see below). Moreover, the occupations mentioned are few and unskilled, and so I remain unconvinced that any systematic job-training took place in the *paedagogium*. Having said that, Keegan is of course right in his more general observation that the boys were prepared for “personal service at close quarters to the emperor, his family, and the imperial retinue of aristocratic and equestrian retainers.”¹⁸⁷ In my opinion, the remainder of Keegan’s article reads mostly like a strong confirmation of Columella’s prejudices towards the *paedagogium* as a “training school for the most contemptible vices”.

The foregoing discussion raises the question of how widespread and how influential the *paedagogium* as an educational institution really was. If this was indeed “antiquity’s most systematic and durable plan for educating slave children”,¹⁸⁸ Roman plans for slave education in general do not appear to have been systematic or durable. Students from

181 Mohler (1940) 270.

182 Keegan (2013) 75-8. Keegan brings out the “educational heterogeneity” of the graffiti – about 10 per cent exhibits “a certain grade of instruction corresponding suggestively to the use of the building as a *paedagogium*” (76). This educational heterogeneity is then interpreted as a reflection of “the process of learning to write”.

183 Saller (2013) 78; The assumption that language and arithmetic were also taught in the *paedagogium* is widespread: Mohler (1940) and Forbes (1955).

184 Keegan (2013) 79-81.

185 Keegan (2013) 81 thinks this is a slave who provided medical aid, which would make it a highly skilled job. In n. 40 he admits that literally the word means aid-bringer. I should like to add it also means ‘helper’, which may be no more than a generic term for a trusted slave. I know of no other attestation of *opifer* as a job-title.

186 A slave who pours water over bathers.

187 Keegan (2013) 81.

188 Forbes (1955) 336.

the *paedagogium* are attested almost exclusively for the imperial household.¹⁸⁹ The archaeological evidence is for the imperial *paedagogia*, and it should be underlined that the identification of these structures as a *paedagogium* is less than secure.

Many of the elite households included a so-called *paedagogus* (male or female), and it is of course tempting to connect *paedagogi* as teachers to a *paedagogium* – in the sense of school. There is, however, no indication for *paedagogi* in a *paedagogium*, or for a *paedagogium* in the households where a *paedagogus/-a* is attested. Moreover, the occupation of *paedagogus* is not so easy to define.

Apuleius records a *paedagogus* “in the classic role of escorting a boy to and from school”.¹⁹⁰ Lucius the Ass recalls the story of the wife of a town-councillor – a mother of two, an older stepson, and her own boy (of whom it is said that he is over 12 years old). She tries to seduce her stepson and – when the young man does not give in – plans to poison him with the help of her slave.

Apul. Met. 10.5.1–4

Ac dum de oblationis opportunitate secum noxii deliberant homines, forte fortuna puer ille iunior, proprius pessimae feminae filius, post matutinum laborem studiorum domum se recipiens, prandio iam capto sitiens repertum vini poculum, in quo venenum latebat inclusum, nescius fraudis occultae continuo perduxit haustu. Atque ubi fratri suo paratam mortem ebibit, examinis terrae procumbit, ilicoque repentina pueri pernicie paedagogus commotus ululabili clamore matrem totamque ciet familiam.

But while those two were conferring as to when to offer him the wine, fate chanced to intervene. The younger boy, the stepmother’s own son, came home from morning school for his lunch, and feeling thirsty found the wine, already imbued with poison. Ignorant of the danger lurking there, he drank it in one great gulp, and swallowing the venom destined for his brother fell lifeless to the ground. His servant, terrified at this sudden collapse, raised a cry of horror that brought the mother running along with the whole household.¹⁹¹

The story ends well: the boy survives and the stepmother and her slave are punished (*Met.* 10.11-12). For our purposes we may focus on the fact that the younger son, not ac-

189 Keegan (2013) 73-5.

190 Bradley (2012) 85, talking about *Ap. Met.* 10.5.1-4. The reference in Bradley is erroneous (he writes 10.4.5).

191 Translation A.S. Kline, poetryintranslation.com.

tually that young anymore, apparently was accompanied to school by his *paedagogus*,¹⁹² which surely means that the *paedagogus* was not the boy's teacher. Indeed the frequent occurrence of *paedagogi* in the epigraphs suggests that they were the more common child minders. The same story does contain an earlier mention of the elder brother's 'old teacher' (*educator senex*, *Met.* 10.5.4), however, which indicates that this family had access to a teacher, who may or may not have lived in with them. The linguistic connection between *paedagogium* and *paedagogi* is thus misleading.

Attending to children is, in fact, one of the most common professions attested overall for men and, particularly, for women. The household of the Statilii included five *paedagogi*, the household of the Volusii employed three – plus an additional four nurses, and two *grammatici*.¹⁹³ Thamyris, slave footservant of Livia, "gives an urn" (*dat ollam*) to his *magister* Cnismus.¹⁹⁴ Although the exact functions of the various child-minders are not always clear, their considerable presence in the aristocratic *domus* demonstrates that the resources for in-house schooling were present. Child-minders themselves proudly advertise that they looked after the elite children – although the epigraphic evidence suggests that both the children of their elite owners and home-born slave boys and girls were left in their care.¹⁹⁵ A single name for pedagogue and charge, for example, suggests servile status for both, as in *CIL* 6.9748 and *CIL* 6. 33894.

CIL 6. 9748

Hilario / paed(agogo) / Celeris

To Hilarius, pedagogue of Celer.

192 A reference to escorting a slave girl is, e.g., in Terence's *Phormio*: a young man called Phaedria falls in love with a slave girl he cannot have and can therefore only follow her around, v. 86: *in ludum ducere et reducere*; later one of the characters jokingly refers back to this when asking about Phaedria: "What of the pedagogue of that lute-girl?" (*quid paedagogus ille qui citharistram...?*, v. 144).

193 Hasegawa (2005) 36 table 3.4 lists child minders for the households of the Statilii, Volusii, Livia, and Iunii. In this context it is perhaps interesting to note that Mouritsen (2013) considers the Volusian tomb to be the most complete, and therefore the most representative, *columbarium*.

194 *CIL* 6. 4006.

195 Bradley (1991) 37–75 on (male) child attendants of slave children as well as aristocratic children, with appendix of inscriptions from Rome.

CIL 6. 33894

D(is) M(anibus) / Rufi qui / vixit an(nos) XIIII / m(enses) VII d(ies) X / Nicepiorus /
paedag(ogus) b(ene) m(erenti) f(ecit)

To the divine spirits. (Grave of) Rufus. He lived 18 years, 7 months and 10 days.
Nicepiorus his pedagogue set this up for him. He deserved it.

This scattered evidence appears to support the assumption that young urban slaves – both male and female – may have been taught the basics of reading, writing, and perhaps arithmetic.¹⁹⁶ Their primary education need not have taken place within a *paedagogium* or even within the household: Booth adduces literary evidence that makes it plausible that slaves also attended the ordinary street schools of the *ludi magister* alongside free-born boys and girls.¹⁹⁷ Schooling could be expensive, but it was probably well within the means of the elite: Diocletian's *Price Edict* lists a price of 75 denarii per pupil per month for a *grammaticus*. At a daily wage of 25 denarii a day for unskilled and 50 for skilled work, the investment would soon pay itself back.

A basic education therefore appears to have been regularly available to slaves; but even though it is clear that there were virtually no practical obstacles, it is impossible to say how many actually received such an education.

Arts and crafts

It is clear from the evidence that some slaves were skilled beyond a basic education, and were trained in the arts or crafts. From the perspective of the wealthy owner, one option was of course simply to buy skilled slaves on the market – this has already been discussed. All specialised slave artisans nevertheless must have learnt their trade in one of two ways: through learning by doing in the household itself, or through an apprenticeship. The following sections deal with both options for investing in the education of artisans.

Learning by doing

Although there is no direct evidence for learning by doing within the aristocratic household, it can be made plausible.¹⁹⁸ From Cicero's correspondence we know of his friend Atticus' sophisticated copy shop. Nepos addresses what was exceptional in Atticus' business, however, and that had everything to do with his slaves.

196 Most extensively: Mohler (1940).

197 Booth (1979) refers specifically to Martial and Petronius, of which Martial *Epig.* 10. 62 is most convincing; on the *ludi magister* see e.g., Laes and Strubbe (2008) 75.

198 Mouritsen (2011a) 212.

Nep. Att. 13.3–4

Usus est familia, si utilitate iudicandum est, optima; si forma, vix mediocri. Namque in ea erant pueri litteratissimi, anagnostae optimi et plurimi librarii, ut ne pedisequus quidem quisquam esset, qui non utrumque horum pulchre facere posset, pari modo artifices ceteri, quos cultus domesticus desiderat, apprime boni. (4) Neque tamen horum quemquam nisi domi natum domique factum habuit; quod est signum non solum continentiae, sed etiam diligentiae.

He kept an establishment of slaves (*familia*) of the best kind, if we were to judge of it by its utility, but if by its external show, scarcely coming up to mediocrity; for there were in it well-taught youths, excellent readers, and numerous transcribers of books, insomuch that there was not even a footman (*pedisequus*) that could not act in either of those capacities extremely well. Other kinds of artificers (*artifices caeteri*), also, such as domestic necessities require, were very good there (4) yet he had no one among them that was not born and instructed (*factum*) in his house; all which particulars are proofs, not only of his self-restraint, but of his attention to his affairs.¹⁹⁹

The slave *familia* of Atticus is praised in all but its beauty (*forma*). Their excellence is explained as a direct result of the fact that they were born, raised and trained in the household – a token of Atticus' *continentia* and *diligentia*, presented by Nepos as the qualities that set Atticus apart in a positive way. The passage thus underlines the existence of learning by doing in the household, but it also points to the fact that this was not necessarily the standard.

While Nepos' account of Atticus raising and educating his own slaves in his household might be viewed as recording a laudable exception, the epigraphic evidence supports the practice of home-schooling artisans as well. The family of the Statilii, for example, clearly focused on textile production.²⁰⁰ Their household included, among others, no less than eight wool spinners (all female), five seamstresses, four fullers, and three weavers (m/f).²⁰¹ This can plausibly be read as relatively direct evidence of learning by doing within the elite household. Epigraphic evidence from the *columbaria* is scanty, but the following inscription from the *monumentum Liviae* is suggestive:

199 Translation Rev. J.S. Watson (1853).

200 On the Statilii and cloth production, Hasegawa (2005) 39–44.

201 Most likely to be contemporaneous: the inscriptions are all dated between 20–97 AD, Buonocore (1984) 44.

CIL 6. 6376 = ILS 7416a

Antiocho / magistro / unctores

The masseurs (set up this monument) for their instructor Antiochus

It is not difficult to come up with reasons why a family of aristocrats, or a family of entrepreneurs, should have wanted to train their slaves within the *domus*. The students would soon be able to contribute substantially to the working process, even during the learning process when they had not fully mastered the trade. Their continuous labour contribution would therefore limit the cost of forgone earnings during the time of education, making this type of on the job training a more profitable – or at least less costly – way to invest in human capital.

Occupational inscriptions offer additional evidence for learning by doing, or at least evidence for the education of slaves in the household and of the wide-ranging effects of the *domus* economy. Every job-title for a freedman is an indication of his or her job-training as a slave. The ties between patrons and freedmen were never completely severed. The overwhelming numbers adduced in this chapter above indicate that many freedmen used to be part of a larger aristocratic household when enslaved.

The continued economic bonds between patron and freedman are unambiguously recorded in an inscription as often as they can be postulated. When fellow freedmen are explicitly ascribed the same occupation, surely the assumption that it reflects learning on the job in the household of one's master is not too far-fetched.²⁰² Small groups of three or more *colliberti* commemorated together are a recurrent phenomenon in the occupational inscriptions.²⁰³ The freedmen of the Veturii who worked in the business of purple-dying together were already mentioned in the previous chapter.²⁰⁴ Similarly, fellow freedmen who were also co-workers, are attested for the profession of *thurarius* (incense dealer, *CIL* 6. 9934), *gemmarius* (jeweller, *CIL* 6. 9435), *ferrarius* (ironsmith, *CIL* 6. 9398), *aerarius vascularius* (tableware bronze maker, *CIL* 6. 9138), and that of *vestiarius tenuarius* (fine tailor, *CIL* 6. 37826) – and these are just attestations from *CIL* volume 6. The additional example of the tailors in *CIL* 6. 33920 deserves a closer look.²⁰⁵

202 The example of *CIL* 6. 9215 discussed in chapter 3 is unique in that it designates both freedman and patron (himself a freedman) as axle-makers.

203 Joshel (1992) 128-45 has much to offer on the occupational inscriptions of freedmen artisans and their relations with patron and *colliberti*.

204 N. 299 with reference to Dixon (2001b).

205 Also singled out by Joshel (1992) 131-3.

CIL 6. 33920

P(ublio) Avillio P(ubli) I(iberto) Menandro patrono / post mortem liberti fecerunt et / sibi {i}<et> qui infra scripti sunt / Avillia P(ubli) I(iberta) Philusa / P(ublius) Avillius P(ubli) I(ibertus) Hilarus / P(ublius) Avillius P(ubli) I(ibertus) Anteros / P(ublius) Avillius P(ubli) I(ibertus) Felix / vest{e}<i>[a]ri(i) de Cermalus minusculo a [3] / sobe[

To Publius Avilius Menander, freedman of Publius, patron. His freedmen set this up after his death, also for themselves, [c.q.] those who are recorded below.

Avilia Philusa, freedwoman of Publius; Publius Avilius Hilarus, freedman of Publius; Publius Avilius Anteros, freedman of Publius; Publius Avilius Felix, freedman of Publius. Tailors from the smaller Germalus ...

It should be noted that the patron mentioned in this inscription, Menander, was a freedman himself. The other four – three men and a woman – commemorate him in death, while referring to their current workplace on the Germalus.²⁰⁶ This epitaph is evidence for the continued bonds between patron and freedmen on a somewhat larger scale than the examples in chapter 3. There can be no doubt that all of these freedmen gained their skills in slavery; we may infer that P. Avilius Menander set up his own independent workshop sometime after manumission, or that he became independent upon the death of his master. He continued the business with his own slaves, whom he subsequently freed. Even if Menander's master were still alive, there was no law to prevent competition between freedmen and their former masters: indeed, in this context the law protects freedmen's interests.²⁰⁷ Alternatively, Menander could have continued to work for, or with, his former master after manumission, in which case this example would reflect cooperation and continuation of the family business rather than competition.

A different category of inscriptions records *liberti* – a husband and wife – with distinct job-titles. Identical *nomina* suggests they came from the same *familia*; some carry different *nomina*, which illustrates a shared servile history but not in the same household. In most instances couples remained within the shared elite household of origin, as the example of Maritimus and Quintia shows – CIL 6. 33794 quoted above. Others set up their own household, or at least their own epitaph. The fact that husband and wife had distinct occupations was explained in chapter 3 by the fact that both had already learnt

206 The Germalus refers to a part of the Palatine hill.

207 Verboven (2012a) 96; Mouritsen (2011a) 212 n 28.

a trade as slaves in their master's household.²⁰⁸ This type of epitaph therefore also presents indirect evidence of the *domus* economy.

Apprenticeships

Members of the slave *familia* in a wealthy household could also be apprenticed out rather than home-schooled, just like the slaves from a nonelite family. 12 out of 50 apprenticeship contracts from Roman Egypt were concluded for slave children.²⁰⁹ The numbers are too small to base strong arguments on, and it should be noted that slavery in Roman Egypt may have been of a different nature than slavery in the cities of Roman Italy: in Egypt slaves only made up 5–10 per cent of the urbanized population, and they are likely to have been mostly household slaves.²¹⁰ Seen in that light, 12 slaves out of 50 artisan apprentices is perhaps more than expected.

Within these 10 documents for slave children, there is no apparent discrimination regarding the gender of the child. Their equal representation in apprenticeship contracts notably sets slave girls apart from their freeborn counterparts. It is also remarkable that the documents for slave children are more consistent in terms of the investment than those for freeborn children: slave apprentices generally are paid for their work, save for those in the luxury trades. As a result, the direct and indirect costs of investment in human capital through apprenticeship were mitigated somewhat.

The cost of apprenticing out many slaves could add up, but even so monetary considerations were, or so it must be presumed, less of a problem from the perspective of a wealthy owner than it was for the nonelite. Therefore, the decision must have rested on more practical considerations. If a household essentially was a textile production unit in itself, it would make no sense to apprentice out another weaver when it was so easily taught at home. More importantly, the point of having a slave entourage in the city for the elite was that the slaves would be conspicuously present in the *domus*, in large numbers and at all times. It was also the most pragmatic way to have slaves multi-tasking and/or working after hours, both of which appears to have been normal procedure. Whatever the reasons, most lines of reasoning suggest that learning on the job within the aristocratic household production unit apparently took precedence over apprenticeships. I would go so far as to tentatively suggest that the slave apprentices we know of conceivably originated from nonelite households – though this cannot be more than a suggestion.

Despite the limited quantity of the surviving sources, it seems possible to conclude that elite slave-owners were prone to invest in slaves who showed potential. In-house

208 The category is also discussed under the heading of 'independent women' in chapter 3.

209 See appendix 2.

210 Scheidel (2011a) 289–90.

schools, on-the-job training and even apprenticeships were all very real options. The direct cost of investing in schooling appear to have been relatively modest, tempered by in-house schooling or job-training, so all it took was time and effort; a slave apprentice was regularly – if not always – paid for his or her efforts. Both constructions helped to mitigate the indirect cost of forgone earnings.

In the long run, an educated slave brought many advantages. Education or job-training will have exponentially increased the slave's lifetime earnings. Contrary to the freeborn, slaves could not run away with their human capital.²¹¹ Even the human capital of those slaves who were freed, remained available to their former owners through various forms of dependence. Saller argues that the elite households were in need of trustworthy managers and overseers in particular: "The large *domus* (households) were the largest private productive units in the early empire, requiring coordination, monitoring and record-keeping".²¹² This, according to Saller, will have encouraged them to educate their own future administrators, to make sure that these key positions were filled by individuals that could be trusted because of their strong link with the household.²¹³ If it were merely a matter of training sufficient numbers of managers and overseers, however, as Saller seems to imply, the education of slaves in the elite *domus* arguably would not have left such a clear record. Quite apart from such considerations of reliability, economic opportunism was probably also an important incentive: this chapter pointed out that in the market a skilled slave brought in twice the wages, or twice the price, of an unskilled slave. And there certainly was a market for skilled slaves because, as we have seen, the need for a replacement often arose unexpectedly.

To sum up, household slaves were in a good position to receive a basic education and/or some form of job-training. That means that in terms of skilled work, the freeborn workforce faced some serious competition from the servile population.

THE EVIDENCE FROM COLUMBARIUM TOMBS

In terms of the occupational inscriptions that form the main dataset used in this study, the larger household is reflected specifically in the epigraphic material from elite *columbaria*. "[C]olumbaria are closed, collective funerary monuments that deposit cremation

211 Saller (2013) 78.

212 Saller (2013) 78.

213 Silver suggests that it was also an incentive for the freeborn to sell themselves into slavery, in order to be eligible for the job, Silver (2011) 89-92, 95. Saller seems to think of home-born slaves in this context, however, which negates that correlation.

ashes in urns and niches on their interior walls'.²¹⁴ 'Elite columbaria' more specifically refers to subterranean columbaria only. Columbarium tombs built aboveground form a more diverse tomb type of a later date. Aboveground columbarium tombs were geographically more widespread than the subterranean ones, but the aboveground monuments that I happen to know of as a rule were considerably smaller, raising the suspicion that they were perhaps also rather less likely to concern elite households.²¹⁵

The construction of subterranean *columbaria* was a relatively short-lived phenomenon of the first century AD. Many of the tomb-chambers were used for only a generation or two, which adds to a coherent picture of the tomb population; some tomb populations are more difficult to analyse in their entirety, however, because the *columbarium* remained in use until the second and third centuries. It is also significant that the existence of columbarium tombs was restricted mainly to the capital and its environs.²¹⁶ This points to urban elite households as part of the specific nature of the labour market in the city of Rome, which should not come as a surprise: the elite may have clustered in towns more generally, but for the wealthiest senators, there was no place like Rome – so that is where their slave *familiae* resided, and were buried.²¹⁷

It is a fortunate characteristic of the columbarium tomb type that many of the deceased who found their final resting place in them received individual commemoration in an epitaph.²¹⁸ The inscriptions reveal that these monuments contained the remains chiefly of slaves and ex-slaves from elite households.²¹⁹ That is why this material offers an excellent opportunity to study the composition of aristocratic *domus*.

Epigraphic evidence for elite *domus* from the *columbaria*

Columbarium tomb inscriptions in Joshel's sample make up 21.4 per cent of the occupational inscriptions from the city of Rome (including slave, freed, and free).²²⁰ Because the

214 Borbonus (2014) 20. Borbonus provides the most recent and extensive study of subterranean *columbaria* to date. Much of the general information that follows was taken from (or corroborated by) his work. Borbonus on p. 18 points out that strictly speaking, *columbarium* refers to one niche only. Technically the tomb should therefore be called '*columbarium* tomb' or '*columbarium* monument', and this I will do. However, *columbarium* has become accepted usage and will be applied here as well. Cf Bodel (2008) 195-6.

215 To my knowledge there is no comprehensive study of this type of tomb, let alone its epigraphic heritage.

216 Borbonus (2014) 146 ff for scarce attestations of *columbaria* outside of Rome; they do not quite match the definition provided.

217 Rens Tacoma pointed out that there is also the practical matter of tufa, that allowed the building of *columbaria* in the vicinity of Rome.

218 Cf. Borbonus (2014) 106–9.

219 Borbonus (2014) 1.

220 Joshel (1992) 73.

columbaria are exclusive to Rome, that percentage is lower for Roman Italy as a whole. It is likely that the *columbaria* we know of do not encompass all (occupational) inscriptions that originate from an elite household. Ex-slaves in particular, but also slaves may have been buried outside the household columbarium, as the following epitaph seems to illustrate.²²¹

CIL 6. 9775

Doris Statiliae Mino[ris] / pediseq(ua) / Erotis ad i{m}[n]pediment[a] / vixit an(nos)
XXIII

For Doris, foot servant of Statilia the Younger, (companion) of Eros, caretaker of baggage. She lived 24 years.

Even if it was not actually found *in* the Statilian tomb, there is no doubt in my mind about the affiliations of Doris and Eros. And if the text itself were not clear enough, the editors of *CIL* add that the inscription also appears to have been found near the monument of the Statilii. But not all of the epitaphs for household members buried outside of the *columbarium* can be identified as such as easily as this.

There must also have been several other *domus* of a considerable size that were somewhat less extravagant than the ones we know of. The unique text of *CIL* 14. 5306 from Ostia is interesting in this respect.

CIL 14. 5306

Agathemeris Manliae ser(va) / [Ac]hulea Fabiae ser(va) ornatrix / [C]aletuche
Vergiliae ser(va) ornatrix / Hilara Licinia[er(va) orn]atrix / Crheste(!) Corn[el]iae
ser(va) ornatrix / Hilara Seiae ser(va) ornatrix / Moscis ornatrix / Rufa Apeiliae
ser(va) ornatrix / Chila ornatrix

This is a lead tablet with a list of nine hairdressers, whose single, Greek names indicate slave status. Although the document is obscure in many other respects, the list suggests

221 Penner (2013) 27 notes that “of all Livia’s slaves and freed slaves attested in the inscriptional evidence, slightly more than half come from the Monumentum Liviae, while the remainder were found elsewhere...”.

to me that all of these women served aristocratic women.²²² For seven of nine *ornatrices* an aristocratic owner is mentioned; only for Moscis and Rufa no mistress is recorded.

It is clear that many inscriptions of slaves connected to elite households were also found outside the *columbaria*. Therefore, inscriptions connected to elite households are likely to have made up a larger percentage of the occupational inscriptions from the city of Rome than the 21.4 per cent mentioned above. Indeed, Joshel connects 31.6 per cent of all occupational inscriptions from Rome to a private context.²²³ Although Joshel's definition of 'a private context' is nowhere made explicit, the pattern in the occupational inscriptions is clear and can be supported even if we just take into account the more secure evidence of the *columbaria*-inscriptions. It must be concluded that many Romans were employed in the service of wealthy elite *domus* – particularly, but not exclusively, slaves. These findings match up well with the more general pattern outlined above connecting urban slavery with elite households.

A word of caution is in order, however. The epitaphs from elite household columbarium tombs from the city of Rome represent a change in epigraphic habit, a localized "early peak of epigraphic output", that was established because the particular form of a columbarium tomb meant that virtually every tomb occupant received an inscription.²²⁴ That peak of epigraphic output and the additional fact that the *columbaria* have been relatively well preserved, is reflected in the data. In other words: columbarium tombs, and therefore elite households, are overrepresented in the epigraphic data. Moreover, it was apparently more common to record professions in *columbaria* inscriptions than in other epitaphs, increasing the prominence of elite staff labourers among the

222 The lead indicates that it is a curse tablet, also noted by Meiggs (1960) 226 n. 1; in my view this makes Treggiari's suggestion that the inscription is evidence of a school for hairdressers highly unlikely, Treggiari (1979) n. 47. The inclusion of Agathemeris in this list indicates to me that she was a hairdresser, too, even if this is not stated explicitly.

223 Joshel (1992) 74.

224 Borbonus (2014) 108. Borbonus mentions one columbarium near the Sepulcrum Scipionum (his cat.nr. 1) where this niche-by-niche identification was planned (there are painted tabula ansata under the niches) but this was not executed (they are not filled in); similarly, I noticed that in the smaller columbarium 'of Pomponius Hylas' (nearby) the burials are more numerous than the individuals identified in inscriptions, with coffins under the floor, loose urns added, and so on. The general 'early peak in epigraphic habit' is nevertheless not in doubt.

occupational inscriptions.²²⁵ In the monument of the Statilii, for example, no less than 28 per cent of all individuals recorded an occupation. For all *columbaria* combined the percentage is much lower, but still significant at 15.9 per cent.²²⁶ In contrast, it may be recalled that profession was generally recorded in less than 5 per cent of inscriptions. The question of how representative the numbers are, is ultimately insoluble.

Single family tombs

If the *columbaria* reflect elite households, the assumption that they were set up by aristocratic heads of family follows naturally: they were viewed as monuments *libertis libertabusque*, so to speak. Contrary to earlier and still influential interpretations along these lines, it has now convincingly been argued that the tombs were most likely set up, or at least organized, by household associations (*collegia*).²²⁷ Emphasis on the agency of *collegia* does not preclude the possibility of (financial) support from an elite patron, just like the earlier interpretations left room for the practical responsibilities of the associations, but I embrace the shift in perspective.²²⁸ That the initiative rested with a burial association rather than with the wealthy patrons would explain why the aristocratic family itself was not included in the tombs, why the monuments were of a relatively modest nature and, most significantly, why the tombs cannot always be connected to a single elite family, but regularly include slaves and freedmen of several elite masters in one chamber.²²⁹

The best means of identifying the household(s) represented in a columbarium is the nomenclature of the deceased. Dorian Borbonus devised a cluster index (“C”) of *nomina* for all *columbaria* to analyse this aspect: in the columbarium ‘of the Statilii’ for example, one would expect to find a clustering of the *nomen* ‘Statilius’. By measuring the cluster-

225 The various households have been said to demonstrate different preferences for what was recorded on the epitaphs, and so occupation may not be as prominent in every tomb: Treggiari’s observation that “fashions vary from *columbarium* to *columbarium*: job data are prominent in the Statilian tomb and family data in the Volusian. There was little room for both on the standard plaque”, (1976) 98, is corroborated by Penner (2012). Whereas there may well have been such a thing as *columbarium*-fashions, the mention of occupation was relatively prominent in most of them; Borbonus (2014) 128 table 9, Penner (2012) 157 figure 10.10, Hasegawa (2005) 32.

226 Hasegawa (2005) 4, 32 table 3.1 for 28 per cent of the individuals in the *columbarium* of the Statilii; cf Borbonus (2014) 128 table 9: 28.8 per cent for the Statilii, 15.9 per cent on average.

227 See now Borbonus (2014) 136 ff; contra Hasegawa (2005), Patterson (1992) 18, and Purcell (1987) all stress the importance of patronage; Note that a (household) association may provide for burial, but that does not necessarily imply the existence of *collegia funeraticia*, see chapter 5.

228 Cf. Treggiari (1975a) 63 with n. 148, who points to the apparent permission of Lucius Noster in some of the Statilian inscriptions, such as *CIL* 6. 7370.

229 Patterson (1992) 18 seems to think that the patron’s natural family was buried in the columbarium tomb, too, but I know of no evidence for this.

ing of *nomina* in each tomb, Borbonus ascertains four ‘single household *columbaria*’ (with $C > 40$): the columbarium of the Statilii does indeed qualify, and in addition so do the columbarium of the Volusii, that of the Iunii Silani, and that of the Arruntii.²³⁰ The case of the Volusii is exceptional because no columbarium structure was ever found, but the collection of epitaphs suggests a similar collective household burial arrangement.²³¹

Clustering of *nomina* is somewhat less strong in the columbarium known as that of Livia ($C = 20/21$), yet Treggiari feels that “[t]he individual slave-owner whose household staff can be most fully reconstructed is Augustus’ widow Livia”.²³² In my view it is highly likely that the monument does represent the household of the empress. In this case, however, the cluster index presumably signals the monument’s continued use into the third century, which is why it contains imperial slaves and freedmen of later emperors, for example, in addition to members of Livia’s domestic staff – thereby lowering the cluster index.²³³ Moreover, the larger the monument, the more likely it was to contain ‘outsiders’, since slaves and freedmen did not always marry within the household. Even so their families were regularly included.²³⁴ The following example from the Volusian tomb shows that the family connections could branch out far.

CIL 6. 7290 = CIL 6. 27557

[Dis] / Manibus [sacru]m / Primigenius L(uci) Volusi / Saturnini ser(vus) ab hospiti(i) s et / paedagog(us) pueror(um) Charidi cont(ubernali) s(uae) b(ene) m(erenti) / T(itus) Iulius Antigonus gener eius / Spurinniae Niceni Torquatianae / nutrici suae bene merenti / sanctae piae amatissimae / fecerunt sibi et suis posterisq(ue) eor(um)

- 230 Borbonus (2014) 122: “the values exceeding a ‘c’ of forty (...) are ‘single family columbaria’ that accommodated, wholly or predominantly, slaves and freedmen of a single aristocratic household”. The monument ‘of the Carvillii’ has $C=53$, but the ten inscriptions also mention others from various families, which is presumably why it is not classified as a single family tomb. The formula for the cluster index is on page 248 n. 53.
- 231 The same is true for the ‘monument’ “of the gens Abuccia”: Borbonus (2014) 28, cat. nr 17; Hasegawa (2005) 4.
- 232 Treggiari (1975a) 48; See for an analysis of Livia’s domestic staff especially Treggiari (1975a), but also Treggiari (1973), (1975b), (1976); Hasegawa (2005).
- 233 Borbonus (2014) 175-6. Conversely, there are also servants of Livia in tombs with other imperial servants, Treggiari (1975a) 65 n.4; Hasegawa (2005) 22.
- 234 See above for *contubernia* and marriages crossing household boundaries; Mouritsen (2013) 54 table 8 includes his count of outsider marriages for the *columbaria* of the Volusii and Statilii for example; It would not be unusual if some of the husband’s slaves had relations with some of the wife’s slaves and thereby ended up in ‘her’ columbarium, a practice Treggiari (1975a) 48 identifies for Livia’s monument.

Sacred to the divine spirits. Primigenius, slave of Lucius Volusius Saturninus, in charge of guests and teacher of the (slave?) children, for Charis, his well-deserving *contubernalis*. Titus Iulius Antigonus his brother-in-law, for Spurinnia Nice Torquatiana, his nurse, a well-deserving, loyal, most amiable woman. They set this up for themselves, their [family] and their descendants.

Apart from two slaves of the household, Primigenius and Charis, the text also includes Antigonus and Torquatiana, who carry the *tria nomina* but who were not freedmen of the Volusii. Apparently, Primigenius' right to use the household tomb extended to his wider family, if it could accommodate for his brother-in-law Antigonus, and Antigonus' (freeborn?) nurse.

There are thus only five single family *columbaria* that could potentially give us an indication of the occupational structure of a single household staff.²³⁵ Even single household tombs do not reflect the occupational structure of a household accurately, however, because the boundaries of who were buried in it and who were not are so blurry. Moreover, it is not certain at all that the epigraphic collection from any one tomb is complete, nor is it always easy to distinguish whether the inscriptions – and therefore the recorded jobs – were contemporaneous or not.

The nomenclature of those buried in single family *columbaria* indicates that the large majority was part of the dominant household. There are many other plausible single family households, however;²³⁶ even in multi-family tombs, a large group of individuals can often be connected to a larger household.²³⁷ In her study of the *familia urbana*, for example, Kinuko Hasegawa distinguishes 15 groups of *columbaria*-inscriptions that can be connected with a known aristocratic family or individual owner.²³⁸ In all likelihood, all columbarium-inscriptions are representative of the domestic staff of elite households, regardless of whether the 'inhabitants' originate from one or from several households. In order to maintain a clear sense of context, however, it is important to keep in mind that there is a difference between single family tombs, multi-family tombs and unconnected attestations of household servants, when discussing the particulars of the large domestic household. Having said that, unrelated individuals were probably a minority.

235 It is no coincidence that Sandra Joshel singles out precisely these five single family *columbaria* in her sample, Joshel (1992) 194 n. 47: "Only *columbaria* that include individuals predominantly from one *familia* are considered". The five single family *columbaria* are only mentioned as an example, however, so she probably includes more of the *columbaria*-inscriptions.

236 Penner (2012) analyses epigraphic data from the five largest *columbaria*, including not only the Statilii, Volusii, and Livia, but also the *monumentum Marcellae* and the *monumentum filiorum Drusi*.

237 E.g. the columbarium 'of the Carvillii', or that of the Stertini, Borbonus (2014) cat. nrs 10 and 27.

238 Hasegawa (2005) 5 table 2.1 lists 16 households, but that of Iunius Silanus is a duplicate entry.

Occupational differentiation

Many of the occupations recorded for slaves in the *columbaria* are so specific that they make us wonder whether they would have taken up all of the slave's time: Bradley cites the examples of the *ostiarius* (doorkeeper) and *scoparius* (sweeper), but one might also speculate what is the purpose of the nine foot servants in the household of Livia.²³⁹ It is unlikely that they were left idle when their work was done, so they will have been engaged in other activities now and then.²⁴⁰ Other household slaves who are not recorded with a specific job-title, were probably employed in all tasks imaginable like jacks-of-all-trades. There are two interesting parallel inscriptions of 'multi-tasking' slaves, but they are the only such occupational epitaphs I know of:²⁴¹ The first inscription is written on an altar from the *columbarium* of the Volusii, and records a freed *capsarius* (carrier of scroll-holders) who apparently served also (*idem*) as an *a cubiculo* (bedchamber servant) to "our Lucius". The second is for a freed *a cubiculo et procurator* (bedchamber servant and manager), again to "our Lucius".²⁴² *Lucius noster* freed both of them.

The fact remains that a great variety of jobs is attested for the slaves of elite households.²⁴³ Harper correctly notes that household "scale and specialization were correlated": certainly, elite households were more wealthy and populous, which enabled specialization.²⁴⁴ One could also imagine that it would be helpful to distinguish between individuals with the same name, such as Hilarus the doorkeeper, Hilarus the surgeon and Hilarus the cashier, who were all part of Livia's household.²⁴⁵ There could be various other reasons for the fact that job-titles are prominent in the *columbaria*, however.

239 Bradley (1994) 60; for *pedisequi* (male and female) in the household of Livia, see Hasegawa (2005) 33 and Treggiari (1973) 75-6 who only lists seven.

240 Bodel (2011) 326 with n. 25 for references. Harper (2011) 103-5 at 103 sees domestic service as "a way of utilizing the extra time and labor of otherwise productive slaves".

241 But compare also *P. Wisc.* 1.5 (Oxyrynchus, AD 185), which is the contract of lease for a slave woman, who is leased out to help a weaver with his craft, but who can contractually be called back by her owner to bake bread during the night. There is some evidence of moving from one job to another, for which see elsewhere in this thesis.

242 *CIL* 6. 7368: *Di(i)s Manibus / sacrum / L(ucio) Volusio Heraclae / capsario idem / a cubiculo L(uci) n(ostri) / Volusia Prima patron(o) / suo piissimo idem / coniugi bene merent(i) fecit / et sibi p(ermissu) L(uci) n(ostri) / Thyrsa a cell(l)a / v(ixit) a(nnos) XXXV*; and *CIL* 6. 7370: *Dis Manibus / L(ucio) Volusio / Paridi a cubiculo / et procuratori L(uci) n(ostri) / Claudia Helpis cum / Volusia Hamilla et / Volusio Paride / fili(i)s suis coniugi suo / bene merenti / permissu L(uci) n(ostri) / s(ua) p(ecunia) f(ecerunt)*. It is difficult to establish to which Lucius Volusius Saturninus the inscriptions refer, see Hasegawa (2005) 20-1.

243 Emphasized by e.g. Treggiari (1975a) and Bradley (1994) for the household of Livia.

244 Harper (2011) 102.

245 The *ostiarius urbanus* (doorkeeper) of *CIL* 6. 8964; the *medicus chirurgus* (surgeon) of *CIL* 6. 3986; and Hilarus Gugetianus *ad argentum* (cashier) of *CIL* 6. 3941. There was at least one other Hilarus, a freedman of Livia, commemorated without profession in *CIL* 6. 8722.

Bradley quotes the following passage from Columella to argue that there was a practical side to job specialization, encouraging a slave's pride in the assignment as well as conferring the responsibility for it onto him or her.²⁴⁶

Col. RR 1.9.5–6

... ne confundantur opera familiae, sic ut omnes omnia exsequantur. (6) Nam id minime conducit agricolae, seu quia cum enisus est, non suo sed communi officio proficit, ideoque labori multum se subtrahit; nec tamen viritim malefactum deprehenditur, quod fit a multis.

...the duties of the slaves should not be confused to the point where all take a hand in every task. (6) For this is by no means to the advantage of the husbandman, either because no one regards any particular task as his own or because, when he does make an effort, he is performing a service that is not his own but common to all, and therefore shirks his work to a great extent; and yet the fault cannot be fastened upon any one man because many have a hand in it.

Presumably the motivations of a dependent freedman or even of hired labourers would be similar.

Occupational titles of slaves could be considered also as a means of cataloguing material goods. In the words of Bodel:

[O]ne may reasonably question whether studies of the phenomenon are not more revealing of the Roman mania for classifying property than of the varieties of tasks that Roman slaves actually performed.²⁴⁷

The jurists, for one, were indeed much concerned with the job specification of slaves – when they were part of a bequest.²⁴⁸ The following excerpt from Marcian, however, is illuminating in various ways. The passage is placed in the context of bequests concerning slaves.

246 Bradley (1994) 73; Col. RR 1.9.5–6, transl. Ash (1941, Loeb Classical Library).

247 Bodel (2011) 321. Similarly, Bradley (1994) 57: "It was a habit reflecting the Roman's fixation with categorization and hierarchy".

248 Bodel (2011) 326-7 with n. 26.

Dig. 32.65.1-2

1. Si ex officio quis ad artificium transierit, quidam recte putant legatum extinguere, quia officium artificio mutatur: non idem e contrario cum lecticarius cocus postea factus est.

1. If someone proceeds from a job to a craft, one would rightly think to exclude him from the bequest, because the job changed into a craft: that does not hold, conversely, if a litter-bearer is later made a cook.

2. Si unus servus plura artificia sciat et alii coci legati fuerunt, alii textores, alii lecticarii, ei cedere servum dicendum est, cui legati sunt in quo artificio plerumque versabatur.

2. If one slave knows multiple arts and the cooks were bequeathed to one, the weavers to another, the litter-bearers to another, the slave should be ceded to him, to whom are bequeathed those in the craft in which he [the slave] is most often engaged.

The text illustrates not only that it was possible for slaves to proceed in a career, but also that a slave potentially did exercise more than one occupation: the latter theoretical example works with three different engagements for one slave, of which two are perhaps semi-skilled. At the same time it highlights the use of highly specialized slaves as a form of conspicuous consumption.

A brief reference in Tacitus' *Germania* indicates that household specialisation was deemed a sign of civilisation, one that the Germans did not exhibit.

Tac. Germ. 25.1

Ceteris servis non in nostrum morem, descriptis per familiam ministeriis, utuntur: suam quisque sedem, suos penates regit.

The other slaves they do not use as we do, with designated duties throughout the household; each one controls his own holding and home.²⁴⁹

249 Tac. *Germ.* 25.1, translation Rives (1999).

Tacitus is not without implied criticism of the Roman sumptuousness as opposed to Germanic simplicity;²⁵⁰ nevertheless there are other indications that in Roman thought ideally it was not advisable for an aristocrat to have one slave perform more than one job – regardless of how realistic that scenario may have been.²⁵¹

The care with which the manifold occupations are specified in the often brief and modest epitaphs from the columbarium tombs, however, suggests to me that such household specialisation was deemed important beyond mere legalities in the early Roman empire. While job differentiation on *columbaria* inscriptions partly results from the owners' interest in it, the fact that the resulting plethora of job titles was subsequently recorded in such high numbers reflects that to the workers of the servile staff their job-title was a distinctive source of pride.²⁵²

Occupational structure

For reasons set out above, no single one columbarium tomb can be expected to provide the material to allow an accurate outline of the occupational structure of the associated aristocratic house. Even if the full collection of inscriptions from one tomb would have survived – and it most certainly has not – there were individuals who were excluded or buried outside the tomb for various reasons; there were also jobs that were not recorded or under-represented; in addition, an epitaph generated around the moment of death generally does not inform the twenty-first century reader about possible previous careers of the deceased in more humble lines of work. That said, the body of *columbaria*-inscriptions offers what is arguably the best opportunity to reconstruct the basic outlines of occupational structure in an important segment of the urban labour market of early imperial Rome.

The organization of labour in an urban elite *domus*, if anything, does not appear to follow any ideal of self-sufficiency. But a single household should not merely be looked at in isolation: spouses had their own separate slave *familiae* and his and her household were – and were expected to – be used in a complementary way.²⁵³ Labour interdependence between aristocratic households even extended to marginally wider family bonds, between siblings, or in-laws.²⁵⁴ An argument about the self-sufficiency of the household

250 Rives (1999) 61-2 on Tacitus' portrait of the Germani as "moral exemplars" reflecting an idealized past, devoid of the vices that civilization brings.

251 Cic. *Pis.* 67; Ael. *Arist. Rom Or.* 71b; Treggiari (1975a) 61.

252 Joshel (1992) esp. chapter 5.

253 Penner (2012); Cf Treggiari (1975a) 54, who also suggests that Livia "relied on the vaster resources of the ruling Caesar".

254 The interdependence of the elite *domus*, illustrated by means of the Julio-Claudian households, is to my mind the most interesting finding of Penner (2013). Rawson (2005) offers an epigraphic case-study of a wet-nurse who can be traced 'circulating households'.

should therefore be made on the basis of an analysis of the overarching network of two or more elite *familiae* rather than a single household; even then it appears that autarchy was probably never achieved.

The complementary nature of these 'domus-networks' has implications for an understanding of the occupational structure of the elite household. All individual households appear to follow the same blueprint, however. Every single household had a nucleus of domestic servants and personal attendants serving the master or mistress. In line with the legal independence of *familiae* perhaps, each *domus* also seems to have had some form of administrative section. Both categories include chiefly the staff members necessary to run a *domus*. The remainder of the employees were employed in a multitude of professions that, as we shall see, occasionally seem to suggest a kind of specialization for the market.²⁵⁵

In terms of the organization of work, the attested job specialization within the *domus* also reflected an internal occupational hierarchy.²⁵⁶ The household was generally led by a steward (*dispensator*). After that, the situation could become rather more complex. A division into *decuriae* of workers with the accompanying supervisors (*decuriones*) is attested with any credibility only in the enormous household of an emperor or the imperial family.²⁵⁷ *Praepositi*, too, – superintendents of one group or other – were an imperial exclusive.²⁵⁸ But where the emperor Claudius had a *decurio cubiculariorum*, other elite households nevertheless sported a *supra cubicularios* to supervise the bedchamber servants – which surely still points to a staff of significant size.²⁵⁹ There are few if any other supervisory roles that come to the fore: the *supra cocos* was master chef, one may presume, but the *supra iumenta* (person in charge of pack and draft animals) did not necessarily have something to say about the *iumentarii* (drivers of those animals).²⁶⁰ Examples that are similar in wording, like the *supra/ad valetudinarium* 'in charge of' health (presumably the sickbay *vel sim*), and the *a speculum*, 'in charge of' the mirror, abound, but they were really not overseers of staff.

255 Cf Penner (2012) 148.

256 In very general terms: Bradley (1994) 70.

257 Not so credible by contrast: the *decuriae* in Petr. *Sat.* 47.12; Treggiari (1975a) 60 with references in n. 131. Compare, however, the dedication of the mon. Marcellae, CIL 6. 4421, which also mentions *decuriae*: *C(aius) Claudius Marcellae / Minoris l(ibertus) Phasis decurio / monumentum dedicavit et / decuriae epulum dedit d(e) s(ua) p(ecunia) huic / decuria ex aere conlato imaginem / decreverunt.*

258 E.g. *Praepositus cellariorum*, CIL 6. 8746; *praepositus cocorum*, 8752; *praepositus velariorum*, 9086. A few late, Christian inscriptions for *praepositi* commemorate clergy.

259 *Scriba cubiculariorum item decurio*: AE 1946, 99; similarly CIL 6. 8773 (also imperial); *supra cubicularios*: CIL 6. 4439 (mon. Marcellae), 6645 and 9287 (col. Statilii), 8766 (mon. Livia), and 33842 (unknown origin).

260 *Supra cocos*: CIL 6. 9261.

The phenomenon of slaves or ex-slaves owning – and presumably supervising – slaves (*vicarii*) is a much more prominent feature in the epigraphic data.²⁶¹ The following epitaph is a particularly beautiful illustration:

CIL 6. 6275

Hic est ille situs / qui qualis amicus / amico quaque fide / fuerit mors euit (= fuit)
indicio / f(unus) f(ecit) / Faustus Erotis / dispensatoris vicarius

Here he is buried, he who was such a great friend and who died through such loyalty to his friend as an indicator of which this burial was set up. Faustus, *vicarius* of Eros the steward.

This epitaph, written on an altar found in the Statilian tomb, is exceptional in form, length and wording: the *amicitia*, friendship, between Faustus, and Eros the *dispensator* is stressed. *Vicarii* in general, however, were not so exceptional. Eros owned another slave (Suavis, CIL 6. 6276), yet he himself may in fact have been the slave of one T. Statilius Posidippus: CIL 6. 6274 mentions an *Eros T(iti) Statili / Posidippi ser(vi) / disp(ensator)*. T. Statilius Posidippus, freedmen to the Statilii and himself apparently not buried in the tomb, had a *familia* of 19 (!) that can be reconstructed from the columbarium.²⁶²

One text on *vicarii* stands out from the rest and deserves quoting in full.

CIL 6. 5197

Musico Ti(beri) Caesaris Augusti / Scurrano disp(ensatori) ad fiscum Gallicum
/ provinciae Lugudunensis / ex vicariis eius qui cum eo Romae cum / decessit
{e}<f>uerunt bene merito / Venustus negot(iator) / Decimianus sump(tuarius) /
Dicaeus a manu / Mutatus a manu / Creticus a manu // Agathopus medic(us)
/ Epaphra ab argent(o) / Primio ab veste / Communis a cubic(ularius) / Pothus
pediseq(uus) / Tiasus cocus // Facilis pediseq(uus) / Anthus ab arg(ento) / Hedylus
cubicu(larius) / Firmus cocus / Secunda

To the deserving Musicus Scurranus, slave of Tiberius Caesar Augustus, accountant of the Gallic treasury in the province of Gallia Lugdunensis, from those of his

261 It is well-known for the imperial family, Weaver (1972), or in *columbaria*, Penner (2013); Baba (1990) also notes a number of *opus doliare* stamps that indicate the presence of some slave-owning slaves in the *familia rustica*, too.

262 Mouritsen (2013) 57 discusses both Eros and T. Statilius Posidippus.

slaves (*vicarii*) who were with him when he died at Rome: Venustus, tradesman; Decimianus, cashier; Dicaeus, secretary; Mutatus, secretary; Creticus, secretary; Agathopus, medic; Epaphra, in charge of silver; Primio, in charge of clothes; Communis, bedchamber servant; Pothus, footservant; Tiasus, cook; Facilis, foot-servant; Anthus, in charge of silver; Hedylus, bedchamber servant; Firmus, cook; Secunda.

This is the epitaph of Musicus Scurranus, slave to the emperor Tiberius. It was set up by his 16 *vicarii* – that in itself makes the text unique. In addition the *vicarii* are virtually all mentioned with their occupational title, and that makes it the only inscription known to me in which *vicarii* specify their job.²⁶³

The complexity of these *familiae* in *familiae* has not yet received proper treatment in itself.²⁶⁴ The slaves of a slave were legally the property of that slave's owner (thus, Musicus and his *vicarii* were all the property of the emperor Tiberius); but that was not true for the slaves of a freedman. The case of Musicus Scurranus suggests that there may have been individuals who did have a distinct household-within-household catering to their needs – but they were exceptional, universally high-placed and, most likely, imperial slaves and freedmen. The common inclusion of *vicarii* (especially those of freedmen) in the household *columbaria* strongly suggests that these sub-slaves or under-slaves should be considered a part of the household. But the fact that these hierarchies are so meticulously inscribed, suggests that analysis should go beyond "a strong possibility that such servants actually worked for their owner's *domina* or *patrona*."²⁶⁵

Domestic service and personal attendance

All elite *domus* had a core staff of domestic servants and personal attendants.²⁶⁶ Joshel has plausibly explained the predominance of the service sector among the *columbarium*-inscriptions by the elite's need to be surrounded by servants to demonstrate their wealth and social standing:²⁶⁷ it is perhaps predominantly in the large number of service jobs that we see reflected the concept of conspicuous consumption. The elite *domus*

263 Could it be significant that the woman, Secunda, is both mentioned last and has no job-title? Günther (1987) 131, 135 suggests that *vicariae* like Secunda were only owned by men, with the regular aim of 'marrying' them. Sometimes they were married, e.g. ILS 7981a and 7981b.

264 With the exception perhaps of Di Porto (1984) who sees the *vicarius* as a kind of *servus communis* and a go-between in economic partnerships/ joint enterprises, but see the critique of Andreau (1999) 68–70.

265 Treggiari (1975a) 51.

266 Joshel (1992) 75 table 3.2 ("Service occupations in the large domestic household"). Pages 145-161 discuss the domestic servant in the context of the large domestic household.

267 Joshel (1992) 73-6.

formed the locus of domestic service in the cities: virtually all employment in this sector can be traced to an aristocratic home.

Personal attendance

Personal care was all-pervasive for example in the case of Cn. Domitius Tullus, who according to Pliny had become so infirm that to his own despair, he had to have his teeth brushed by servants.²⁶⁸ Nothing similar to the home care that Tullus required is attested in the inscriptions, though it is plausible that servants were employed for such personal care when necessary. The epitaphs highlight instead that the elite certainly liked to have around a large throng of what could be termed 'luxury' carers, personal servants with a certain skill-set. Masseurs and masseuses (*unctores*), hairdressers (*ornatrices*), barbers (*tonsores*), and perfumers (*unguentarii*) are ubiquitous. The job of hairdresser is for women only: in fact it is the most common single occupation attested for women in the city of Rome save one – for which see below –, and virtually all hairdressers come from elite households.²⁶⁹ The willingness to record this type of employment illustrates that these personal attendants took pride in their proximity to the masters, as well as in their own skills. Unskilled personal attendance is not recorded. One cannot perhaps get much closer to a master than washing him or her, but the servants of Tullus and others who performed such daily care remain anonymous when we hear of them – as in Pliny – or entirely obscured, since their job-titles do not appear in the *columbaria*.

The *cubicularii* or bedchamber servants referred to earlier deserve separate mention in this context. Despite the fact that *cubicularii* are well-attested, it is unclear what it was exactly that they did, in or regarding the bedchamber (*cubicularium*). However, the frequent recordings of *cubicularii* and their regular manumission suggests to me that their position was highly valued; therefore their tasks probably had less to do with securing clean sheets, than with personal attendance in a wider sense, as informal advisor or confidant. *Cubicularii* of high-placed persons could become men of significant power and wealth.²⁷⁰ Cleander, a notorious freedman of the emperor Commodus, is an extreme

268 Plin. *Ep.* 8.18.9.

269 Günther (1987) 45-53 on *ornatrices* confirms this pattern, though Günther's sample is limited to freedwomen. On page 50-1 she has a few examples of freedwomen who apparently continued their business outside the household – regardless, I should like to emphasize that these women, too, originally came from an elite *domus*, see also ch. 3.

270 Men of wealth, since they were overwhelmingly male, though there are a few *cubiculariae*: *CIL* 6. 5748, 5942 and 33750, and potentially 9315 (fragm).

example who according to Cassius Dio could profitably control general access to consulships and senatorial status – among other things.²⁷¹

The rather large group of *pedisequi* were personal attendants or foot servants to their individual elite masters. It is interesting that they regularly include in their epitaph whose servant they were, like *Doris Statiliae Mino[ris] / pediseq(ua)* of *CIL* 6. 9775 quoted above.²⁷² Other examples of foot servants have already been referred to in various contexts. There are both male and female foot servants, and from Livia's monument we also know of a boy (*puer a pedibus*).²⁷³ It is generally assumed that this group is the entourage that accompanied a nobleman or -woman wherever they went. The concentration of *pedisequi* in the city of Rome may perhaps underline the significant presence of elite households there.²⁷⁴ The relative frequency with which such a 'low' position is inscribed, underlines Joshel's important point that occupation within elite households often designates a feeling of community and one's place within the household – not so much through pride in a job but through collegiality.²⁷⁵ Collegiality and belonging certainly speak from the following example.

CIL 6. 4355

Philusa Andraei / liberti uxor / ollam et titulum / datum ab conservas / pedisequas

Philusa wife of Andraeus the freedman (lies here). The urn and plaque were given by her fellow slaves-and-foot servants.

Child care

A very large part of domestic service and caring for other people within the elite *domus* was devoted to child care.²⁷⁶ It is unlikely that these child carers were all engaged only with the master's child(ren); their presence thus supports the earlier supposition that

271 On Cleander's influence see esp. Cass. Dio 73.12. Under Diocletian the imperial '*cubicularius*' officially became one of the four major ministers, overseer of the "palace staff", see e.g. Potter (2009) 184.

272 Or Iulia Elate of *CIL* 6. 4002.

273 *CIL* 6. 4001.

274 Outside of Rome there is only a concentration of *pedisequi* in imperial service from Africa proconsularis (*CIL* 8).

275 Joshel (1992) 97-91.

276 Cf Laes (2016) for the interesting finding that in Late Antiquity these educators were no longer predominantly servile 'professionals' like these, but rather freeborn and family members.

the elite household included a significant number of home-born slaves.²⁷⁷ Penner identifies no less than 11% of the Volusian staff as engaged in child care, which has led her to tentatively suggest that the Volusii actually specialized in this domain.²⁷⁸ But it seems to me that child care was integral to the *domus* rather than aimed at the outside world as a business. The high percentage is unsurprising, however, considering the likelihood that children were ubiquitous, and taking into account the real possibility that the Volusian tomb represents one of the two best documented *domus*.²⁷⁹

Caring for children starts within the womb, up to and including birth. The Romans must have felt the same way, as a number of elite households attest to an in-house *obstetrix* (midwife) – Livia’s substantial monument includes two.²⁸⁰ Again, if babies were not a common phenomenon of the *familia*, having an in-house midwife would not make sense.²⁸¹

The newborn infant then required breastfeeding, which in ancient Rome was not necessarily done by the birth mother, for various reasons that do not need to be repeated here.²⁸² Many children were therefore suckled by a *nutrix*, a wet-nurse, who generally was meant to breastfeed the child for a much longer period than the current western average of 3-6 months. It is thus to be expected that the elite *domus* also included one or more *nutrices* at any one time, and indeed Livia has one, the Statilii have two, the Volusii four.²⁸³ It is not unlikely that often the *nutrix*’ care for the child continued after the weaning period, certainly within the context of the *familia*.²⁸⁴ Naturally, the actual

277 Hasegawa (2005) 36 does seem to assume that the child minders took care of the master’s children only. Admittedly, it is not impossible.

278 Penner (2012) 148; also in entertainers, who make up an equal 11%.

279 Mouritsen (2013) 44.

280 Among others, the Volusii *CIL* 6. 9725 = 27558; Statilii *CIL* 6. 6325; Antonia Augusta *CIL* 6.8947; Marcella *CIL* 6. 4458; Livia *CIL* 6. 8948, 8949. Unsurprisingly, these slave and freedwomen are all connected with female mistresses. See also Laes (2010) esp. 271-273 with appendix for the full Roman epigraphical dossier on midwives, with at 272 the remark that ‘large families could employ their own midwives’, because 13 out of 31 attestations he finds come from elite families in Rome.

281 It also contradicts the interesting suggestion that women were regularly sent to the rural *familia* to give birth, Treggiari (1979b) 189-190.

282 E.g. Harper (2011) 110-12 at 111-12 notes a “correlation between the practices of child exposure and wet-nursing”; and Bradley (1991) 26.

283 According to Hasegawa (2005) 36. It is obvious that the male equivalent, the *nutritor*, also known epigraphically albeit in far smaller numbers, did not perform the same job. Or did he? Infants in Rome very occasionally were raised by animal milk – despite the considerable risks of giving them non-pasteurized animal milk. So did *nutrix* and *nutritor* perform the same job after all? It is unlikely. The frequent epigraphic connection of *nutritor* with their *alumnus*, and esp. the text of *CIL* 6. 9967 (*Mem(o)riam ex origine vestiariorum in quo [sunt(?)] / nutritores mei ...*), suggests to me that the *nutritor* could be any kind of mentor, also in crafts.

284 Continued service of nurses, e.g. Bradley (1991) 20, 25-8; Günther (1987) 100.

wet-nursing can only be done by women: this is, in fact, the most commonly attested occupation for Roman women, counting slave, freed and free women, in and outside of the elite *domus*.²⁸⁵ It is the overwhelming number one of the list of jobs for women.

As they grew up, the children were cared for by various other child minders. In the context of the elite *domus*, noteworthy are the *paedagogi*, *educatores* and *grammatici* also encountered earlier in this chapter. *Paedagogi*, as we have seen, provided a more general sort of child care than the specific educational tasks of the *educator* or *grammaticus*. This is probably one of the reasons that the *paedagogi* are by far the largest group of child minders. Though female *paedagogae* are not uncommon, it is noteworthy that men outnumber them by a wide margin.²⁸⁶

Domestic service in larger households is where most women are attested, the majority of them in child care, but also as hairdressers and so on.²⁸⁷ The nine foot servants of Livia are supplemented by various hairdressers, masseuses, but also female doctors and midwives.²⁸⁸ Domestic service matches well with the Roman ideal of women's domestic nature and their 'natural' place in the house. The incidence of women commemorated with occupation is higher in the *columbaria* than in any other category of inscriptions, and female jobs are usually service jobs.²⁸⁹ Female owners were more likely to own female staff,²⁹⁰ but whereas a female *pedisequa*, *cubicularia* and so on was almost certain to work for a woman, a noblewoman could very well have a male *pedisequus/cubicularius/etc.*²⁹¹ It is significant to highlight that there were more male than female child minders.²⁹² In sum, even here, the inscriptions still confirm the relatively poor position of women in the

285 Günther (1987) 98, 100 for her Roman sample. It was already stated above that most nurses were of a servile background, with reference to Bradley (1991) 19-20; see also Harper (2011) 109–12 on the continuance of this practice into Late Antiquity.

286 Günther (1987) 76 records 70 men and 4 women.

287 Cf above; and Joshel (1992) 98 in her wider discussion of Roman labour indeed notes that large households provide "the setting in which women were most likely to name their work, usually as domestic servants of various kinds (especially nurses) and skilled service workers (especially *ornatrices*, hairdressers and maids)." That said, note that the large proportion of freedwomen in childcare (42.6%, or 20 out of 47 women) are left out of Joshel's discussion, "Because gender and status differentiate those in child care from domestic servants as such", p. 145.

288 "Nearly all these women work for women or for or with the children of the house", Treggiari (1979b) 190.

289 41.3 per cent of women is engaged in domestic service; Joshel (1992) 69 table 3.1.

290 Penner (2012), (2013); Treggiari (1975a) 58: "A *domina* employed more women than did a bachelor". On the same page she notes a "low proportion" of women in the *monumentum Liviae*, while actually the 20% is relatively high.

291 Günther (1987) 60.

292 Cf Bradley (1991) 37-75, 'Child care at Rome: the role of men', at 38: "The appearance of female nurses in the service of aristocratic families is not really surprising, but the use of men is rather less predictable at first blush".

labour market. The question remains whether the skewed sex ratios this suggests were a reality, because the demographic analysis above suggested that the gender balance is likely to have been more even in most households, when compared to the exceptional *domus* that provide our epigraphic evidence.

Other service occupations

The elite *domus* would often include a small medical staff, such as medics, midwives, or the *ad valetudinarium* (in charge of health), the latter of whom was probably more of a healer or nurse in case of less serious illnesses.

In addition to staff looking after people, there was a great variety of servants looking after (an equally wide variety of) possessions, such as an *ab argento* (silver), the *a speculum* ([sic] mirror), *ad imagines* (paintings, statues, (ancestor) portraits?), or the *ad margarita* (pearls). Those working with clothing are somewhat more common, as the *a veste/ad vestem*, or *vestispicae/vestiplica* (folders of clothes).

There are those service workers who are responsible for the running of the household in a practical sense, such as the *atriensis* (majordomo), *rogator* (questioner), *ab admisione* (usher), *nomenclator* (name teller), *ab hospitis* (host).

Strikingly less visible in the epigraphic sources are those domestic servants who kept the household operational in a much more practical sense, by doing the cooking, cleaning, or by supplying water. In the pre-modern world it is very well possible that this category was in fact the largest.²⁹³ A few job-titles can be linked to acquiring and preparing food, though I wonder if the particular functions of the *opsonator* (caterer), *ministrator* (waiter), *praegustator* (taster), and *a cyathos* (cupbearer) for example, were not more closely involved with elite dinner parties than with the household's food. There were few cooks – but cooks could be hired.²⁹⁴ Interestingly, there appears to be no household that is truly fully staffed (or fully attested, of course); nor can this be solved by a *domus*-network we can trace.

CONCLUSION

The urban phenomenon of elite *domus* was restricted to the larger cities of Roman Italy where the elite tended to cluster together. Aristocratic households are particularly well-attested for the city of Rome. It has become clear from the above that wherever

293 Harper (2011) 107.

294 Groen-Vallinga and Tacoma (2017); Hasegawa (2005) 45 has five *coci* for the four largest households, four of whom worked for the Statilii. Interestingly Harper (2011) 108 notes that "It is notable how often the job of 'the cook' was a specialized occupation in late antique households".

the elite resided, this significantly changed the make-up of the population, and of the labour force. A large majority of all slaves lived in towns, and more than half of these urban slaves worked in aristocratic houses. Independent freedmen can also often be traced back to a servile history in elite households. The epigraphic sources exacerbate this focus on larger cities and Rome in particular – which is precisely why it is so helpful to look at the uncharted territory of the *domus* economy as a whole.

It has long been known that slaves and ex-slaves predominate in pre-Christian inscriptions from the Roman empire. This is even more prominent in occupational inscriptions, and – as was illustrated in this chapter – the pattern is most explicit for the elite household epitaphs recording job-title, originating from *columbaria*. On the one hand, the *columbaria* themselves make up such a large part of the material that it is difficult to draw firm conclusions about the servile labour population in relation to the free population. On the other hand, it has become clear that elite presence and aristocratic houses did provide substantial employment in the cities, which suggests that the predominance of household labourers in epigraphic data is at least partly a reflection of reality. The overrepresentation of *columbaria* and elite households more generally, combined with a predilection for specialization of job-titles among their staff largely explains the strong occupational differentiation.

One of the main questions that lay at the heart of this chapter, is whether the presence of elite *domus* restricted labour opportunities for the freeborn urban population. The study of occupational inscriptions, and of *columbarium* tombs in particular, confirms the predominance of slaves and ex-slaves within the labour force of elite *domus*, effectively closing off the domestic service sector for the freeborn (but not the freed). Then again, we should perhaps not expect to find freeborn labourers in elite *domus*, since other references indicate that the free working *in* elite households were probably the exception, whereas the free working *for* the aristocrats must have been quite common. The employment generated by the *domus* for the free, and particularly for the freeborn, remains difficult to grasp. The ways in which freedmen maintained and benefited from economic bonds with their families of origin (i.e. the *domus*) sometimes can be recovered from the evidence, whereas the singular bonds of *locatio conductio* with the freeborn remain largely unknown. But free hired labour did include both the freeborn and the freed, thereby increasing competition for the freeborn seeking to gain an income. The ostentatious presence of the often sizeable and certainly numerous elite households must have been an important employer for the free artisans and craftsmen represented within the material – many of whom worked in the more luxury trades and whose work might not be affordable by the masses.

The significant servile presence in occupational inscriptions and in elite households has also given rise to the assumption that education in the Roman world was a slave prerogative. My analysis of human capital suggests that slaves, at least in the context

of labour in the cities of Roman Italy, were indeed in a good position to acquire some skills, varying from a basic education to becoming a fully trained craftsman. Investment in human capital of slaves was economically rational. Education at least doubled the value of a slave on the market, a market for skilled slaves in particular – and this market remained in operation long after the influx of captives had dwindled. A slave could not run off with accumulated knowledge and skills, thus ensuring that the income would go to the owner. Interestingly, the basic slave education did not take the form that scholars have long suggested, that is, through *paedagogia*. Instead, most elite *domus* included various levels of teachers, or alternatively sent their slaves to regular ‘schools’ with the *ludimagister*. Conversely, the arts and crafts were generally taught on the job, in the household, although occasionally both male and female slaves were apprenticed out just like the freeborn. Competition between the servile population and the freeborn population therefore centred especially on skilled work, and in domestic service, which by analogy with early modern patterns is most likely to have impacted women’s job opportunities.

Teachers and child carers in the home also form indirect evidence for the ubiquity of children in the elite home. The majority of these young individuals presumably were slaves, often but certainly not always the offspring of slave-unions. It is clear that slave families within households, and crossing household boundaries (within *domus*-networks perhaps?) were a regular occurrence. The children of the household were not only *vernae*, however, but may have included foundlings, or individuals who were bought on the market. The slave market and the self-replacement hypothesis for the slave population therefore are not mutually exclusive. Servile families included biological ties, as well as the more complex and under-researched hierarchic bonds of (ex-)slaves owning under-slaves (*vicarii*), complicating the demographics of the aristocratic household.

The occupational structure of the upper-class household, large and not-so-large alike, nevertheless appears to follow a standard blueprint: a basis in domestic service, an administrative section, and a part that could specialize for the market. The concept of *domus* networks, derived from the interconnectedness of the Julio-Claudian households as indicated by Lindsey Penner, fundamentally alters our understanding of the occupational structure of individual *domus*. A *domus* network could create more autarchy than might be expected. If aristocratic households could rely on *domus* networks to fulfil most of their labour demands, the need (and thus the opportunities) for free hired labour would be less, and the demand for slave labourers on the market would be determined rather differently. Certainly not all aristocrats entertained a staff as sizeable as the manifest ones that dominate the evidence and the discussion (here as elsewhere), and because of this the influence of *domus* networks on the urban labour market may have been limited. It is difficult to extrapolate the findings for the top aristocratic households to elite households more generally.

Chapter 5

Non-familial labour collectives

INTRODUCTION

The Roman family was only one, informal, structuring factor shaping the Roman labour market. The influence of the family needs to be offset against other, non-familial, labour collectives.¹ The social structure outside of the household is made up of associations, more generally referred to as *collegia*. *Collegia* were not the only form of non-familial labour relations, but they were the most important ones. This chapter deals with Roman labour associations or, to be more precise, with the economic features of associations in general. It can only do so by taking into account the more general social and cultural integration of associations within Roman society. My aim here is to outline the way in which the so-called 'professional' associations acted as a labour collective and influenced the labour market, and to indicate how the relationship between *collegiati* tied in with family bonds.

The integration of *collegia* into the debate on the Roman economy raises the question whether they were more economic than social, or whether they were more social than economic collectives (or whether they were chiefly funerary clubs, or religious, and so on).² Scholarly consensus is now shifting towards the point of view that the question whether the *collegia* were a predominantly social, or mostly economic phenomenon is irrelevant. It is clear that the *collegia* did function as an economic institution, and they should therefore be taken into account in a New Institutional Economics account of the Roman economy.³ Even social gatherings may well be used for economic benefit, and any kind of network is likely to be economically useful, at least potentially so. *Collegia* were part of the urban social structure that helped define individual labour opportunities.

The balance between the social function of *collegia* on the one hand, and family on the other, was a decisive structural influence on individual participation in the economy. Economic associations are a distinctly urban phenomenon, whereas family ties tend to lose some of their influence in the city as was pointed out in chapter 3.⁴ Family and association function as both complementary and overlapping informal networks, within "precisely that space between the individual and society which voluntary associations are commonly thought to inhabit".⁵

1 Cf Garnsey and Saller (1987) 148, "The place of a Roman in society was a function of his position in the social hierarchy, membership of a family, and involvement in a web of personal relationships extending out from the household".

2 The collection of papers in *Ancient society* 41, 2011 for example, poses the question explicitly: "guilds or social clubs?".

3 Verboven (2011).

4 Lucassen, De Moor, Van Zanden (2008) 15.

5 Wilson (1996) 5.

Chapter outline

The first section of this chapter deals with the place of associations in the urban community more generally. *Collegia* as a collective were a distinct part of the civic order. Paradoxically they also provided a separate, symbolic order for those excluded from the civic order. Although the essential goals of forming an association appear to remain the same everywhere in Roman Italy, it will become clear that there was a difference in structure of the associative network of Rome and that of smaller urban centres. Who were part of the *collegia*, and what can the distribution pattern of the *collegia* tell us about their nature? Membership was open to virtually any Roman of some means, although options for women were severely limited. This theoretical openness of *collegia* then leads me to question the common presumption that associations were mostly populated by freedmen.

The functional analysis of the *collegia* sets out with their perceived social meaning and the way they structured the lives of individual Romans. Just as in the case of the Roman family and the elite household, the form and function of the social networks that associations helped to create and maintain had a bearing on the shape of the labour market. It will be considered to what extent they can usefully be seen as substitute families, as many scholars have hinted at in the past, when familial and collegial networks overlap and interact.

The next section looks into the economics of association: the choice to associate with others in itself quickly becomes an economic act. But is there any direct evidence to show the involvement of the Roman *collegia* with economic life? The occupational *collegia* have often been likened to medieval and early modern guilds. It will be argued here that the comparison remains a promising one. Roman *collegia* were not monopolists of the arts and crafts sector, but as it turns out the medieval guilds did not have such a monopoly either. The significant *comparandum* is that both guilds and *collegia* functioned as trust networks with so-called multiplex relationships, not merely social, but religious, familial, and economic.

In the last part of this chapter, the lines will be drawn together to form a coherent story of the part *collegia* may have played in structuring the Roman urban labour market. *Collegia* and the family form two intersecting axes of reference.

FORMAL ORGANIZATION AND VARIATION

The impact of the expanding empire, notably a growing population and increasing urbanization rates, led to a proliferation of *collegia* and an improvement in their social standing over the second and third centuries AD. This development was outlined most

extensively by John Patterson, and his views may be briefly summarized here.⁶ Public benefactions and euergetism from the resident elite must have formed a substantial part of the city budget in the early Roman empire.⁷ With the coming of the empire, local autonomy and political lost much of their significance. The traditional elite of senators and knights tended to move away from their home towns towards the seats of power, Rome in particular, where they hoped to find political advancement. Although instances are known of those who, when in Rome, still maintained a level of euergetism in their native towns (such as Pliny the Younger and his native Comum), it is likely that most would take their resources with them, to the detriment of that town.⁸ Small settlements would have been particularly vulnerable to this drain of resources and only those with a benevolent and sufficiently wealthy patron could survive. In larger cities, however, it is likely that enough people remained to step in. The gap was filled by members of associations (*collegiati*), local council members (*decuriones*), or wealthy freedmen. They were able to do so because on the one hand, patterns of benefaction changed towards a preference for more affordable forms (banquets rather than buildings) and, on the other hand, the members of a *collegium* taken together were wealthy beyond their individual capacity. Their contribution to the civic community in turn led to a rise in social status and prestige. This, in a nutshell, is the background to the growing cachet and numbers of associations in the first centuries AD. By the second century, the associations are so well-attested in public inscriptions that “their presence in a town can reasonably be assumed even if it happens not to be directly proven.”⁹ The *collegia* had become a set and valued element of the civic order.¹⁰

The prior history of the *collegia* during the republic and the early empire, however, is one of unrest and political interference. It is telling that the *collegia* are included amongst MacMullen’s *Enemies of the Roman order*.¹¹ His narrative of the tensions between the *collegia* and the ruling powers emphasizes a history of politics, riots and upheaval, versus anxious senators and emperors: a history that is well known from ancient literary ac-

6 Patterson (2006), especially chapter three. Cf Patterson (1994).

7 Cf Brown (2012) 58 ff: “an empire of gifts”.

8 Pliny: *CIL* 5. 5262 lists many of his benefactions in Comum. Pliny also mentions his gifts in his letters, e.g. *Plin. Ep.* 1.8 (donation of the library). Cf Eck (2017).

9 MacMullen (1974) 73; Cf Liu (2013) 364; this chronological development is largely confirmed by the archaeological evidence for collegium buildings in Bollmann (1998) who on page 169 notes a change not only in number (more) but also in nature (more elaborate) of the *scholae* in the second century. The second century also saw mostly professional *collegia* compared to the first century, that had more evidence for Augustales.

10 Patterson (2006) 257–8.

11 MacMullen (1966) especially 173–9.

counts.¹² In response to the political involvement of the *collegia*, the Senate repeatedly took action against the associations.¹³ Julius Caesar appears to have issued a *lex Iulia de collegiis* that prohibited virtually all associations.¹⁴ A *senatus consultum* now commonly referred to as the *senatus consultum de collegiis tenuiorum* (“regarding associations of people of lesser means”) that was issued in the first or early second century, specified what categories of *collegia* were to be allowed, thereby restricting the possibility of starting new associations.¹⁵ The unease of the authorities towards private associations may also be illustrated by the emperor Trajan, voicing his concerns in a letter to Pliny the Younger:

Plin. Ep. 10.34

Tibi quidem secundum exempla complurium in mentem venit posse collegium fabrorum apud Nicomedenses constitui. Sed meminerimus provinciam istam et praecipue eas civitates eius modi factionibus esse vexatas. Quodcumque nomen ex quacumque causa dederimus iis, qui in idem contracti fuerint, hetaeriae aequae brevi fiet.

You are of the opinion it would be proper to constitute a guild of *fabri* in Nicomedia, as has been done in several places. But it is to be remembered that societies of this sort have greatly disturbed the peace of the province [Bithynia] in general, and of those cities [Nicomedia] in particular. Whatever name we give them, and for whatever purposes they may be founded, they will not fail to form themselves into factions, assemblies, however short their meetings may be.¹⁶

What was the effect of all this on the nature and prevalence of associations up to the first century AD? There is relatively little epigraphic evidence of formal *collegia* before the second century.¹⁷ But there certainly was a form of socio-economic association. In Pompeii, the goldsmiths united (*aurifices universi*) supported C. Cuspius Pansa’s run for

12 A more detailed overview can be found in Cotter (1996) or De Ligt (2000).

13 Cotter (1996) 75–6.

14 Cotter (1996) 76–7; Suet. *Div. Iul.* 42.3.

15 *Dig.* 47.22.1 pr. (Marcian, 3rd c.), discussed by De Ligt (2000) 247–9.

16 Plin. *Ep.* 10.34, translation Melmoth (1927, Loeb Classical Library), with minor modifications.

17 Liu (2008b) 66 concludes that “in general, *collegia* were a sporadic phenomenon in the West before the late first century AD”. Bollmann (1998) 163–9, at 169 finds evidence of *Vereinshäuser* in the first century mainly for the *Augustales*. She finds little to no evidence for the Republic.

aedile in electoral graffiti.¹⁸ Tacitus writes that after a fight between Pompeians and Nucerians at the amphitheatre in Pompeii got out of hand in 59 AD, the illegitimate *collegia* of Pompeii were dissolved (among other things): the phrasing suggests that there were illegitimate *collegia* as well as legitimate ones at the time.¹⁹ Moreover, the continuous apparent enmity between authorities and associations could be interpreted as evidence for the fact that the *collegia* had always remained extant, and influential.²⁰ Indeed, the stumbling block that was the *lex Iulia* appears not to have been very long-lived, and De Ligt has convincingly argued that the implications of the *senatus consultum de collegiis tenuiorum* were not nearly as restrictive as some scholars have believed.²¹ In my view, such rules and regulations are a reflection of a government attempting to impose a formal structure onto the already widespread habit of forming informal associations.

Collegia increasingly sought, and were granted, government recognition. With an imperial or senatorial grant of the *ius coeundi* (right to assemble) they became legal associations (*collegia legitima*), which underlines once more that the authorities were not entirely hostile towards private associations. Liu concludes that “the proliferation of all kinds of *collegia* in imperial Rome suggests that the official regulations may in fact have had a positive impact on the development of associations.”²² She points out that predictably the state was particularly prone to support *collegia* that were useful to the public good.²³ Governmental recognition was justified since associations were more than a potentially disruptive factor. They were also an important structuring principle in society that reaffirmed the civic order. From the perspective of the association, the grant of the right to assemble was not only important in itself, but it was also the prerequisite for other rights and privileges.²⁴ The right of *corpus habere*, for example, that is the right

18 CIL 4. 710. On the form of association in electoral graffiti, Liu (2008b) 57-60. She concludes correctly they are not formal *collegia* – but they are a form of professional associations, even if they sometimes refer to only “the workmen in a workshop” (p. 57). *Universi* in this example points to a larger group, though.

19 Tac. Ann. 14.17: *et rursus re ad patres relata, prohibiti publice in decem annos eius modi coetu Pompeiani collegiaque, quae contra leges instituerant, dissoluta* (“And, the case brought again before the magistrates, the Pompeians were prohibited another public assembly of this type for ten years, and the associations that existed against the rule of law, were dissolved”). Liu (2008b) 60-62 does not see any evidence for legitimate *collegia* in this.

20 So Patterson (1992) 23.

21 De Ligt (2000) and (2001).

22 Liu (2013) 357. The duality in the connections between government and *collegium* is emphasized by Liu (2009) 97-111 and (2013) 355ff (“double-edged effect”).

23 Liu (2009) 123.

24 Liu (2013) 355 “at least from the second century on”.

to act as a legal collective, would significantly facilitate the owning and receiving of property.²⁵ Legitimate *collegia* were in it to win it.

To sum up, the first century saw the development from informal to formally recognized and increasingly widespread associations. During the second and third centuries AD the *collegia* flourished as independent organizations, and this is reflected in their epigraphic output. Much of what follows, therefore, is based on evidence that stems mostly from the late first to late third centuries. From the late third century onwards, the role of the *collegia* changed significantly in nature, as private associations were increasingly employed for the public good in service to the state and the city of Rome, notably for the food supply.²⁶ But that development lies outside the scope of the current analysis.

Hierarchies and civic life

It has long been recognised that the Roman population below the elite was just as hierarchically organized as the elite – a hierarchy that was structured by voluntary associations.²⁷ The question is how the hierarchy of the non-elite was formed and how it interacted with the elite hierarchy. The Roman elite as reflected in our ancient sources does not seem to have taken much notice of the rest. Or did they, and is their anxiety towards associations a consequence of the existence of an alternative road to power?

Forming associations can be perceived as a quest to personal achievement, a way to create opportunities for advancement.²⁸ The *collegia* had a strong internal hierarchy with a wide range of magistracies that their members could aspire to.²⁹ This hierarchy extended to a ranking of the associations themselves: first came the three principal *collegia*, next those related to the imperial *annona*, and then interregional associations.³⁰ 'First-class' *collegia* seem to have been favoured by benefactors as well, so their donations made the wealthy associations wealthier.³¹ An exception to the rule are the *collegia domestica*, that were somewhere on the lower end of the scale in terms of status, but that could generally count on the support of their aristocratic masters.

25 Solely prestige, Van Nijf (1997); legal advantages, De Ligt (2001), Liu (2009) 103–11. The right of *corpus habere* was not handed out indiscriminately, cf *Dig.* 3.4.1 pr (Gaius ad ed.). It was granted to all legitimate *collegia* only under Marcus Aurelius.

26 Gibbs (2013), 'Artisans, trades, and guilds. Late Antiquity' in the *Encyclopedia of Ancient History* with references; Cf Liu (2013) 367, Liu (2009) 112–5; Ausbüttel (1982) 99–108.

27 Verboven (2007) 870, "institutionalized through the numerous voluntary associations across the empire".

28 Venticinqu (2009) 25–6: "an obvious reaction to and result of the economic, and therefore political insignificance of craftsmen and non-land holding members of any given municipality".

29 Royden (1988) collects the material on *collegia* magistrates.

30 Verboven (2007) 875–80.

31 Liu (2008a) 239 although she cautions not to push the stratification of associations too far.

The *cursus honorum* within a *collegium* was as a rule completely separate from that in the civic hierarchy. That was no reason for the officials not to be proud of their title, even in a *collegium domesticum*. *Collegium* magistrates noted their position within the association rather than their freeborn citizenship.³² It is interesting to see that membership alone apparently was not often deemed worth mentioning in epitaphs. It was magistracies rather than occupations that people were proud of. Since office-holding within a *collegium* regularly required a *summa honoraria*, recording the title on a tombstone is also a reflection of wealth.³³

The *collegia* offered their members a chance to social status and rank that was as a rule not open to them in the civic hierarchy.³⁴ Within the ranks of the *collegium*, slaves could rise to become magistrates.³⁵ It was “an avenue for the ambitious without subverting the basic organization of society”.³⁶ MacMullen observed that *collegia* both “resembled the whole social context they found themselves in and imitated it as best they could”, calling them “miniature cities”.³⁷ The terminology of their magistracies mirrored those of the city: there was a board of councillors (*decuriones*), for example, and a *quaestor*.³⁸ It was a literal alternative to the civic order. Verboven dubbed this phenomenon “the associative order”.³⁹ In his view, however, the associative order provided a means for successful *collegiati* to gain the social and symbolic capital that was valued within the civic order – and it gave them, or at least their children, the chance to actually enter into that civic order.⁴⁰ In his view, *collegiati* were mainly successful businessmen whose wealth was looked down upon because of how they earned it. The argument works equally well reading ‘wealthy freedmen’ in place of ‘successful businessmen’, depending on one’s interpretation of who were accepted members.

32 Joshel (1992) 113–9, specifically 118.

33 Joshel (1992) 115: “In general therefore, most of the men with this form of occupational title would have been among the wealthier practitioners of their trades”.

34 E.g. Patterson (2006) 260; Kloppenborg (1996) 18; Ausbüttel (1982) 48.

35 Liu (2009) 177 n. 56 points out the unambiguous examples of *CIL* 11. 4771 (*fullones*) and *CIL* 14. 2874 (*cisiarii*); Royden (1988) lists no slave magistrates, but does not include these two inscriptions in his book.

36 Patterson (2006) 262.

37 MacMullen (1974) 77, 76.

38 Patterson (2006) 255.

39 Verboven (2007).

40 Cf Venticinque (2009) 128 on Roman Egypt, who suggests that the boundaries between elite and non-elite (i.e. *collegiati*) became blurrier when further away from the centre of power.

The *collegia* themselves were an integral part of the community.⁴¹ As a reflection of the close connection with the town, their names would sometimes include the town name, as in the case of the *collegium fabrum tignuariorum Ostiense*.⁴² The *collegiati* participated in civic life as benefactors as well as recipients of benefactions; they were conspicuously present during religious festivals and processions, they could have separate seating areas in the theatres and set up buildings, statues and inscriptions in the public space.⁴³ Interaction with elite patrons was mutually beneficial and confirmed as well as shaped the community: “the *collegia* could be expected to reciprocate meaningfully through the grant of honorific titles and so on in a way impossible for the individual.”⁴⁴

Membership composition

It is as if no principle of either inclusion or exclusion could meet all demands – as if clusters of every conceivable private sympathy required expression. Where two neighbors at a corner pub today will raise their glasses and at most exchange a friendly “Cheers!” the two in antiquity seem to have said, “Be it resolved, to call ourselves the society of...”⁴⁵

There was significant variation in Roman associations. There were associations from a minimum of three to over a hundred members;⁴⁶ there were private, semi-public, and state associations. Membership of an association was not open to everyone, but still the *collegia* were open to many: it was available to slave, freed, free, male, and female. This was a matter of matching the right individual with the right *collegium*, because many associations catered for a specific group of people. Candidates for membership of a *collegium* therefore had to fulfil certain requirements of occupation, religion, wealth, gender, or other. If qualified, they had to be voted in, generally by the guild magistrates or by the democratic vote of all members. A kind of background check of prospective

41 Verboven (2007) 881; cf Van Nijf (1997) and (2002); The ambivalence of the people of Tarsus towards the linen-weavers (an association?), as sketched out by Dio Chrysostom 34.21-3 in detail (they were “as it were, outside the constitution”, ὡσπερ ἔξοθεν τῆς πολιτείας; sometimes considered on the inside and sometimes on the out), is revealing and deserves more attention in this respect. Dio argues that they should be accepted as citizens.

42 Cf Patterson (2006) 256.

43 Patterson (2006) 262-4 (benefactors); Patterson (1994) 232, 235: Augustales, *decuriones*, and *collegia* were the three groups important in civic life in the second and third century.

44 Patterson (1992) 22, his emphasis.

45 MacMullen (1974) 82.

46 For the legal minimum, *Dig.* 50. 16. 85 (Marcellus, attributed to Neratius Priscus): *Neratius Priscus tres facere existimat ‘collegium’, et hoc magis sequendum est.*

candidates could be part of the procedure.⁴⁷ For trained artisans or craftsmen, however, membership of the corresponding association does not appear to have been obligatory, hereditary, or self-evident in any other way.⁴⁸ There is thus every reason to assume that membership of (professional) associations was not universal.⁴⁹

MacMullen once guesstimated that in the first century AD, one-third of the (male) urban population were members of an association.⁵⁰ This view has recently been challenged by Liu, who carefully calculates a maximum of only 13 per cent of the male population of the city of Rome, using the combined data for the first four centuries AD.⁵¹ Her problem with the earlier guesstimate is that it did not use a strict definition of formal *collegia* for the calculation: it was based on the numbers from Pompeii as representative for other cities, counting as associations all (occupational and other) identifiable 'groups' that were found in Pompeian inscriptions, including the electoral graffiti. The current inclusive analysis of the associative phenomenon would argue for the inclusion of such informal (or rather, 'less formal') associations, however.⁵² An inscription like that of "the fullers for Eumachia, daughter of Lucius, civic priestess", surely suggests that there was a collective of the fullers, even if no mention is made of a *collegium* per se.⁵³ In the broader picture, the distinction between formal and informal *collegia* in epigraphic evidence generally is not a problem: to my knowledge there are few instances of 'unspecified' associations whose status as such is ambivalent outside the Pompeian graffiti.

Even with a clear dataset for the associative phenomenon, no certain numbers will come up; it is also likely that the percentage will lie somewhere between 10–30 per cent for the first century AD.⁵⁴ The epigraphic evidence shows unequivocally that *collegia* then became both more numerous and more prosperous in the second and third centuries

47 Broekaert (2011) 27–9 with reference to the *lex* of the *citrarii et eborarii*, *CIL* 6. 33885, *debeunt utique curatores de eo / [que]m adlecturi fuerint ante ad quinq(uennales) re[fe]rre*.

48 Compulsion and inheritance of guild membership may have played a part from the fourth century onwards, see Gibbs (2013) with references.

49 Verboven (2007) 883–4 on the proliferation of guild membership; see also Van Minnen (1987) 68–9, who illustrates for Roman Egypt that it could be difficult not to be part of a guild.

50 MacMullen (1966) 174. Cf Ausbüttel (1982) 36–7.

51 Liu presented these calculations in her paper for the conference 'Work, labor and professions', Ghent 31 May 2013, but they were left out of the published version, Liu (2017). According to her calculations the real percentage was probably lower; extensive refutation of interpreting occupational or religious groups as formal *collegia* in Liu (2008b).

52 Liu (2017), and elsewhere, herself is all in favour of this new approach, and goes on to consider as *collegia* some debatable evidence that I would not necessarily include as such: for instance, the networks surrounding Tryphon and Pausiris, for which see also chapter 3.

53 *CIL* 10. 813: *Eumachiae L(uci) filiae) / sacerdoti publ(icae) / fullones*.

54 A promising long-term project has now started: The Ghent Database of Roman Guilds(+), where the plus refers to the fact that it includes associations more generally.

AD though here, too, their numbers remain elusive. But *collegiati* probably remained a minority throughout, and it needs to be kept in mind that there always was a significant group of outsiders. Qualitative data can considerably further our understanding of who could join the *collegia* and who was excluded.

Wealth

The *senatus consultum de collegiis tenuiorum* could tentatively be read to suggest that *collegia* were particularly common among the ‘poorer’, depending on one’s interpretation of *tenuiores*.⁵⁵ The *collegia* have been referred to as a form of social security, “designed for lower class self-help”.⁵⁶ This suggests they were ‘mutual aid societies’ that catered to the needs of the poor, and of those who had no family to fall back on – interpreting *tenuiores* as the poor and destitute. In this view, they also provided the financial means by which a bereaved widow might take care of her children and could secure the funds for a decent burial, for her deceased husband and for herself and her children in the future.⁵⁷ But membership was probably out of the reach of that widow if she were truly poor and destitute.

The *collegium*-charters that have come down to us suggest that membership was not free. Aspiring members were probably required to pay an entrance fee, as well as a regular monthly contribution.⁵⁸ The best known charter of a Roman association reports that the worshippers (*cultores*) of Diana and Antinoos from Lanuvium owed the *collegium* 100 HS plus an amphora of good wine upon admission; their monthly contribution amounted to 5 *asses*.⁵⁹ This entrance fee was not negligible, and together with the continuous monthly contributions effectively makes money a selection-criterion for membership.⁶⁰ *Collegia* also required their members’ presence at meetings, banquets, and so on, and the time investment, too, was one that presumably not everyone could

55 See above; *Dig.* 47.22.1 pr (Marcian).

56 The words are Van Nijf’s (2002) 307 who then goes on to refute this interpretation; social security: MacMullen (1966) 174.

57 “Mutual aid societies”, Garnsey and Saller (1987) 156; the hypothetical widow was introduced by Hopkins (1983) 213.

58 Hawkins (2006) 106–7; Cf Liu (2009) who writes that it is plausible, but not very widely attested that *collegia* commonly demanded an entrance fee, p. 163 with n. 10 listing the evidence.

59 *CIL* 14. 2112, now in the Museo Nazionale delle Terme Diocleziane in Rome; Cf Bendlin (2011), with updated text and translation.

60 Patterson (1992) 21; Cf Venticinque (2009) 41–2 and (2010) 274 with n.4 for Roman Egypt.

afford.⁶¹ Burial arrangements through a *collegium* were costly by implication.⁶² The idea that the associations functioned mainly as a burial insurance for the poor has long been refuted.⁶³ These considerations make clear that *collegia* did not provide social security to the poor in our sense of the word. One might say that they did so in the Roman sense of the word. *Tenuis* was a relative concept, that distinguished a very wealthy elite from all the rest: when Augustine referred to himself and his father as *tenuis* or *pauper*, for example, we know that he certainly was not referring to any financial problems the family might have had.⁶⁴ In all likelihood the use of the word ‘*tenuiores*’ in the *senatus consultum de collegiis tenuiorum*, therefore, did not so much refer to the poor, but to the nonelite or the ‘not-wealthy’.⁶⁵

It is certain that the professional *collegia* attracted a number of wealthier members, some of whom belonged to the senatorial or equestrian elite. A *collegium* with such upper-class membership did not conform to the general rule of the *sc de collegiis tenuiorum*. That would have made the *collegium* illegal, so it is likely that it would have had to apply to the authorities to gain the official status of association.⁶⁶ This practical drawback may not have been so severe in reality – it was argued above that many associations were granted the right of assembly – and one can imagine that the presence of elite members had its advantages. That there was such a wealthier group of members and associates, is evident from the amount of money circulating in substantial benefactions bestowed upon associations, as well as in the significant expenses incurred by the associations’ involvement in burials and collective deeds of euergetism.⁶⁷ Their place in the urban community depended on it. Most of the occupational inscriptions relating to

61 Liu (2017) 209. On p. 210 she cites a very interesting case of someone resigning from his association because he could not bring up the investment anymore: ἀσθενῶς ἔχων (*P. Mich.* 9. 575, l. 4–5, Karanis 184 AD).

62 Verboven (2007) 875: “Membership of an association was in itself relatively expensive. Indirectly burial by or with assistance of a *collegium*, was an expensive option. Rather, the *collegia* contributed to adding lustre to the funeral of their members, affirming for the last time their social status, reflecting favourably on their family and heirs”.

63 Contra Mommsen (1843) whose views have long been influential, e.g. Hopkins (1983) 214. But see now Perry (2006) chapter 1, spec. 29–32.

64 Brown (2012) 148–154; *Aug. Conf.* 2.3.5 for Patricius as a *tenuis municeps*; *Aug. Sermo* 356.13 referring to himself as *hominem pauperem, de pauperibus natum*, “a poor man, born from poor parents”; Cf Woolf (2006); Shaw (1987b) 8–10 seems to have changed Peter Brown’s mind, who still took Augustine’s word (*tenuis*) at face value in his biography, Brown (1967) 21.

65 Ausbüttel (1982) 25: “Mit dem Wort *tenuiores* wird die einfache, aber (...) keineswegs besitzlose Bevölkerung im Gegensatz zu den *honestiores* oder *divites* bezeichnet”.

66 Cf De Ligt (2000).

67 This is evident for example from Liu’s discussion of membership in the *collegia centonariorum*, Liu (2009) 164–9 and Liu (2008a); more generally, see also Ausbüttel (1982) 43–8.

the *collegia* record *collegium* magistrates or benefactors, who cannot have been entirely without means.⁶⁸ *CIL* 6. 1872 is found on an altar dedicated to Tiberius Claudius Severus, by the association of fishermen and divers at Rome.

CIL 6. 1872

Ti(berio) Claudio Esquil(ina) Severo / decuriali lictori patrono / corporis piscatorum et / urinator(um) q(uin)q(uennali) Ill eiusdem corporis / ob merita eius / quod hic primus statuas duas una / Antonini Aug(usti) domini n(ostr)i aliam lul(iae) / Augustae dominae nostr(ae) s(ua) p(ecunia) p(osuerit) / una cum Claudio Pontiano filio / suo eq(uite) Rom(ano) et hoc amplius eidem / corpori donaverit HS X mil(ia) n(ummum) / ut ex usuris eorum quodannis / natali suo XVII K(alendas) Febr(uarias) / sportulae viritim dividantur / praesertim cum navigatio sca/pharum diligentia eius acquisita / et confirmata sit ex decreto / ordinis corporis piscatorum / et urinatorum totius alv(ei) Tiber(is) / quibus ex s(enatus) c(onsulto) coire licet s(ua) p(ecunia) p(osuerunt)

To Tiberius Claudius Severus of the Esquiline tribe, *decurialis*, *lictor*, patron of the associated fishermen and divers, threefold president (*quinquennalis*) of the same association, because of his benefactions, first among which two statues he placed out of his one funds, one of Antoninus Augustus our emperor [= Caracalla], the other of Julia Augusta our emperor-mother; one [statue] with Claudius Pontianus his son, a Roman knight; and on top of that he gave to the same association 10,000 sesterces so that out of the dividend of these on his birthday, the 17 Kalends of February, gifts can be handed out man by man; above all for the navigational rights (*navigatio scapharum*) gained through his diligence and confirmed by decree of the board (*ordo*) of the association of fishermen and divers of the entire Tiber-shore to whom it was allowed by senatorial decree to assemble (i.e. they had the *ius coeundi*).

This text gives a good overview of what such a man might be capable of in terms of money (and influence).⁶⁹

The wealthier segment of the population thus took part in larger associations as well, and some associations, like the *lobacchoi*, were even characterized by a largely upper-

68 For Rome, Joshel (1992) 113.

69 *CIL* 6. 1872 = *ILS* 7266, 206 AD. An different side of the altar adds consular dating and the corporate magistrates responsible for setting up the dedication.

class membership.⁷⁰ There were real benefits to be gained from *collegium* membership, so the presence of the elite is unsurprising: It appears that by the third century some of the more affluent Romans joined a *collegium* to gain immunities from *munera publica* (public benefactions for which only the wealthy were eligible), or to get other privileges.⁷¹

Collegia were therefore not for the poor, and they did include some rich people. In line with this finding, the possibility that the professional *collegia* included only employers, not employees, has been stressed repeatedly.⁷² In this view, the association of bakers would consist of wholesalers or large property-owners in charge of those actually kneading the dough and baking the bread, which interestingly sounds rather like what we think we know of that famous *pistor*, M. Vergilius Eurysaces. Membership would have concerned master craftsmen and shop owners, rather than wage-labourers, apprentices or salesmen. Indeed we have seen that the truly poor were not among the *collegiati*. However, it is highly likely that a skilled labourer could afford to join an association.⁷³ And since not every skilled artisan was an entrepreneur, this means that the *collegiati* would – at least potentially – include employees as well as employers.⁷⁴ In some cases the *collegia* effectively were so large that it is quite unlikely that they only included the top echelon of master artisans and shop owners, to the exclusion of others.⁷⁵ Moreover, the inclusion of employers and employees matches the hierarchical nature of the *collegia*, reflecting the relationships outside of them. I suspect that one of the reasons that the idea of associations of employers still is cited, is that guild membership is one of the criteria scholars have used to try and distinguish between a manual labourer and a wholesaler – when an inconclusive job-title was the only thing certain. It is true that there is nothing in the ancient evidence to suggest that affiliation with a *collegium* was

70 Remus (1996).

71 Liu (2009) 109–11; Verboven (2007) 881. This led to legal measures to exclude from these privileges those who were too wealthy or who were not actually of the nominal occupation, *Dig.* 50.6.6.12 (Callistratus). Cf also Liu (2009) 57–62.

72 Recently voiced by Verboven (2007) 882, Patterson (2006) 255, and Van Nijf (2002) 308. See also the influential work of Ausbüttel (1982); This possibility was also emphasized by Brunt (1980) 87, 91, including the *collegia*-inscriptions explicitly among “those [inscriptions] which might be held to mention manual workers at Rome, but in fact often relate to employers”.

73 See, for example, the section on ‘economic differentiation’ in Groen-Vallinga and Tacoma (2017) 118–22; cf Ausbüttel (1982) 46.

74 Skilled slaves in *collegia* are especially unlikely to have been entrepreneurs; for slave members in *collegia* see below.

75 Cf Liu (2009) 169–171.

close to universal, so there were restrictive factors at work.⁷⁶ However, I do not believe that the selection criterion for *collegium* membership was 'entrepreneurship'. They must have been restrictions of a different kind.

Legal status

Slaves, freed, and freeborn were equally welcome to join associations as long as they complied with the association's conditions for entry. It is difficult to say anything more about the respective proportion of the freeborn, freed, and slaves among the *collegiati*, however. Virtually everything we know about individual *collegiati* outside of Roman Egypt, comes from inscriptions and, like all epigraphic material, the *collegia*-inscriptions are not without biases. Private associations in Rome had the fortunate habit to keep lists with the names of their members (and beneficiaries) and, more importantly, to inscribe them on stone. Some of these documents survived, and are now known as the *alba collegiorum*. Unfortunately, however, for most members these *alba* do not explicitly record filiation, libertination, or servile status. Perhaps they explicitly omitted legal status to emphasize the general equality of their members to the outside world. To make matters worse, explicit mention of libertination was omitted in the epigraphic record more generally from the second half of the first century onwards. It is interesting that in accordance with the lack of status indication in the *alba*, Joshel's study of the occupational inscriptions for individuals from *CIL* 6 finds that professional *collegiati* were particularly likely to leave out proper status indication in favour of stating their ties with a *collegium*.⁷⁷ This would also indicate a tendency among *collegium* members to emphasize collective identity and equality rather than individual status distinctions, although the significant proportion of *collegium* magistrates among them underlines that the associations in themselves were actually strongly hierarchical in nature.

Scholars who took up the challenge of studying the membership composition of associations including status structures, resorted to onomastics. Onomastic analysis indicates that most members were free, but it cannot always say whether they were freed or freeborn.⁷⁸

76 Unless the Pompeian graffito *CIL* 4. 960 can be read as "all of the woodworkers": *Cuspium Pansam/aedil(em) lignari(i) universi rog(ant)*. There is no evidence that the Pompeian woodworkers formed a *collegium*, however. Compare also the *universi dendrofori* in *CIL* 8. 23400 (quoted below, n. 90).

77 Joshel (1992) 117–9.

78 For the onomastic approach see Huttunen (1974). These *incerti* were not necessarily *ingenui*, as Ausbüttel (1982) 39–40 concludes on the basis of some very questionable onomastics: he works with the assumption that freedmen are (all and only) those with a non-Latin cognomen. See Liu (2009) chapter 5 for a systematic analysis of membership composition of the *collegia centonariorum*, the value of which is not limited to the *collegia centonarium*.

The majority of those known *collegium*-members whose legal status we can identify with any certainty, appear to have been freedmen.⁷⁹ A noticeable majority of office holders in the *collegia* were also of freed status.⁸⁰ These observations led some scholars to believe that associations were chiefly or exclusively made up of freedmen.⁸¹ However, since the evidence for *collegium*-membership is largely epigraphic, and freedmen are relatively prominent in the epigraphic evidence from the Roman empire, it is to be expected that freedmen are relatively well-represented among *collegiati* as well. But the predominance of freedmen in associations ostensibly was not always so pronounced: it is lacking in the numerically significant *collegia centonariorum*.⁸² The conclusion that members of associations were mostly freedmen is not so straightforward.

I would suggest that the argument that *collegia* (and professional associations in particular) were a freedmen prerogative builds on a number of other presumptions regarding Roman freedmen. Freedmen were an elusive group of individuals who are highly visible in the ancient evidence, and therefore speak to the scholarly imagination. Freedmen have at various times been equated with successful businessmen, the *nouveaux riches*, or a version of the bourgeoisie, middle class/*plebs media* – and so have the *collegiati*.

Conspicuous funerary monuments, and literary references to wealthy freedmen like Petronius' famous satirical character Trimalchio, all contributed to a picture of freedmen as rich upstarts: the *nouveaux riches* or, from an old-fashioned Marxist perspective, the Roman counterpart of the 'bourgeoisie'. Their obvious wealth could not have run in the family because of their servile background. The money had to be earned through their economic enterprises. There were many sectors of the economy that the elite traditionally kept away from. The evidence at first seems to support the idea that (successful) businessmen invariably were freedmen. The occupational inscriptions taken at face value also suggest that manual labour was generally executed by freedmen, and the artisans and craftsmen historically make up the 'middle class' in society. The associative order outlined by Verboven was the way through which Roman upstarts could convert economic capital into social and symbolic capital, and although Verboven to his credit does not explicitly talk about a middle class, this is how one presumably moved up from the *plebs media* to the upper-class.⁸³

A real middle class cannot be isolated in Roman society, let alone be equated with freedmen. It is also clear that the group of freedmen in itself was decidedly heteroge-

79 Cf Joshel (1992) 117–119.

80 Royden (1988) 230.

81 E.g. Van Nijf (2002) 308.

82 Liu (2009) 171–2.

83 Verboven (2007).

neous. These observations are not new. Some of the old notions, however, still resonate in attempts to explain the function and membership composition of *collegia* through the freedman presence – a view not fully supported the evidence. Associations were not a freedman prerogative.

The participation of slaves and *ingenui* in Roman associations has not been studied with quite the same intensity as freedman participation. It is tacitly assumed that the freeborn were allowed to congregate into professional and other voluntary associations; Ausbüttel even assumed that most of the *collegiati* were freeborn.⁸⁴ The latter assumption cannot be supported by the evidence, but it is securely attested that the freeborn were part of the *collegia*. Publius Aufidius Fortus, son of Publius, for example, was prefect of the *fabri tignuarii* in Ostia, and patron as well as an honoured official (*quinquennalis perpetuus*) of the associated fruit sellers and divers in the same city.⁸⁵ Another example is Lucius Cincius Martialis, son of Lucius, who was affiliated with the *collegium* of *fabri tignuarii* at Rome.⁸⁶

We know that at least in theory slaves, too, were eligible to join a *collegium*, even if not all associations were open to them. The inscription of the *cultores* of Diana and Antinoos in Lanuvium specifically records prescriptions for the eventuality that a master should refuse to hand over the remains of a deceased slave to the *collegium*.⁸⁷ Slaves who were manumitted were expected to donate an amphora of wine to the association. The text therefore clearly reckons with slave membership among the *cultores*. The jurist Marcian also underlines that there was no reason why slaves could not join an association, provided they had their owner's permission.⁸⁸ Slaves were even among the guild magistrates sometimes.⁸⁹ This is a vivid illustration of how the collegial hierarchy would sometimes overturn the hierarchy of society (see below). Looking at the attested members, however, few *collegiati* can be securely identified as slaves.

Gender

What has been said so far about membership in associations largely applies to the male population. The *collegia* may have been less inclusive when it comes to gender, however. Women are seldom recorded formally among the members listed in the *alba*

84 Ausbüttel (1982) 39–40, cf n. 78 above.

85 *CIL* 14. 4620, *corpus mercatorum frumentariorum et urinatorum*.

86 *CIL* 6. 9405.

87 Implying that it was common practice (or at least desirable) that the *collegium* arrange a proper funeral for their slave members, *CIL* 14. 2112, 2, 3–5.

88 *Dig.* 47.22.3.2 (Marcianus), translation Cotter (1996): *Servos quoque licet in collegio tenuiorum recipi volentibus dominis*, "It is also lawful for slaves to be admitted into associations of indigent persons, with the consent of their masters".

89 See n. 35 above.

collegii: they are not attested as members of the professional *collegia* at all, though their membership is sometimes confirmed for religious associations.⁹⁰ Yet as we have just seen, the distinction between professional and religious *collegia* may have been little more than an indication of two different sides of the same coin.⁹¹ In addition to female membership of predominantly male associations, there are one or two references to all-female associations: the collective of female mimes (*sociae mimae*) from Rome is the best example.⁹² Exclusively female collectives seem to have existed in Roman Italy on a limited scale but, parallel to the idea of a secondary labour market, we might call it a 'secondary associative phenomenon'.⁹³

There is a difference between legal membership of associations on the one hand, and women's actual engagement with the *collegia* on the other.⁹⁴ A famous example that always comes up in this context is Eumachia, commemorated for her benefactions by the fullers of Pompeii.⁹⁵ The recent work of Emily Hemelrijk illuminates the position of women who come up as benefactress, patroness, or so-called 'mother' of a *collegium*. Hemelrijk argues that contrary to patronesses of associations, the title of 'mother' of the *collegium* (*mater collegii*) was bestowed upon women who in all likelihood were 'insiders', chosen from among the same social strata. She tentatively suggests that these women may have been associated members themselves.⁹⁶ It is tempting to read into this that the women may have been recognized artisans, as members of the occupational associations. As Hemelrijk shows, however, few 'mothers' were recorded within professional associations. Moreover, there is no way of knowing whether their engagement

90 Hemelrijk (2015) 200 for occupational *collegia*, 199-204 for membership of associations in general. It is interesting to note that virtually all come from Italy, Hemelrijk p. 200, 224; Cf Waltzing I (1895) 348; Ausbüttel (1982) 42 "Allerdings besaßen einige, vor allem religiöse Kollegien, einen hohen Prozentsatz weiblicher Mitglieder" – he mentions an association from Mactar, Africa, with the telling title *universi dendrofori et sacra utriusque sexus* (of both sexes), the reference must be *CIL* 8. 23400; cf North (2013) on variations in the relation between the gender of the worshippers and admission to religious cults; Dixon (2001b) 14.

91 An interesting background to the observation of Waltzing I (1895) 348-9, that "[e]n ce point, les collèges d'artisans différaient donc des collèges funéraires qui admettaient les femmes et leur confiaient même des fonctions collégiales". If the distinction is not valid, what is the significance of the observed difference?

92 *CIL* 6. 10109 quoted in full below; noted by Hemelrijk (2015) 205; Ausbüttel (1982) 42; Waltzing (1895) 348.

93 Hemelrijk (2015) 205–221.

94 Hemelrijk (2015) chapter 4 and 5; Hirschmann (2004) 403–4, 412.

95 *CIL* 10. 813 quoted in the text above; Hirschmann (2004) 409; Hemelrijk (2015) 198 and (2008) 119 n. 12 notes that Eumachia is not explicitly indicated as a patroness of the fullers.

96 Hemelrijk (2015) especially chapter 4 and 5; earlier publication of findings in Hemelrijk (2012) on fictive motherhood, (2010) and (2008) on female patronesses and 'mothers' of *collegia*; see also the discussion of Liu (2009) 178–180.

with an association did not originate chiefly from their relationship with another (male) member.⁹⁷ Because there is very little evidence for female membership of professional *collegia*, the latter option seems to be the most likely explanation. This outcome is entirely in line with the engendered patterns of labour in Roman society. “[F]ictive motherhood allowed women a position of authority within a city or *collegium*, a role which was cast in socially acceptable terms.”⁹⁸ It seems that women could be, but were not usually among the members of an association. As demonstrated in the previous chapters, this does not mean that they were not involved in a trade.

Ethnicity

The existence of a *corpus splendissimum mercatorum Cisalpinorum et Transalpinorum* at Mediolanum and Novara, or the epitaph of the president of the *corpus negotiantium Malacitorum* found in Rome – to name but a few examples – indicates that common ethnic background could be the organizing principle behind an association, for those who moved to or within Roman Italy.⁹⁹

The port cities of Ostia and Puteoli were also home to many migrants, often merchants from abroad, and here they organized themselves into collectives that sporadically come up in the epigraphic sources.¹⁰⁰

Clustering of migrants in larger cities more generally, however, is chiefly attested through trading stations (*stationes*) such as the *Piazzale delle Corporazioni* in Ostia and the famous Tyrians of Puteoli; but *stationes* were perhaps more like embassies (with a commercial function) than associations.¹⁰¹ When Verboven writes that “*collegia* grouping foreigners are widely, but not abundantly, attested throughout the empire”, it is significant that this includes *stationes* – and it is even more noteworthy that, with the exception of Ostia and Puteoli, much of the more substantial evidence comes from outside of Roman Italy.¹⁰² Likewise, there are no inscriptions for resident aliens in Roman

97 Hemelrijk (2015) e.g. 184-5; family was important in the choice for patronesses, too, 231-35; also Hemelrijk (2012), and (2008) 140: “as a rule, a ‘mother’ of a *collegium* was a female official who was probably recruited from among the female members of the association, or from the relatives of male officials.”

98 Hemelrijk (2012) 212.

99 The *corpus splendissimum* is also attested at Aventicum, Lugdunum and Trier, Verboven (2011b) n.31 for references; this particular epitaph is *CIL* 6. 9677.

100 Verboven (2011) 337 lists Berytenses, Heliopolitanenses, Germellenses, Nabataenses and individual foreigners. He writes: “Puteoli was an exceptional place. Like Ostia, the city was a commercial stronghold, where the number of outsiders rival[led] the number of citizens. Both towns shared many features, but differed substantially from ‘ordinary’ cities”.

101 Tacoma (2016) 236-7; For the *Piazzale* see *CIL* 14. 4549 and Terpstra (2013) 100-12. The Tyrians at Puteoli: *CIG* 3. 5835 = *IG* 14. 830, 174 AD with Terpstra (2013) 70-84.

102 Verboven (2011) 337.

Italy united in *collegii consistentes* or *peregrinorum*, as there are in other provinces. In Lugdunum there was a *collegium* of the *fabri tignuarii consistentes* as well as a *collegium fabrum tignuariorum* (of locals, we may presume). This leads Liu to signal exclusion of resident aliens from associations “in large port cities or commercial centres”.¹⁰³ Whereas there are sporadic examples that seem to reflect this duality elsewhere in the empire,¹⁰⁴ a similar ban is not apparent in Italy. Foreigners may have been prevented from joining existing *collegia* sometimes, but if they were it is not traceable.

In sum, migrant associations in Roman Italy do not appear to have been common, even in the city of Rome. It must be assumed that migrants who wished to join a collective were quickly assimilated into the existing pluriform associative structure.¹⁰⁵

Occupation

Gender appears to be the best general indicator for in- or exclusion in associations. Legal status or wealth does not seem to be a specific requirement for membership in the professional associations. More interestingly, however, occupation was not always a knock-out criterion either.¹⁰⁶ Perhaps that curious fact should not come as a surprise, considering the functional overlap between associations that was emphasized earlier in this chapter. Nevertheless, surely the titular profession of an association must have meant something. After all, Roman history would have it that the associations first created in the time of the Kings were occupational in nature.¹⁰⁷

In professional associations, occupation took pride of place. The *lex* of the dealers in ivory and citrus-wood (*negotiatores eborarii et citrarii*) is clear on the matter.

CIL 6. 33885, 4–6

[item] placere ut si alius quam negotiator eborarius aut citrarius [p]er / [fr]audem curatorum in hoc collegium adlectus esset uti curatores eius / [cau]sa ex albo raderentur ab ordine...

103 Liu (2017) 214 with 214–16. She notes that the *consistentes* demonstrably accepted local members into their ranks, which mitigates a strict duality.

104 Cf Koestner (2017) on the linen-weavers of Alexandria in *P. Giss.* 40 ll.

105 Tacoma (2016) 232–237, excluding the *stationes*, and see 237–40 for the volatile nature and weak ties of many migrant networks.

106 Ausbüttel (1982) 36, 74; Liu (2013) 360: “The link to a particular occupation, however, did not mean that all the practitioners of a trade had to become members of the corresponding association, or that each and every professional association admitted artisans and/or tradesmen of its titular trade only”.

107 The first *collegia* are said to have been created by Servius Tullius or Numa Pompilius, *Flor.* 1.6.3; *Plin. HN* 34.1.1; 35.46.159; *Plut. Num.* 17.1–2; cf *Dig.* 47.22.4 for *collegia* in the Twelve Tables.

if by a mistake of the curators someone other than an ivory dealer or a citrus-wood dealer should have been admitted into this *collegium*, then the curators will be erased from the membership list by the *ordo* because of it...¹⁰⁸

Note that the curators are removed, but the text does not explicate what was done about the erroneously appointed *collegiatus*.¹⁰⁹

It is probably significant that the *negotiatores eborarii et citrarii* were based in the city of Rome: larger cities like Rome and Ostia had a greater variation of associations, often connected with highly specialized trades such as the *faber solarius baxiarius* (women's sandal maker).¹¹⁰ With such a wide choice in associations it is difficult to see why, say, a *faber solarius baxiarius* would even consider to join the *eborarii et citrarii* rather than the *collegium* of his own trade. There were obvious economic and social benefits to associating with those in the same trade. As a rule, therefore, professional *collegia* could indeed be defined by shared occupation. However, it appears to have been a recognized fact that various professions could also sometimes be assembled under the heading of one occupational *collegium*: the law acknowledged that this occurred, although it is difficult to find actual attestations of it.¹¹¹ It has been suggested that occupational plurality within a professional association was characteristic particularly of smaller settlements, in which case this scenario may have been the more common one throughout Italy.¹¹² This geographical differentiation is where I shall turn now.

108 *CIL* 6. 33885, 4–6. The *ordo* here probably refers to the guild or guild magistrates, cf Tran (2007a) 124.

109 Expulsion was a possibility, cf Tran (2007a).

110 *CIL* 6. 9404.

111 E.g. *Dig.* 50.6.6.6; 50.6.6.12; for an example see *AE* 1981, 387; cf Liu (2009) 203–8 on 'outsiders' in the *collegium centonariorum*; Verboven (2007) 883–4 with other examples. The converse was also possible: there are those with multiple affiliations, despite the fact that it is forbidden by law (*Dig* 47.22.1.2, Marcian), see Liu (2009) 206–8. Cf Hawkins (2006) 109 who suggests that individuals with multiple affiliations were in fact exceptional, and that they were generally recruited as benefactors.

112 Liu (2009) 22.

Urbanism and association

There is a correlation between urbanism and association: generally speaking, *collegia* are attested in urban centres.¹¹³ In part this is due to the nature of the evidence: associations are chiefly attested epigraphically, and inscriptions on stone are an urban occurrence. Moreover, associations generally tend to form where people cluster together in large numbers, and that is in the cities. The more people, the more associations. The perceived distribution pattern of *collegia* inscriptions is therefore not surprising. The precise nature of the correlation between urbanism and the associative phenomenon is, however, not immediately apparent. In order to get to the nature of this connection, the distribution of inscriptions recording *collegia* deserves somewhat closer scrutiny.

There was a wide variation in number, size, and prestige of associations, all of which was largely related to their location.¹¹⁴ It will become clear that some basic distinctions between *collegia* in large and small towns have already been noted in the scholarly literature. But there is a third category, both the largest and most obvious one: the associations of Rome. Rome cannot be equated with the other large cities, and conversely the material from the eternal city has a tendency to become an unwarranted model for all (large) cities. The tripartite distinction between the capital, large cities, and small settlements is not often explicitly recognized.¹¹⁵

Rome

Almost two thirds of the epigraphic attestations of *collegia* come from Italy.¹¹⁶ The majority of *collegia* inscriptions originate from the capital.¹¹⁷ This pattern appears to be broadly consistent with the general pattern of epigraphic output. More significant is that the city of Rome also exhibits a greater differentiation in the 'occupational' associations

113 Liu (2008b) 65 notes "the case of Pompeii implies that a high degree of urbanization, such as that found at Pompeii, or craft-related specialization does not automatically lead to the formation of *collegia*. It is my understanding that the relationship between urbanization and the formation of *collegia* is not always straightforward." This viewpoint is based on a strict definition of formal *collegia* which I have discussed under the heading of 'formal organization and variation' above, where I outlined the development of private associations into *collegia*, and of *collegia* into active organizations in the civic community. What follows is valid, too, if in the first century there were private associations (as I have argued above for Pompeii) rather than formal *collegia*.

114 Ausbüttel (1982) 33 pointed out that there probably were regional differences, but does not go into this.

115 Liu, especially (2013) and (2008b), is the positive exception. For a working definition of large, medium, or small settlements, see De Ligt (2012) 201.

116 Ausbüttel (1982) 32.

117 Ca 700 according to Liu (2013) 352.

attested than any other city.¹¹⁸ The difference is not just in number, but also in nature of the inscriptions. In Rome, there appear to have been three *centuriae* of women's sandal makers alone.¹¹⁹ In Rome, too, there are *collegia* for highly specialized professions like *caudicarii* (lightermen) and *specularii* (mirror makers?), or the *lenuncularii traiectus Luculli* (ferryman working at the crossing of Lucullus), "and many, many other specialists quite untranslatably named according to what they did for a living"¹²⁰

Rome stood at the apex of the urban network. Migration to Rome was substantial and included many young males, who migrated without any family or pre-existing networks.¹²¹ The city may have had a million inhabitants, locals as well as immigrants. Because of the large number of people involved, all of whom were looking for a place to belong, as often as not without a family to fall back on, the structuring principle offered by *collegia* was more important in Rome than anywhere else in Roman Italy. As a result, there were many identifiable associations in the capital but, significantly, most of them did not enjoy the same social prestige as their counterparts in other settlements. Perhaps more than anywhere else, in Rome the 'associative order' presented an alternative for those who had no part in the civic order.¹²²

In most cities *collegia* became part of the civic order, and as part of the civic order, *collegiati* gained certain privileges. The development was outlined in more detail above. Associations were included in public banquets and ceremonies, and together with the *decuriones* and Augustales, they were the core group of recipients of distributions and benefactions from wealthy patrons.¹²³ Taking over civic benefactions and duties in the absence of the traditional elite, *collegium* magistrates and *collegiati* enjoyed a certain prestige. By implication, so did their patrons and benefactors, as indicated by the fact that they proudly advertised their relationships of patronage and euergetism with the associations. This mutually beneficial system facilitated attracting high-ranking indi-

118 Liu (2013) 352 notes a total of c. 500 different *collegia* at Rome. Cf Royden (1988) 238; cf Liu (2009) 22–3. Compare Harper (2011) 102 who finds that also household "scale and specialization were correlated".

119 *CIL* 6. 9404.

120 *CIL* 6. 1795, *CIL* 6. 2206 and *CIL* 14. 5320 respectively, all also attested in other inscriptions; quote MacMullen (1974) 73.

121 Tacoma (2016) chapter 4, esp. 107–123.

122 The associative order: Verboven (2007) and below; this symbolic order especially in Rome: Liu (2013) 362.

123 Cf Liu (2013) 362; Patterson (2006), (1994), Patterson (1992) 21–2; Van Nijf (1997) for the Roman East.

viduals as patrons and benefactors for the *collegia*. All of that was, however, not the case at Rome.¹²⁴

The capital represented a unique civic landscape. The emperor resided at Rome, and so did the Senate – and many senators in addition. This was the seat of power that attracted the elite from all over the empire. With the emperor in the lead, all of these wealthy men were in constant competition for political power. The emperor took pains to affirm his position in relation to the *plebs*. Euergetism to the people and to the city of Rome, in the form of a building program, games, and distributions of money or bread, was a prime method to do so. The virtual monopoly to euergetism claimed by the emperor left little space for the *collegia* to step in as civic benefactors. There was also no need to fulfil a desire for political influence among those who had very little, as in smaller cities. It was difficult for associations in Rome to secure wealthy patrons, both because of the associations' limited role in the community and in high-end politics, and because of the limited social capital that came with their position.¹²⁵

This general account leaves out the considerable variation in types of association, however. In Rome they ranged from the *collegia domestica* of the elite *domus* to the official *collegia apparitorum*.¹²⁶ *Collegia domestica* and others of a more private nature presumably did not compete for a more substantial role in the community, as their modest aims may have been fulfilled by their elite patron. Most of the professional collectives seem to have fallen somewhere in between these two, not merely presenting social but also economic networks, that were of great value to their members but less so to elite patrons and the civic community.

There certainly were very large, influential and prestigious associations in the city. An association like that of the *pistores* (bakers) or the *navicularii* (skippers) gained imperial recognition and the right of *corpus habere*, presumably because of their important role in the *annona*.¹²⁷ The *collegia tria* or *principalia*, the 'three', or 'principal associations' were among the ancient and respected guilds everywhere, including Rome. These three principal associations commonly concern the *fabri* (often *fabri tignuarii* or *tignarii*),

124 Noted by Liu (2013) 362. Ausbüttel predicts quite the opposite, (1982) 48: "So werden in Rom und Ostia reichere Leute einem Verein angehört haben als z.B. in Britannien".

125 Presumably one of the reasons why so many *collegia* are seen to have engaged in emperor worship in the hope to gain this powerful patron's favour, cf Liu (2013) 364.

126 Liu (2013) 356; The *collegia domestica* are more relevant to chapter 4 on the elite *domus* than here. The specific nature of the *collegia domestica* shows also, e.g., from the prominence of women, Hemelrijk (2015) 186–189.

127 *Dig.* 3.4.1.pr (Gaius ad ed.); see also Verboven (2007) 875–878.

centonarii, and *dendrophori*.¹²⁸ Tentatively these translate into the builders, textile dealers, and worshippers of Magna Mater (literally 'tree-carriers'). The *fabri tignuarii* of Rome were one of the most long-lived and largest *collegia* in the capital that we know of.¹²⁹ There were *fabri*, *dendrophori* and *centonarii* here, too.¹³⁰ Many other associations were also prominently present in the capital through their buildings, *scholae* or temples, the majority of them of an occupational signature.¹³¹ *Collegia* set up inscriptions and statues in public places, and dedicated them to deities and the imperial house.

Larger cities

The port city of Ostia is the one settlement that would conceivably resemble Rome best, because of the close connection between the two. Walking around what is left of the city today, commercial spaces catch the eye. Ostia as we know it was largely constructed or transformed in the second century AD, when *collegia* flourished.¹³² The elaborate buildings or *scholae* of associations undeniably shape the urban landscape, and the *Piazzale delle Corporazioni* is unparalleled, with its rows of market stalls or offices for various collectives.¹³³ Like Rome, Ostia is known for its great variety of occupational *collegia* and, as in Rome, they are omnipresent both in the epigraphic record and in the material remains of the townscape. In both respects, however, it appears that Rome and Ostia

128 Sometimes the *utriclarii* are also included. Liu (2009) 50–5 questions the value of studying these three *collegia* as a coherent group, stressing differences in origins and development. See also *ibidem* pp. 393–4 on the epigraphic record of the *tria collegia/collegia III*, urging caution in the equation of the *collegia tria* with these *collegia* when the sources do not specify which ones are meant. In what follows I use *collegia tria principalia* to refer to these particular three associations as is common in scholarly literature; The prominence of these *collegia* has sometimes been linked to public utility as a fire brigade *vel sim*. That the *collegia centonariorum* and *fabrum* in particular were so widespread because they might have served as a fire brigade or were involved with maintaining public safety, as suggested by earlier scholars on the basis of Pliny, *Ep.* 10.33 and 34 (quoted above), has rightly been questioned, see Van Nijf (1997) 177–81, Perry (2006) 7–18 and Liu (2009) chapter 4, pp 125–160 with additional references. Contra Verboven (2007) 880, who still speaks of the “fire brigade associations”. Callistratus, *Dig.* 50.6.6.12 does speak of the public utility of the *fabri* (passage quoted elsewhere). If we compare the finding that in 1791 AD a third of all the wage-workers in Paris were employed in the building trade (Brunt (1974) 87), the prominence and public utility of an actual builders’ association is perhaps not so unlikely.

129 Largest: *CIL* 6. 1060 points to at least 59 *decuriae*, of around 22 men each. Long-lived: *CIL* 6. 9034 (lustrum XIIX) and *CIL* 6. 9406 (lustrum XXVII). There are attestations from the 1st to the 4th century.

130 Liu (2009) appendix B, p. 384–390.

131 Bollmann (1998) 169.

132 Meiggs (1960) 133 (133–145 ‘the architectural revolution’).

133 Commercial space: Meiggs (1960) 272–4; DeLaine (2005); *Piazzale delle corporazioni*: many corporations are named in the mosaics on the floor of the offices, documented as *CIL* 14. 4549; *Scholae*: Bollmann (1998).

were exceptional within Roman Italy.¹³⁴ This makes it all the more vexing that there were significant differences between the position of the *collegia* in the capital, and Ostia.

Ostia was a city of commerce, not a political hub. The Isola Sacra necropolis holds the remains of traders and craftsmen, with few or no reported magistrates.¹³⁵ Professional associations at Ostia are disproportionately well-attested epigraphically compared to other occupational inscriptions from the town (roughly 2:1). Incidentally and unsurprisingly, the most prominent guild is that of the *fabri tignuariorum Ostiensum*. There are also *fabri* (without addition to the name), as well as *dendrophori*, but no known *centonarii*. Many of the associations here concern collectives of sailors and traders, which is to be expected in a port city. The visibility of associations both in the epigraphic record and in archaeological remains of the town plan seems to reflect their importance in the community. As a result of their position, the *collegia* at Ostia do not seem to have had any problem to engage high-ranking and wealthy patrons, though many admittedly were of the new elite of wealthy freedmen.¹³⁶ A town like Pompeii also accounts for twenty-five known different professional associations.¹³⁷

Besides these two examples, the epigraphic record for *collegia* in the larger towns of the Italian peninsula is limited. Half of these cities have no record of any associations, the other half have one, maybe two. Puteoli does not appear to have had many associations despite its obvious importance in commerce, though there are *dendrophori* here.¹³⁸ The city of Capua, that seems to have ranked second in size after Rome, has *centonarii* and two interesting references to unspecified '*collegia*', where "the *collegia* have set up" (*collegia posuerunt*) a dedication to influential individuals. Similarly, *CIL* 11. 5416 from Asisium

134 Bollmann (1998) 169-70 notes that the rich evidence for *Vereinshäuser* in the second century is largely restricted to Rome and Ostia. Her discussion of the '*Vereinshäuser in städtischen context*' is structured accordingly: in Rome, Ostia, and the rest.

135 Meiggs (1960) 455; Kampen (1981) 23.

136 E.g. L. Calpurnius Chius, *CIL* 14. 309, mid-late 2nd c. AD. His name suggests family ties (libertination) with one of the known consuls of the name L. Calpurnius Piso, perhaps (closest in time) the consul of 175 AD whose light might have shined down on Chius. Chius became a central person in Ostia's civic community: his epitaph lists that he once was *sevir* and president of the *Augustales*, president and twice treasurer (*curator*) of the *corpus mensorum frumentariorum* at Ostia, treasurer of the Ostian *codicarii*, three times and honorary president of the *collegium* of Silvanus Augustus maior; and *magister* to Mars Ficanus Augustus in the *collegium dendroforum*.

137 Verboven (2007) 874, in 41 inscriptions including the famous election notices; Liu (2008b) on the question whether these groups should be understood as *collegia* or not, to which her answer is negative, page 62: "the phenomenon of *collegia* had not developed in Pompeii by the time the city was destroyed".

138 Other than these, there is a *collegium scabillariorum* (some sort of ritual musicians?); *Baulanorum* (ethnic); *Heliopolitanorum* (ethnic), see above.

commemorates a patron of the city and three associations (*municipii et collegiorum III*).¹³⁹ The scarce references to *collegia III*, like this one, have been taken to mean ‘the three principal *collegia*’, in casu the *fabri*, *centonarii* and *dendrophori*.¹⁴⁰ Though one should be careful in the assumption, it is easy to see where it comes from and it may not be far beside the truth: with the exceptions of Ostia and Pompeii, an investigation into the associations of larger cities largely coincides with mapping the principal associations.

The question becomes why Ostia and Pompeii show such a different picture, compared to other large cities. That said, Ostia and Pompeii are both relatively large within a rather broad category of settlements. Ostia could perhaps also be explained through its proximity to Rome, though important differences between Ostia and Rome were pointed out above. More importantly, the state of the evidence in Ostia and Pompeii is better than in many other cities, which accounts for some of the discrepancy. If that is the case, however, should the circumstances in Ostia and Pompeii be seen as representative of other commercial centres? Comparison with the situation in other provinces would suggest as much, but comparison with the other settlements of Roman Italy would indicate that perhaps Italy was exceptional.

Small towns

The range of (professional) *collegia* predictably was small in minor urban centres: in these settlements, too, many of the (professional) associations belong to one of the *collegia principalia*.¹⁴¹ The *fabri* are everywhere, but there appear to be some regional differences within this pattern: the *centonarii* are predominantly located in north and central Italy, and almost absent from the south where the *dendrophori* are most common.¹⁴² Recent analysis of the occupational inscriptions of Picenum by Cristofori offers an interesting case in point, as it has virtually no evidence for *collegia* other than the three principal ones.¹⁴³ But there are exceptions. The modest settlement of Falerio is relatively well documented in the region, and it is evident that *collegia* played an important part in its community. An elaborate inscription offers evidence for the existence for the three *collegia principalia* in the town, but there is also an epitaph set up for a magistrate of the

139 *Centonarii* in Capua: AE 2010, 325; *collegia posuerunt*, AE 1985, 273 and AE 1972, 75; cf also the *reparator collegiorum* of CIL 9. 1596 (Beneventum).

140 Liu (2009) 393. In my view, AE 1985, 273 and AE 1972, 75 from Capua cited in the previous note very likely also relate to the *III collegia* – in both instances there is illegible space on the stone before the word *collegia* that would accommodate ‘III’.

141 The Augustales remain the most common *collegium* throughout; *Collegia* were certainly not limited to the *fabri tignuarii* outside of Rome and Ostia, which is what Royden (1988) 238 writes.

142 Liu (2009) 29-36 with appendix B, table on p. 384-390 listing *fabri*, *fabri tignuarii*, *centonarii*, *dendrophori*, *utriclarii*.

143 Cristofori (2004).

collective of the fullers, who was also a magistrate of the *fabri*; his wife was a 'mother' to the *fullones* as well.¹⁴⁴ Another inscription mentions unspecified but presumably commercial associations taking part in the construction of a road: these *collegia* are said to be 'contiguous to the *forum pecuarium* (cattle market)'.¹⁴⁵

There may be a rationale behind this more limited array of associations. Hawkins suggested that associations may bring together artisans of broadly related trades, to enable "extensive vertical subdivisions of labour".¹⁴⁶ He cites a passage from the *Digest* where the jurist Gaius writes that the designation *faber tignuarius* refers "not only to those of hew timber, but to all who work as builders".¹⁴⁷ Theoretically the *collegium fabrum* could accommodate a broad range of people working in construction. It has been argued that Hawkins' idea is particularly useful for understanding associations in the smaller urban centres, because of the attestation of these more general *collegia* in smaller centres, versus the highly specific occupations in the names of associations attested for larger cities.¹⁴⁸ As we have seen, however, the more complex differentiation of *collegia* was limited to Rome, Ostia and, to a lesser extent, Pompeii.

Many of the prerequisites and stimuli for the proliferation of *collegia* in Rome and Ostia were not equally present, or not pressing enough, in smaller settlements. There were simply fewer artisans to unite into associations, which would have made the (enduring) existence of more than one or a few associations untenable. It also seems reasonable to suppose that many of the social advantages of the collegiate network were less urgent in a neighbourhood where everybody already knew one another. To anticipate the socio-economic function of the associations to be discussed below, therefore, Liu may be correct hypothesizing that the very existence of *collegia* as well as "the potential of associations in further reducing transaction costs among members may be in reverse proportion to the size of the city".¹⁴⁹ Hawkins' vertical subdivision of labour therefore may well be part of the explanation for the existence of associations in larger cities. The active presence of *collegia* in even some of the smallest towns, however, cannot be

144 *Collegia principalia* CIL 9. 5439; *fullones/fabri* CIL 9. 5450, quoted in full below. Hemelrijk (2015) 251–69 and (2008) for 'mothers' of *collegia*.

145 *Collegia principalia*, CIL 9. 5439; *Collegia quae attingunt ... foro*, CIL 9. 5438.

146 Hawkins (2006) 111–5, quote 115.

147 *Dig.* 50.16.235.1 (Gaius): "*Fabros tignarios*" *dicimus non eos dumtaxat, qui tigna dolarent, sed omnes qui aedificarent*, transl. Hawkins (2006) 111.

148 Cf. Liu (2009) 22: "Hawkins is certainly correct in noting that the Roman occupational *collegium* often included a wide range of artisans that were related to a broadly defined trade. But that seems to be a phenomenon typical of smaller centers. Larger commercial centers such as Rome, Ostia and Lugdunum featured many *collegia* whose titles suggested highly specialized trades". Cf. Verboven (2007) 880.

149 Liu (2009) 22.

explained merely by their function as a trust network or private enforcement network, but rather by their importance in the civic community. Small towns in particular needed the support of a broader group of benefactors if they were going to remain extant, and an active *collegium* could play a part in this.¹⁵⁰

THE SOCIAL PHENOMENON OF SUBSTITUTE FAMILIES

Since the final decades of the twentieth century, scholars have ‘discovered’ *collegia* as a social phenomenon: it was a natural reaction to the formal and juristic treatment that went before.¹⁵¹ Joining a *collegium* was a voluntary choice that broadened an individual’s social network beyond the family and other networks he or she may have been associated with. Like the family, the *collegium* became a part of the Romans’ self-identification.¹⁵²

The plethora of associations in the early Roman empire has sometimes been explained by a need for a surrogate family. The association was expected to take care of various issues when the natural family could not, such as financial intermediation, religious dedications and, above all, burial arrangements.¹⁵³ Consequently, the *collegia* have been referred to as *grandi familie* by De Robertis, Schultz-Falkenthal similarly writes that they were “so etwas wie eine grosse Familie”. Associative life has been termed *la vie familiale*.¹⁵⁴ There are some indications that the *collegiati* themselves also appreciated each other this way, as they occasionally refer to the others as brothers (*fratres*). Surely, the ‘brother builders’ (*fabri fratres*) must refer to an association: the Romans were no strangers to the use of terms of fictive kinship as terms of endearment.¹⁵⁵

In the absence of family, specifically in the absence of children, the Romans worried over a proper burial.¹⁵⁶ Anonymous graves marked by tiles or amphorae in the Isola Sacra necropolis were not necessarily appealing, and what is more: Martial’s *Epigram* 8.75, 9-10 suggests that many of the poor were simply cremated, their ashes scattered (into the Tiber perhaps), their memories forever erased.¹⁵⁷

150 Patterson (2006), 271f for his model of the small town, earlier in (1994) 236.

151 Perry (2006) chapter 6; see especially the work of Nicolas Tran (2006), (2011).

152 Joshel (1992) 113–22; Van Nijf (1997) 111.

153 For fictive or substitute families, see e.g. Wilson (1996) 13; various issues, cf Garnsey and Saller (1987) 157.

154 De Robertis (1946) 77; Schultz-Falkenthal (1968) 163; Waltzing.

155 *CIL* 5. 7487; Cf Hemelrijk (2015) ch. 5 on ‘mothers’ (and ‘sisters’) of *collegia*; Compare Harland (2005) and (2007) for a similar phenomenon in the Greek East.

156 Hopkins (1983) 213; Patterson (1992); cf Hübner (2013) 87 ff.

157 Bodet (2000); cf Patterson (1992) 16 with ref. to Martial; Hopkins (1983) 205–11.

Mart. Ep. 8.75, 9–10

Quattuor inscripti portabant uile cadauer,
accipit infelix qualia mille rogos

Four branded slaves were carrying a common corpse, of the kind that an unhappy pyre receives a thousand.

Collegia habitually concerned themselves with funerary matters for their members. It follows from the nature of the ancient evidence on *collegia* – which consists of many epitaphs – that funerary activities are their best attested pursuit.¹⁵⁸ The charter of the *collegium* of the *cultores* of Antinoos and Diana at Lanuvium stipulates that the association will pay out 300 HS for the purpose of burial.¹⁵⁹ Fellow *collegiati* mourned for the deceased with all due ritual, participating in the funerary procession. The members of the *cultores* from Lanuvium received monetary compensation to attend the funeral; members of an unidentified association in Roman Egypt, conversely, were fined 4 drachmas if they did not go, and another 4 drachmas if they did not shave their heads in mourning.¹⁶⁰

Collegia in their own right seem to have had access to burial space for their members. The monument of the *sociae mimae* in Rome measured 15 x 12 Roman feet; the *sodalici lanariorum carminatorum* (wool-merchants and -carders) from Brixellum sported a much larger plot of 100 x 55 feet.¹⁶¹ In the city it would often be a columbarium, or a number of niches in a columbarium tomb, where members could be buried.¹⁶² Also in the case of a single family columbarium related to an elite *domus*, an overarching *collegium* is regu-

158 Patterson (1992) 20; Ausbüttel (1982) 70, 71: the funerary activities of *collegia* are only sporadically attested from the 4th century onwards and so they seem to have waned in favour of Christian rites.

159 *CIL* 14. 2112.

160 *P. Mich.* 5. 243, 1–12; cf Venticinque (2009) 39–40.

161 *CIL* 6. 10109: *Sociarum / mimarum / in fr(onte) p(edes) XV / in agr(o) p(edes) XII*; *CIL* 11. 1031: *D(is) M(anibus) / haec loca sunt / lanariorum / carminator(um) / sodalici / quae faciunt / in agro p(edes) C / ad viam p(edes) LV*.

162 Patterson (1992) 20–1, including an interesting reference to *CIL* 6. 9405 where a number of niches appears to be given to specified members (and 10 unassigned places) of a *collegium*. There is no clear evidence for *collegia* setting up or owning a columbarium tomb, see chapter 4; cf Patterson (1992) 21 who points to the *cultores* of Hercules Victor of *CIL* 10. 5386 who certainly owned a large burial plot (*loci sepulturae*); Liu (2013) 365–6 also notes *CIL* 6. 9405, plus other examples.

larly attested that ostensibly took care of the funerary arrangements.¹⁶³ Testamentary endowments to *collegia* often stipulated the continuation of commemorative rites.¹⁶⁴

It is not unlikely that there were *collegiati* who did not have a family to provide their burial and therefore relied on a *collegium*. Many labour migrants to the city of Rome will have been unmarried young men who had left their birth families behind.¹⁶⁵ The same principle may have operated to a lesser extent in other urban centres. A number of migrant and local young men had some time before marriage when, because of the high mortality rates that were even higher in the city, there may not have been surviving parents to commemorate them. *CIL* 10. 7039 from the Sicilian city of Catina could be an example of this:

CIL 10. 7039

D(is) M(anibus) s(acrum) / L(ucius) Arrius / Secundus / vix(it) ann(os) XVII / marmorari(i) / convive fecer(unt)

Sacred to the divine spirits. Lucius Arrius Secundus. He lived 17 years. The marble-workers sharing his life set up [this monument].

The marble-workers appear to have financed the burial of the deceased, Lucius Arrius Secundus, and actively contributed to the arrangements (*fecerunt*).¹⁶⁶ Only seventeen years of age, Secundus could fit the profile of a young man without family. Sigismund-Nielsen has shown that many ‘anonymous’ burials, meaning epitaphs without record of their dedicator, were set up for this demographic group, arguing on the basis of this and other criteria that they too were buried by a *collegium* for lack of family.¹⁶⁷

But there were certainly members of associations who did have biological families. Not every member was necessarily buried in a collective burial place like a columbarium. The *collegium* did not take over primary responsibility from the family. Rather, in matters of death as in life, there seems to have been a delicate cooperation between the

163 Hasegawa (2005) 81-8 presents most of the direct and indirect evidence; E.g. *CIL* 6. 6215 (Statilii), *CIL* 6. 7282 (Volusii), *CIL* 6. 9148-9 and 10260-4 (Sergia Paullina). See also ch. 4.

164 Liu (2008a) 240.

165 Tacoma (2016) chapter 4, esp. 107-123.

166 From Catina. This particular example was chosen because I did not want to leave unmentioned Perry's telling reconstructions of the possible story behind it, Perry (2006) 1-5.

167 Sigismund-Nielsen (2006) 204 “younger males of the working classes”, *ibidem* 206 specifies them as unmarried men ages 15-30. I do not believe that all of these anonymous burials were set up by *collegia*.

association and the relatives of the deceased.¹⁶⁸ Depending on the circumstances, the *collegium* could arrange everything, from retrieving the body of the deceased to a place in a communal tomb; but in other instances it would simply pay out to the next of kin.¹⁶⁹ Many members were buried by a *collegium*.¹⁷⁰ Associations would sometimes arrange a funeral for the biological family of their members, too.¹⁷¹ When the family rather than the association set up the epitaph, or when family takes pride of place, the inscription often concerns *collegium* magistrates.¹⁷²

The following is a clear example of how family and *collegium* may have operated together.

AE 2001, 879b

D(is) M(anibus) sacrum / L(ucio) Gavellio Felici Su(ellia) Prisca coniu(gi) b(ene)
m(erenti) f(ecit) et collegi(um) dendrofo(rorum)

Sacred to the divine spirits. To Lucius Gavellius Felix. Suellia Prisca set this up for her well-deserving husband, and the association of the tree-carriers (set this up).

The associations could also be burdened with the protection of the family tomb of one of their members.¹⁷³ In some instances, the *collegium* gained access to the tomb when the family line died out, as in the following example.¹⁷⁴

168 Patterson (1992) 23, Van Nijf (1997) 32–3, and Venticinque (2010) 293: “Including provisions for burial in guild regulations or offering legal assistance does not need to imply a lack of reliance on one’s kin or community as has often been suggested”.

169 Cf. the Lanuvium inscription, *CIL* 14. 2112, col. l.26-32: when a member has died more than 20 miles away and his death has been reported, three men will be sent to conduct the burial; when it has not been reported, the expenses of his burial will be compensated after the fact.

170 Joshel (1992) 113.

171 Cf Hemelrijk (2015) 183–86.

172 Joshel (1992) 113-4. But she herself notes (208, n.45) that the evidence is skewed because these individuals are largely concentrated in two tombs – Joshel counts individuals, not inscriptions or monuments.

173 Ausbüttel (1982) 69–70. The *collegium* received money for this, as in *AE* 1951, 94 (1,000 HS to the *centonarii* of Comum).

174 Cf also *AE* 2004, 210 (Ostia).

CIL 6. 8750

Diis(!) Manibus / T(itus) Aelius Aug(usti) lib(ertus) Primitivus / archimagirus / fecit
 Aelia(e) Tyche et sibi et Aeliae / Tyrannidi coniugi et libertis li/bertabusq(ue) meis
 vel Aeliae Tyran/nydis / posterisque eorum /

custodia mon{i}<u>menti inhabitandi ne quis inter/dicere velit quotsi nemo de
 n(ostra) memoria / extiterit pertinebit ad collegium cocorum / Caesaris n(ostri)
 quot veniri donarive vetamus si ad/versus ea quis fecerit poenae nomine feret
 / arcae cocorum HS L m(ilia) n(ummum) / ate ex usuris eorum / celebretur suo
 quoq(ue) anno/ h(oc) m(onumentum) h(eredem) n(on) s(equetur)

To the divine spirits. Titus Aelius Primitivus, freedman of the emperor, head cook, set this up to Aelia Tyche and himself and to Aelia Tyrannis his wife and my freedmen and – women or those of Aelia Tyrannis, and to their descendants.

The care of the monument to be dwelt in (inhabitandi), so that no one may interfere, [we stipulate] that if no one of our memory [i.e. family] should exist, [the care] will fall to the association of the cooks of our Caesar. We forbid it [the monument] to be given or sold. If anyone should do these things in opposition [to these stipulations], he shall hand a nominal fine to the treasury of the cooks of 50,000 *nummi*, a yearly sacrifice from the revenues of this should be celebrated in his year. This monument does not go to the heirs.¹⁷⁵

This is the inscription of the family tomb of T. Aelius Primitivus and his wife (both his first (Tyche) and second partner (Tyrannis)). His family including freedmen clearly takes precedence here. Primitivus apparently fulfilled a magistracy as *archimagirus* in the imperial association of cooks, which will take care that the tomb is not violated on the penalty of 50,000 *nummi* – to benefit the *collegium*.

The collaboration of family and association in matters of death and burial is illustrative of the way in which family and associative life overlapped. The *collegium* mourned the death of *collegiati* and their relatives, but there are indications that it was equally

175 The translation of this text is more difficult than its meaning. Cf Weaver, *Repertorium familiae Caesarum*, 276–7 for Aeliae Tyche (= dative) instead of Aelia, and for the meaning of ate [= ἀτῆ], as a penalty in the form of a yearly sacrifice. *CIL* 6. 7458 has a remarkably similar text to this one; its contents are virtually identical to *CIL* 6. 8750, but it does not mention Aelia Tyrannis, only Tyche as Primitivus' wife, and adds that the *collegium cocorum*, "exists on the Palatine" and was "located in this place": *quod consistit in Palatio* and *corpori qui sunt in hac stationem*. See for that text and the protection of tombs by a durable institution, Crook (1967) 136–7.

involved with the happier family life events of marriage and birth: the members of an unidentified association in Roman Egypt were required to pay 2 drachmas to the association on the occasion of their marriage or the birth of a son, and one drachma for the birth of a daughter. That same collective has it written in their charter that "If anyone neglects another in trouble and does not give aid to release him from his trouble, let him pay eight drachmas".¹⁷⁶ Eating, celebrating, and grieving together, *collegiati* can in many ways be usefully seen as extended family.

Collegia and family were not just intersecting and complementary networks, however: *collegium* and family could literally coincide. There is evidence for *collegiati* who were also related as family. This phenomenon is difficult to quantify, among other things because of the absence of explicit filiation and libertination in the membership lists that was already noted above. Occupation and guild membership were not hereditary in the period under scrutiny, although it must be assumed that many did follow in their parents' footsteps.¹⁷⁷ It is therefore hard to say if we can speak of a "significant percentage" of kinship bonds among *collegiati*.¹⁷⁸ The membership lists occasionally contain identifications such as *sen(ior)*, *iun(ior)*, or *fil(ius)*, the son, in cases of homonymy.¹⁷⁹ Liu illustrates that in the case of the *collegium centonariorum*, there were family clusters within *collegia*, sometimes over two generations as in the case of the Octavii in the *collegium* at Rome.¹⁸⁰ Pearse reconstructs three generations among the *fabri tignuarii*, also at Rome.¹⁸¹ Venticinque adds convincing material that shows blood relations between *collegiati*; his examples are largely from Roman Egypt, however, and the material is not abundant.¹⁸²

Looking beyond the membership lists, it is clear that many *collegia* do indeed demonstrate kinship relations. In the following epitaph, interestingly, two sons chose to give precedence to official titles (including that of their mother) over kinship bonds and piety.

176 *P. Mich.* 5. 243 (BL 9. 160); Venticinque (2010) 280–5 including the full text and translation of the charter.

177 Chapter 3 on intergenerational dependence.

178 Venticinque (2010) 279: "Persons united by at least one bond of kinship with a brother, father, or son account for a significant percentage of the overall membership."

179 Ausbüttel (1982) 39. Unlike him I feel that the distinction senior/junior in case of homonymy probably is an indication of kinship as well as age.

180 Liu (2009) 180–203, including patron-freedmen or *colliberti*.

181 Pearse (1976) 173; Liu (2009) 181–3.

182 Venticinque (2009) 44–7 and (2010) 278–9.

CIL 9. 5450

D(is) M(anibus) / T(ito) Sillio T(iti) lib(erto) / Prisco / mag(istro) colleg(ii) / fabr(um) II et q(uaestori) II / mag(istro) et q(uaestori) sodal(icii) / fullonum / Claudiae Ti(beri) lib(ertae) / uxori eius matri / sodalic(ii) fullon(um) / T(itus) Sillius Karus et / Ti(berius) Claudius Phi/lippus mag(istri) et q(uaestores) / colleg(ii) fabr(um) / fili(i) parentib(us) / piissimis

To the divine spirits. To Titus Sillius Priscus, freedman of Titus, twice magister of the *collegium fabrum* and twice *quaestor*, *magister* and *quaestor* of the *sodalitium fullonum*. To Claudia, freedwoman of Tiberius, his wife, 'mother' of the *sodalitium* of fullers, Titus Sillius Karus and Tiberius Claudius Philippus *magistri* and *quaestores* of the *collegium fabrum*, sons to their most revered parents.

Family clustering within *collegia* is also attested for forged family ties between freedmen and patron, though not much research has been done on this.¹⁸³ Inscriptions of *colliberti* commemorating a patron already illustrated the continued bond with their patron, and their trade.¹⁸⁴ It is only natural that freedmen should proceed to join the *collegia* – it is known that associations accommodated many freedmen. Theoretically *familia*-ties within the *collegium* could occur for slaves, too, though their membership is difficult to trace or further explain. *Collegia domestica* of elite households largely seem to coincide with the *familia*, which means that for slaves and freedmen here the *collegium* may actually be equated with their 'family'.

In sum, the relationship between families and guilds seems to have been complementary.¹⁸⁵ And so there is some truth in the idea of *collegia* as a substitute family. The historical pattern predicts that the absence of family ties influenced the emergence of associations.¹⁸⁶ Family ties were perhaps not less important, but they were not omnipresent in the city where the dominant family form was the nuclear family,¹⁸⁷ and where people often migrated to without taking their family with them, because they had the intention to return one day. Many young men will also have migrated before they had formed a family of their own. To the numerous immigrants to Rome and other

183 Liu (2009) 180-203.

184 See chapter 3 and 4.

185 This is the thrust of the argument of Venticinque (2010) 277: "I argue that guilds, and in particular the ethical regulations dealing with relationships between members and their families, sought to create and maintain bonds of trust between members, rather than to compensate for any deficiency".

186 Lucassen, De Moor, and Van Zanden (2008) 15.

187 Compare chapter 3 on family forms.

large Italian cities, therefore, the association must have been an important substitute to their native family. To the locals, associative family might sometimes have been more durable than bloodlines in a high mortality regime, and it could even have incorporated biological family anyway. To slaves (and ex-slaves), finally, the *collegium* may have been the family they could not have.

THE ECONOMICS OF ASSOCIATION: PROFESSIONAL COLLEGIA AS TRADE GUILDS, UNIONS, OR UNIQUE TO ROME?

Collegia were not constituted for economic purposes ... and this is reflected in the names they gave to their societies – ‘Mates and marble workers’, ‘Brother builders’, ‘the comrade smiths’, ‘the late drinkers.’¹⁸⁸

There is an obvious social aspect to associating with others. Rather than proving that “*collegia* were not constituted for economic purposes”, the titles for associations suggest that they were not constituted *solely* for economic purposes – the fact that they often include a profession surely indicates some economic engagement. In his important historiography of the Roman *collegia*, Jonathan Scott Perry wrote that “the dominant trend of contemporary collegial studies has been to explore the ‘social’ features of these organizations, to the exclusion of the other ‘interests’ that association may also have served”.¹⁸⁹ Perry’s work was published in 2006. The tide has now turned. Scholars emphasize the interaction between the various roles of the associations, and particularly the general involvement of *collegia* in the economy has again become the topic of research interest.¹⁹⁰

Many of the *collegia* are professional in name. Accordingly they could be seen as economic associations. The comparison of occupational *collegia* with Medieval and Early Modern trade guilds virtually imposes itself. But because of the absence of trade monopolies or universal membership in Roman society, the comparison invariably led to the conclusion that the *collegia* were no guilds, and *collegiati* were nothing like the “economic masterminds of a medieval commercial revolution”.¹⁹¹ This view of *collegia* as

188 Walker-Ramisch (1996) 133; the names of the *collegia* she cites clearly were taken from MacMullen (1974) 77. On the brother builders (*CIL* 5. 7487) and the relation between associations and (fictive) family members, see below.

189 Perry (2006) 207.

190 See, e.g. Liu (2017), Verboven (2017b).

191 Van Nijf (1997) 11–17, quote from page 12.

'not guilds' had a powerful protagonist in Moses Finley, who forcefully argued for their economic insignificance. In his *Ancient Economy* he writes on *collegia*:

In no sense were they guilds trying to foster or protect the economic interests of their members, nor did they reveal a trace of the hierarchical pattern of apprentice, journeyman and master that characterized the mediaeval and early modern guilds.¹⁹²

According to Finley, craftsmen, and craftsmen associations, were marginal factors in what he perceived as a largely agricultural economy. The comparison with trade guilds, and the 'mistranslation' of *collegia* as trade guilds, has nevertheless remained.¹⁹³ It is now known that the later trade guilds were not merely economic collectives, but that they fulfilled a score of other social functions too, not unlike the Roman associations.¹⁹⁴ Even the medieval guild monopolies probably were not as strict as has been thought. There is thus no reason not to refer to occupational associations as 'guilds', which I will occasionally do from here on.

A perceived lack of evidence is another reason why the economics of association have been underexposed. Many studies into associations have focused on the funerary and dedicatory inscriptions that were set up by the *collegia*, as well as on membership lists, and on legal evidence for state intervention in line with the story of rebellion and conflict that was understood from ancient literary evidence. The ancient evidence has not provided much incentive to emphasize the economic importance of associations.¹⁹⁵ Taking absence of evidence as evidence of absence underestimates the fact that the act of association in itself can be economically significant. Changing the questions may provide answers. Are there any traces of economic zoning? How did the associative networks contribute to the economy? Quite apart from inscribed monuments, there is documentary evidence for the economic involvement of *collegia* even though most of it

192 Finley (1999³) 81, cf 138: "...there were no guilds, no matter how often the Roman *collegia* and their differently named Greek and Hellenistic counterparts are thus mistranslated". See also MacMullen (1974) 19: "Any analogy with a medieval guild or modern labor union is wholly mistaken".

193 See Verboven (2017b); and e.g. Gibbs (2012) and (2011), Broekaert (2011), Van Nijf (1997), Van Minnen (1987).

194 Cf Liu (2009) 16–7; Van Nijf (1997) 11–18; Van Nijf (2002) usefully compares the *collegia* to yet another collective, the sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Dutch civic guards.

195 Perhaps that is only to be expected, says Perry (2006) 207: "If, for example, a *collegium* were agitating for better working conditions, would it be likely to have inscribed a document demanding a resolution of their grievances by the power elite? And even more importantly, would they have chosen to share their most secretive deliberations with the larger society in an inscribed monument?"

comes from Roman Egypt.¹⁹⁶ And then there is the fact that *collegiati* were a privileged group, in society, but also by law. With the hypothesis of economic significance rather than insignificance in mind, suddenly much of the existing sources from the Western provinces, too, can be read as hinting at economic activity of the *collegia*, even if the evidence is not primarily economic in nature.

Occupational clustering

Professional associations generally were a local phenomenon. It has been argued that dealers and craftsmen working in related businesses were inclined to settle together in specific parts of the city.¹⁹⁷ This clustering or economic zoning could have then led to the formation of the occupational *collegia*.¹⁹⁸ For the city of Rome in particular, toponyms regularly suggest a connection with trades, such as the Forum Boarium ('cattle market'), and several districts and streets of Rome attest to a particular trade: the Via Sacra for example was the home of dealers in a number of luxury trades. Prostitutes were apparently found in the Subura.¹⁹⁹ Clustering of trades is historically well attested for preindustrial cities, like London. Clustering creates the clear economic advantage that buyer and seller can easily find each other. The idea is that if you needed a scythe, you went 'among the scythe makers,' *inter falcarios*. Holleran suggests that clustering also made the sharing of information among workers in the same branch easier, and may have accommodated specialization because it makes for an easy network of subcontracting.²⁰⁰ In theory, there could also be practical advantages in sharing access to raw materials and clustering noisy and smelly trades. There is a marble district in Emporion, to facilitate transport over water, and bricks were produced outside Rome where there were clay beds.²⁰¹

The problem with the Roman evidence is that it is inconclusive. The presence of a *Vicus Lorarius* (harness-maker), for example, is attested in an inscription that records a *pigmentarius* (dealer in paints) and not a *lorarius*; similarly there is an *argentarius* (silversmith) attested *inter aerarios* (copper smith); there is also an *argentarius* from the blacksmiths' alley (*Vicus [...]ionum ferrariarum*). By the second century the *Vicus Sandalarius* (sandal makers) was more famous for its booksellers than its sandal makers.²⁰² Conversely, it is

196 See, e.g., Gibbs (2011), Venticinque (2009) and (2010), Van Minnen (1987).

197 For occupational clustering in Rome, Tacoma (2013) 139–42; Holleran (2012) 53–60; MacMullen (1974) 70–9 with appendix on page 129–135.

198 MacMullen (1974) 73.

199 Cf Mart. *Ep.* 6.66.

200 Holleran (2012) 57.

201 Tacoma (2013) 140.

202 Holleran (2012) 54–5 with reference to *CIL* 6. 9796 (*pigmentarius*), 9186 (*inter aerarios*), and 9185 (*Vicus [...]ionum Ferrariarum*).

quite likely that not all sandal makers were located in the *Vicus Sandalarius*. Most *vici* were not named after an occupation. And even what is potentially the most smelly of trades, fulling, was not clustered in one part of the city.²⁰³ The list could be expanded. “The dominant pattern is one of random scatter, with a modest degree of clusters of specific shops and industries.”²⁰⁴ Economic zoning was simply not the way in which the Romans battled an inadequate information supply.

Trust networks

Accurate, up to date information probably was a scarce good in the Roman world.²⁰⁵ Transport of information and goods was slow and precarious, and mortality rates were high.²⁰⁶ Market demand was volatile; finding dependable workers was not always easy.²⁰⁷ All of these factors led to a high degree of market insecurity and economic uncertainty: transaction costs were high.²⁰⁸

A labour market only works if there is an institutional framework to enforce labour relations and to secure the rights of both parties. Roman law supplies some of the necessary provisions, including contracts and the possibility for a law-suit.²⁰⁹ It remains to be seen whether they were adequate. The legal framework was certainly biased towards “connections and money”, which diminishes the chances of success for the nonelite.²¹⁰ Status distinctions could distort the outcome of a legal action against a well-connected opponent of high status; an opponent of lesser means may not have been able to compensate for a monetary loss, even when the case was won.²¹¹ That is, if the defendant had appeared in court at all, for which the plaintiff perhaps needed the help of powerful patrons; in case of a no-show they needed to pay an auctioneer to be able to procure justice, seizing and selling the defendant’s property.²¹² Costly and protracted legal actions like these must have provided only a last resort. One can imagine that artisans who mostly conducted smaller transactions would try and avoid the hassle if at all possible,

203 Flohr (2013).

204 Tacoma (2013) 142.

205 Broekaert (2011) 242–5.

206 Broekaert (2011) 221; Terpstra (2008), especially 352–4.

207 Holleran (2017); Hawkins (2006).

208 Cf also Temin (2013a) 97–99 with the example of grain merchants.

209 Terpstra (2008) 351.

210 Terpstra (2008) 365.

211 Hawkins (2006) 94–95.

212 Terpstra (2008) 365; more extensively in Kelly (1966).

and that they were in need of a simpler, less expensive and time-consuming way to gain some economic security and lower transaction costs.²¹³

Against this background, the economic importance of a network of people you knew and trusted and who worked in related positions was even higher than it is today, in a world where information travels faster than we can manage it. Clearly it was important to find out as much as possible about the trustworthiness and creditworthiness of a potential business partner or employee. Within a *collegium*, there was plenty of opportunity to share information or to contract out work among fellow associates, reducing transaction costs. Moreover, the formal, hierarchic nature of the *collegia* made them suitable for enforcement and control.

The *collegia* therefore were an important addition to the Romans' institutional framework.²¹⁴ Hawkins contends that associations functioned as reputation-based private order enforcement networks, and his view begins to be accepted more widely.²¹⁵ The argument may briefly be summarized as follows. The network of *collegiati* provided a basis of trust. There was a strong distinction between insiders and outsiders, making possible long-term cooperation. Not just anyone could join.²¹⁶ The formal organization of *collegia* was well-suited to maintain the bonds of trust between their members on the one hand, and to protect the reputation of the *collegium* in the outside world on the other. Surviving guild charters and regulations regularly include a set of communal sanctions that the *collegium* could resort to should a member harm another *collegiatus* in any way: their interference was not limited to economic wrongdoing.²¹⁷ Penalties ranged from a warning or a monetary fine to expulsion; the wrongdoer would lose face and become an untrustworthy economic partner, thereby losing valuable connections and opportunities.²¹⁸

The efficiency of associations as private enforcement networks can of course be questioned.²¹⁹ It should be noted that with guild by-laws, too, the relation between what was written and what was practiced is not always clear. Decrease in membership, insufficient finances and defaulters could all be a problem. Because of their hierarchical

213 Terpstra (2008) 353: "Most business will have taken place in networks and between known associates"; For some objections to these ideas, see Moatti (2017).

214 Cf Temin (2013a) 100 on the extent of this framework for merchants (= adapted from Kessler and Temin (2007)); Hawkins (2006).

215 Hawkins (2016); Hawkins (2006) chapter 2; see also Hawkins (2012); Broekaert (2011) for a similar argument on 'the potential advantages of being a *collegiatus*'.

216 Cf Broekaert (2011) 227–8.

217 Cf Venticinque (2010) 285–8.

218 Cf Broekaert (2011) 221: "Commercial networks created by the *collegiati* hence offered protection against various risks and uncertainties in a volatile trading world."

219 This paragraph deals with the critique written up in Liu (2017).

nature, there is a chance of internal rivalry among members that could slowly erode the association.²²⁰ Enforcement becomes difficult when the durability and stability of the *collegium* was not secure.²²¹ If membership became non-committal like this, and if (as Liu suggests) so many alternatives existed, the *collegium* as private order enforcement network would disintegrate.²²²

It seems that the network provided by an active *collegium* as an institution must have been a powerful tool. Not only does membership appear to have been highly valued, the specific nature of *collegia* in Rome and Ostia and the scarce number of associations in the other cities suggest that there were not, in fact, many alternatives. Within the *collegia* that were sustainable enough for us to know of them, networks of trust were strong. The social and religious aspects of collegial life add to so-called multiplex relationships: “The more ties, the closer the connection between the members and the more likely they are to help and protect each other.”²²³ The integration within *collegia* would be even stronger if there was some overlap with biological or forged family ties, as sometimes was the case; moreover, it is not impossible that family ties were expanded by marriage bonds that were formed through the guild.²²⁴ Apprentices may have been contracted out among fellow *collegiati*.²²⁵ In my view, even the existence of clusters of trust and competition between them within a large *collegium* could strengthen ties, albeit within a subgroup of the association.

Apart from building trust and ensuing business networks among the members themselves, membership of a *collegium* can tentatively be said to have increased the trustworthiness of each individual member in the eyes of potential customers, clients,

220 Liu (2009) 23 points to the strong hierarchy within the *collegia*, so that a member may still find himself in a dispute with an opponent of higher status which could potentially influence the outcome.

221 E.g. Liu (2013) on durability.

222 Liu (2017) 206-12; on p. 216 she argues that because of the lack of alternatives, “*collegia* as reputation based, private order enforcement mechanism may have been best applicable to the organizations of the resident aliens”.

223 Broekaert (2011) 227 on multiplex relationships, see also 229–30. Similarly, Venticinque (2010) 288: “What began in the guild hall continued and extended beyond it in the form of closer business partnerships and social and economic connections”. Hawkins’ explanation of *collegia* as private order enforcement networks also fits Charles Tilly’s concept of ‘trust networks’, as briefly mentioned by Venticinque (2009) 47 and (2010) 276–7.

224 cf Broekaert (2012); Liu (2017) 216.

225 This is actually the main body of Liu (2017) 217-24. Whereas I think that *collegiati* certainly may have used this method to find a master artisan to teach, I do not believe that her examples of family networks of masters and apprentices (Tryphon and Pausiris, discussed at length in chapter 3) provide enough evidence to indicate the existence of an association of weavers; Venticinque (2010) 289-91 likewise sees apprenticeship as a tie between households – via guilds.

or business partners from outside the association. And it is no wonder if *collegiati* were a preferred choice, because there are some indications that the *collegium* may even have accepted liability in case of debts or adverse business outcomes for their members.²²⁶ Moreover, it appears that the *collegium* as a collective, too, was viewed as a trustworthy business partner by external principals, and that the authorities preferred to hand out the contract for public works and distributions to a recognized association.²²⁷

In sum, whereas the membership of a professional *collegium* was not compulsory for Roman artisans and craftsmen, it seems that not joining an association may have made professional life rather difficult. The happy few on the inside may have made economic life more difficult for those on the out.²²⁸

Financial benefits

Collegia were recognized legal actors: associations with the right to *corpus habere* could own property and could engage in contracts with 'outsiders', they could sue, and be sued, collectively.²²⁹ There is strength in financial partnership.

If collectives could own property, it follows that they could own slaves and freedmen – even if these were also among their ranks. Collective slaves of *collegia* are not widely known or studied, because there is very little evidence: Ulpian writes that Marcus Aurelius explicitly gave *collegia* with the *ius coeundi* the right to manumit. As a consequence, he goes on, associations could also claim the inheritance of their freedmen.²³⁰ In other words: *collegia* had slaves to manumit. If there was common property, such slaves would be useful to manage it.

Other forms of collective ownership are also attested. An association of merchants set up an altar to the *genius* of the *horrea Agrippiana* in Rome.²³¹

226 Broekaert (2011) 237-8 with reference to evidence from Roman Egypt: *P. Mich. Inv.* 1277 ("If any one of the undersigned men is held for debt up to the amount of one hundred drachmai in silver, security will be given for him for a period of sixty days by the association") and the very similar *P. Mich. Inv.* 720 (thirty days). Venticinque (2010) 282-3 also has these examples and adds *P. Ryl.* 2. 94 = *Sel. Pap.* 2. 255, 1st c. where an actual dispute has arisen and the weavers' guild steps in.

227 For Roman Egypt, Venticinque (2009) specifically 61 ff; Liu (2009) 23 notes the difficulty in investigating the 'radius of trust' for *collegia*.

228 'The dark side of particularized social capital', Ogilvie (2011); Cf Van Minnen (1987) 68-9 for Roman Egypt.

229 *Dig.* 3.4.1. pr.-1 (Gaius).

230 *Dig.* 40. 3.1 (Ulpian, Sabinus book 5) and *Dig.* 40.3.2 (Ulpian, Sabinus book 14).

231 An altar, or a statue base? The photograph available in the Clauss-Slaby database allows both. *AE* 1915, 97 = *AE* 1923, 57 = *AE* 1927, 97; the other sides of the altar are also inscribed: *Posit(um) dedic(atum) V Idus Iun(ias) / Cn(aeo) Cossutio Eustropho / L(ucio) Manlio Philadelpho // Cur(atores) ann(i) III*. Example from Broekaert (2011) 236.

AE 1927, 97

pro] salut(e) geni{um}<i> horreor(um) / [A]grippianorum negotiantib(us) / L(ucius) Arrius Hermes / C(aius) Varius Polycarpus / C(aius) Paconius Chrysanthus / immunes s(ua) p(ecunia) d(onum) d(ederunt)

To the well-being of the genius of the horrea Agrippiana by the merchants. L. Arrius Hermes, Caius Varius Polycarpus and Gaius Paconius Chrysanthus, *immunes*, donated this votive from their own funds.

The mention of *immunes* (honorary members with exemption from fees) and, on another side of the monument, *curatores*, indicates that this text concerns merchants in the formal structure of a *collegium*. Here it would seem that they shared storage space in the *horrea*, which could for obvious reasons be useful for merchants. In a similar vein, the *corpus Heliopolitanorum* in Puteoli owned seven *iugera* of land with a cistern and shops (*tabernae*), for the use of members present and future (*eorum possessorum / iuris est qui in cultu corporis Heliopolita/norum sunt eruntve*).²³² Incidentally, this inscription indicates economic cooperation (and zoning) for an otherwise 'ethnically' identified association.

The most important common property may have been the treasury.²³³ The *collegium* received admission money and monthly fees, as well as the *summa honoraria* of their magistrates. Endowments to *collegia* are relatively well-attested and could concern substantial sums.²³⁴ Add to this that many guilds also had properties that generated revenue: there probably was money. The common treasury could potentially be a valuable tool in an insecure market, if only because many professional undertakings required a capital investment at the outset. The problem is that we do not know what associations did with their funds. It is possible that they extended loans to members and associates from the common treasury against a favourable rate of interest, or that they encour-

232 CIL 10. 1579, with Verboven (2011b) 343. In Roman Egypt there is additional evidence for a sixth-century *collegium* of linen-weavers renting out workshops to its associated members, Broekaert (2011) 233 with reference to SB 14. 12282.

233 Liu (2008a) 242 for the unique *arca Titiana*, that belonged to the *centonarii* and *fabri* in Milan jointly, CIL 5. 5578; 5738; 5612; 5869.

234 Liu (2008a). CIL 6. 1872 = ILS 7266, 206 AD quoted above is an example of an endowment, of 10,000 HS in this case.

aged loans between members in which case the formal framework of the association functioned as a guarantee that the money would eventually be paid off.²³⁵

There were other economic advantages to being a *collegiatus* that have already come to the fore in a different context, but they may be briefly recalled here. *Collegia* were regularly included in distributions of food or money, in which case members invariably received a larger share than the plebs. Often this was a specific *collegium* which, we may safely conclude in line with what has been said above, was probably the single or most important local *collegium*. *CIL* 11. 6053 is exemplary, in its generosity first and foremost towards the councillors (20 HS), then the Augustales (12 HS), the *collegium of mercuriales* (10 HS), and finally the people (7 HS).²³⁶ This pattern recurs throughout Italy and the Empire.²³⁷

Finally, membership of a legitimate *collegium* could come with governmental grants of immunity from public benefactions (*munera*) or other *privilegia*.²³⁸ This is an advantage of *collegium* membership that probably was not widespread in the period under scrutiny. It appears to be connected to the increasing reliance of the state on *collegia* for public services connected to the grain and other supplies over the third and fourth centuries.²³⁹

Trade unions?

Thus far the focus has been on 'internal' economic benefits, and I have dealt chiefly with relations of trust and enforcement mechanisms for dealings between *collegiati*. It is perhaps to be expected that the *collegia* also pursued external economic benefits by promoting their common interests, regulating a trade like the medieval guilds or demanding more pay or fiscal privileges like a modern trade union.²⁴⁰ There were no legal formalities to stop them from taking economic action. Still, Tacoma felt that he could write that

[p]rofessional associations are best known for what they did not do: they did not interfere in the urban economy, at least not before late antiquity. No price-setting

235 Broekaert (2011) 237; Liu (2008a) 245 who suggest in addition that the *collegia* may also have extended credit to outsiders. The only document referred to by both scholars is *P. Strasb.* 4. 287 (6th c. Hermopolis) recording a loan between members of the same association of tow-workers. Interestingly, it is a loan without interest and without surety or penalty.

236 Verboven (2007) 882 with this and other examples; Patterson (2006) 256.

237 But probably not in the city of Rome, Liu (2013) 362.

238 Liu (2009) 109-11; Verboven (2007) 881; *Dig.* 50.6.6.12; and see above.

239 Liu (2009) 113-4.

240 Ausbüttel (1982) 100 argues that the *collegia* did not act as an economic collective, because to his mind *collegia* were not a collective of a single professional group as I believe they were.

occurred, they had no intermediary role in assigning apprenticeships, they offered no control of the quality of products, they did not monopolize labour.²⁴¹

The evidence for economic action by *collegia* in Roman Italy has really not been researched thoroughly. The reason is simple: much of the evidence we have is from Roman Egypt, it all concerns highly specific cases and it is difficult to draw a general picture from it. Matthew Gibbs in his recent article on *collegia* in the *Encyclopedia of Ancient History* is highly optimistic about the abilities of the guilds to take collective action.²⁴² But the evidence deserves a closer look.

There is one unique document that shows a form of price regulation and parcelling out the areas of work among the members of an association of salt-dealers, basically doing exactly what we would expect a professional *collegium* to do. It is a first-century papyrus from Tebtunis that has no parallel.²⁴³ Price-fixing by guilds to my knowledge is not otherwise attested, until its prohibition in late Roman law.²⁴⁴ Likewise guild monopolies were a phenomenon of the later empire only, such as a fourth-century deal for the *saccarii* (porters) unloading goods at the gates of Rome.²⁴⁵

There are sporadic attestations of collective action, though most of them late and outside of Roman Italy: there was a riot concerning the bakers at Ephesus in the late second century AD, which we know from a state decree urging the bakers to comply; five *corpora* of sea-going *navicularii* in third-century Arles put a complaint before the *praefectus annonae* Claudius Iulianus about the supply of grain, and got assistance from him as documented in a beautiful bronze plate found in Beirut.²⁴⁶ The *nautae Rhodanici* may have succeeded in gaining fiscal privileges from the emperor Hadrian in return for which they put up an honorary inscription, found in Valencia.²⁴⁷ The one example from the city of Rome would be the rebellion of *monetarii* working in the imperial mint against the emperor Aurelianus. They allegedly went to war out of fear of punishment, presumably for fraud.²⁴⁸ The rebels were defeated cruelly – Aurelian's cruelty is empha-

241 Tacoma (2016) 233.

242 Gibbs (2013) s.v. *collegia*.

243 *P. Mich.* 5. 245; Hawkins (2016) 73; Van Nijf (1997) 13-14.

244 *CJ* 4.59.2; with Venticinque (2009) 70 and n. 89; Van Nijf (1997) 14-15 refers to what was apparently a price war in Smyrna, 1st/2nd c. AD.

245 Liu (2009) 110, with reference to *CTh* 14.22.1 (364 AD); Cf De Robertis (1971) II 192; Sirks (1991) 258.

246 Bakers *I Eph.* 215 = *SEG* 4, 512 – the nature of the disturbance is unclear but it may have been a strike, Buckler (1923), caveat Harland, <http://www.philipharland.com/greco-roman-associations/?p=6299> (accessed 28-7-2016); *navicularii CIL* 3. 14165,08 = ILS 6987, for a brief account of what happened Broekaert (2011) 248.

247 Tran (2011) with reference to *CIL* 12. 1797.

248 *Aur. Vict. Caes.* 35.6 *poenae metu*; he also refers to fraud, cf *Eutropius Brev.* 14.1.

sized by various antique writers.²⁴⁹ The mint was dissolved for several years. This was not an association arguing for better terms. The possible involvement of several senators and the amount of attention for the revolt in the antique literature suggest that perhaps this was more than a conflict between the emperor and the *monetarii* trying to save their own skin, and that it had developed into a general uprising against the emperor.²⁵⁰ Nevertheless it is clear that guilds could and did work together in the event of problems with the state or city council – or in case of public assignments from that city council.²⁵¹ Conflicts and contracts could also occur with a less lofty employer, of course.²⁵²

Patrons of the association were likely to intervene on behalf of the *collegium* or an individual members.²⁵³ The political network of high-placed patron was presumably the most efficient way for the *collegium* to achieve their goals. The inscription for Tiberius Claudius Severus cited above is actually not only an example of a wealthy benefactor and his gift to the association, but it is also an example of an individual's negotiation for navigational rights for the *corpus piscatorum et urinatorum*.²⁵⁴

The associations as institutions were steadily incorporated into the imperial bureaucracy, which appears to have made clever use of all available organizational structures. In Roman Egypt, many associations paid their taxes collectively and thereby had become part of the imperial bureaucracy.²⁵⁵ It remains to be seen what the actual benefits to the state were, and to the *collegiati* – paying taxes collectively was not at all universal, nor was membership of an association. Moreover, there does not appear to be any evidence for this outside of Roman Egypt.²⁵⁶ It was only in the later empire that the state began to go through *collegia* for specific public services on a larger scale.

For Roman Italy during the first three centuries AD, then, it is in my view impossible to go beyond the conclusion that it is highly likely that *collegia* could defend their interests more easily than individual craftsmen or traders. But as a collective, too, they were at the mercy of the governing bodies in the empire.

249 Aur. Vict. *Caes.* 35.6; HA *Aur.* 38.2; *ibid.* 21. 5-6; *Epit. De Caes.* 35.4; Eutropius *Brev.* 9.14.

250 Cf Dey (2011) 112-13, with n. 7 for extra literature.

251 *P.Tebt.* 2. 287 = *W.Chr.* 251; *P.Oxy.* 12.1414 with Venticinque (2009) 61-7.

252 *P. Oxy* 1668 = *Sel. Pap.* 1.150 – in my opinion, this does not concern a guild, but cf Broekaert (2011) 248.

253 Broekaert (2011) 249–51 discusses this at various levels.

254 *CIL* 6. 1872 = *ILS* 7266. cf Liu (2013) 364.

255 Venticinque (2009) 48–9; Van Minnen (1987) 49. The aforementioned salt-dealers of *P. Mich.* 5. 245 did the same.

256 Gibbs (2013) s.v. 'collegia' in the *EAH* tentatively suggests on the basis of *CTh.* 13.1.17 that paying taxes collectively possibly became obligatory in the 5th century.

CONCLUSION: INTERSECTING AXES OF REFERENCE

The first three centuries AD witnessed rapid change in the position of voluntary associations: their numbers and prestige grew to reach a peak in the second and third century, after which they became increasingly absorbed into the structure of empire. The increase of *collegia* was paired with an increase of governmental rules and recognition of legitimate associations: both developments seem to have reinforced one another. Despite their growing numbers in this period, however, *collegiati* always remained a minority.

Members of associations can be characterized perhaps as a subelite. They filled a niche in the urban community that came with a certain prestige. *Collegia* were a highly visible sub-section of the population that engaged in benefactions to the community and in turn received them from powerful patrons. The collective was prominent and influential in urban society and its esteem and combined power rubbed off on individual members. The internal hierarchy of *collegia* created the associative order, a *cursus honorum* similar but opposed to the civic order, which presented an alternative road to power, as well as a road to alternative power, for those who were for reasons of (mainly) legal status, origin and/or gender not part of the traditional competition for civic influence.

Collegiate membership had the appearance of openness: slave, freed and free could join, and so could men and women. The analysis in this chapter has demonstrated that membership was actually highly selective, because each association had its own demands and restrictions: not just anyone could join. Exclusive membership was perhaps also a prerequisite for the way associations seem to have meddled in all areas of life as dense trust networks. It is no wonder that those on the inside were always a minority.

Members of associations cannot have been the truly poor, who would not have been able to fulfil the financial minimum requirements of many *collegia*. The associations' place in the civic order and the continuation of the *collegia* demanded a substantial income. It is also clear, however, that membership was not restricted to employers and wholesalers. The assumption that membership of associations was a prerogative of (wealthy) freedmen turns out to be equally problematic. Although there is little concrete evidence for slaves and freeborn in the associations, it is evident that membership was decidedly heterogeneous, even within the group of freedmen. Women were the group less likely to join; yet, female members of the *collegia* are attested which suggests that even for them, associations presented a road to alternative power and influence.

Looking at the distribution of various professional *collegia*, it is unsurprising that Rome and Ostia stand out: this is where a plethora of associations can be found. This finding is a reflection of the difference in the position of *collegia* in the civic community. Rome was, of course, one of a kind. Ostia was tightly linked to the capital, though it is interesting to see that here the *collegia* were of a slightly different nature, reflecting the commercial

nature of the port city, and in Ostia associations were apparently more prestigious overall. In Roman Italy as a whole, conversely, the types of associations are limited. The so-called three principal *collegia* are respected and well-reputed everywhere. In larger towns their existence as an umbrella-association (that is including various sub-types of occupation) may be explained in part by the need for vertical subdivision of labour. In smaller towns, however, this need was not as pressing, and their presence is perhaps more defined by their role in the community.

The limited range of associations has consequences for an understanding of their possible role as surrogate families. The argument largely rested on the need for burial provision for the poor. It can be safely said that this was incorrect. As it turns out, however, funerary evidence is a good reflection of the range of overlap between family bonds and *collegia*, ranging from burial solely by the *collegium*, to only the family and everything in between. Some Romans will have been without family at the time of their death, which is predicted by high mortality, urban family forms, and the problems of family formation of migrants in the city. In some cases, family and association were literally the same thing, including biological relations or extended family of (fellow) slaves and freedmen. Both collegial and familial relationships lay at the heart of most business partnerships. It should not come as a surprise that sometimes they were one and the same.

The recognition of combined social and economic functions in *collegia* reintroduces the comparison with medieval and early modern guilds. The multiplex ties of social, religious, familial *and* economic nature provided an valuable and efficient means of battling economic insecurity and transaction costs in a world where information was scarce. The formal organizational structure of the associations aided enforcement of business partnerships and other labour agreements, provided of course that the *collegia* were stable and durable. There is, therefore, quite enough common ground to incorporate the Roman *collegia* in a global history of the guilds in pre-industrial times.²⁵⁷ The collective was a business partner to the outside world, its importance was reflected in legal state benefits, collective property aided in battling economic risks, and the association could take collective action to defend the rights of individuals of the group.

257 Lucassen, De Moor, and Van Zanden (2008) 10. The article is entitled 'The return of the guilds: towards a global history of the guilds in pre-industrial times'.

Chapter 6

Conclusion: Social structures and the urban labour market of Roman Italy

INTRODUCTION

Occupation has long been viewed as the key to the daily life of 'ordinary Romans'. *Tabernae*, bakeries or brothels in Pompeii, Herculaneum, or Ostia Antica are discussed as such in both tourist guides to the archaeological sites or museum guides, and in popularizing analyses of 'invisible Romans: prostitutes, outlaws, slaves, gladiators, ordinary men and women... the Romans that history forgot'.¹ In scholarly literature, occupational inscriptions in particular have received a vast amount of attention. Earlier research on Roman labour has done an excellent job unlocking the ancient evidence on the Roman world of work; it incorporates a wealth of occupational inscriptions and juridical texts, as well as literary references. The material remains of artifacts, tools, or workplaces are becoming increasingly well-documented, even if they have not yet been fully incorporated into the narrative of work and labour.²

Because of the abundance of the evidence, it is easy to lose track of the fact that the majority of Romans were engaged in agriculture, which is actually not at all well represented in the sources. In agriculture, much of the produce was destined for personal consumption, not for the market. Urbanisation and agriculture are nevertheless intrinsically linked. The nature of the urban labour market is different from labour in agriculture, however. The particular nature of labour in the city versus agriculture is one of the reasons why this study has focused on the cities of Roman Italy; the chiefly urban origin of the sources is another.

The ancient sources are biased towards the group of urban free male skilled labourers: the urban poor are significantly underrepresented, and so are women. In other words, the 'ordinary Roman' of earlier accounts was a male artisan or craftsman of freed or freeborn legal status who lived in the city. But the working population contained many others, too, who have largely remained invisible. My aim has been to present an integrated analysis of the economic activities of the urban working population, including freeborn wage-labourers and entrepreneurs as well as the unremunerated domestic work of mainly women and children and the dependent labour of slaves and ex-slaves – in accordance with a definition of 'work' which includes "any human effort adding use value to goods and services".³

In the foregoing chapters I have tried to strike a balance between social and economic factors to outline a new coherent picture. This composite view impinges heavily on the larger debates on the Roman economy, and Roman society. It is worth drawing up at

1 This is the title of Knapp (2011).

2 My research is no exception, because that would demand another book; but see a number of contributions to Wilson and Flohr eds (2016); Laes and Verboven eds (2017).

3 Following Tilly and Tilly (1998) 22–3, see introduction.

some length the broader implications of my findings for those fields. In what ways has the current investigation of the urban labour in Roman Italy furthered an understanding of labour and labourers in Roman society under the early empire? How can the ideas that have been developed here be incorporated in forthcoming scholarship? Every suggested answer raises new questions, and I should also like to take the opportunity to make some suggestions for future research that go beyond the scope of this work.

The main reason why the debate on Roman labour is steadily moving forward in my view is an increasing incorporation of modern theories of (labour) economics among ancient historians. It is no longer warranted to look at Roman labour in a historical vacuum. My approach is shaped by this trend and owes much to pioneering work particularly in the field of Neo-Institutional (Ancient) Economics. Conversely, I want to stress the significant contribution that ancient history can make to the larger historical debate – notwithstanding, or precisely because of, the particularities of Rome.

Early modern historians for their part have started to turn their attention to pre-industrial societies, including the Roman empire, as a result perhaps of the new economic approaches to the Roman economy.⁴ Converging trends of global history on the one hand, and opening up the Roman economy to general economic approaches on the other, have made possible the development of an inclusive global labour history. Against this background, the final section of this chapter aims to place my findings on Roman labour explicitly in the broader context of global labour history. It is worth exploring the intersection between ancient and modern explicitly from the side of the Roman historian, because the case-study of Roman society can be a valuable addition to global labour history, and because the dialogue between ancient historians and historians of other periods is important. Larger patterns that may shed light on the past sometimes can only be perceived from the present, and conversely there are valuable lessons for an understanding of the present to be learnt from the past.

THE GENERAL ARGUMENT

The urban labour market

The prevailing consensus among ancient historians would seem to be that although market forces and local markets may be identified in the evidence, the sources cannot support the hypothesis of an empire-wide integrated market, and to speak of ‘the Roman market economy’ therefore is overstating the matter.⁵

4 E.g. Lucassen (2013) 11.

5 Contra Temin (2013a).

The production factor labour was more readily available in Roman antiquity than either land or capital. Investment in human capital preceded (investment in) technological development and was therefore of paramount importance to sustained economic growth.⁶ That is why the existence of a functioning labour market was vital to the Roman economy. The explicit question whether market forces were present in a market for labour, to the extent that we can speak of a Roman labour market, was not posed explicitly until recently.⁷ The answer is not straightforward. Labour is an elusive good. Recent socio-economic approaches have shown that a labour market generally does not function according to any straightforward application of economic price theory. This finding was implemented in the development of labour market segmentation theory, which acknowledges that historical labour markets are rarely perfectly integrated, but are segmented along various lines. Such a multidimensional approach fits the evidence for urban labour in Roman Italy well. The Roman market for labour stands out because it did not just deal in labour, but also in labourers, that is, slaves.

The Roman empire has been identified as one of five historical slave societies, and as such it was included in analyses of the phenomenon of historical slavery.⁸ The history of Roman slavery is an established sub-discipline of labour history with a remarkably 'global' historiography, but it has not often been considered within the broader context of labour.⁹ My approach of the urban working population has tried to fill that lacuna. Slaves and ex-slaves predominate in the occupational inscriptions, yet the majority of the working population must have been free. Moreover, slave and free labourers were largely eligible for the same vacancies. For these reasons I have adopted an integrated approach of forced and voluntary labour in my analysis. It was argued that there was a functioning labour market in the cities of Roman Italy. The question that was dealt with next, is in what ways it functioned.

Labourers in Rome had the opportunity to respond to market incentives, in accordance with the principles of a labour market. Geographical mobility was possible, and migration to the city is likely to have occurred in substantial numbers. Movement between jobs was also an option for some, even for slaves. Migration, however, was most likely to occur over shorter distances. This is true for the mobility of people, but it also applies to the movement of information on prices, supply and demand. Imperfections in information flows are an important reason why there was no single integrated market economy in Roman society: there were rather regional or local markets. The Roman

6 Saller (2002) 261 (reprinted 2005).

7 Temin (2001); (2004a).

8 E.g. the influential book of Patterson (1982).

9 Cf Van der Linden (2006) 27–8 who points to the relevant "historical sub-disciplines" of global labour history: slavery, family history, gender history, and migration history.

urban labour market was similarly made up of a variety of more or less interconnected local markets, each of them probably centred geographically on one city. Within these local urban labour markets, other restrictions to labour market integration played a part. Skill levels and the availability of job-training, legal status, and gender can be identified as the most influential ones, that led to segmentation into restricted groups with limited movement or competition between them. Fluctuations (both unpredictable and cyclical) in demand for goods and its derived labour demand are likely to have determined economic strategies for everyone, whereas seasonal patterns of high labour demand in the agricultural calendar, the building trade and the sailing season, probably were of great consequence especially for unskilled wage labourers.¹⁰

The importance of social and cultural determinants to the economy of Rome have correctly been emphasized in the past. The Romans could be said to have had a socially and culturally embedded or moral economy: they highly valued the insurance provided by family ties, bonds of friendship and dependency, reciprocity and trust, and relied on them for personal economic security.¹¹ More strictly economic approaches of the Roman economy left social structures largely out of consideration. However, the deep-seated economic functions of social networks like family and associations should not be underestimated: they were integral to what I believe to have been a sophisticated Roman economy. The lines of segmentation in the labour market were both reinforced and overturned by these institutions. In practice, then, the participation and the position of an individual in the labour market was not determined solely by his or her individual characteristics. He or she was embedded in the social structures of family and associations. 'Human resources' like these were even more important than today, where we have institutionalized employment agencies and other methods for creating weak ties, all to find the right person for the job. The importance of social structures of course did not preclude the existence of economic rationality and market forces, or of economic growth.

Family

The Roman family has been high on the research agenda of the last five decades or so, and there are no signs that scholarly attention will be decreasing anytime soon. It is not just the scholarship on the Roman family in particular that has experienced a steady increase in the past half century or so, the popularity of family history is a much wider phenomenon. The Roman family as an economic unit, however, has hardly received any

10 Hawkins (2016), (2013); Erdkamp (2016), (2008).

11 Finley (1973²); Verboven (2002) uses the term 'moral economy', borrowed from J.C. Scott (1976). Verboven's book sets out from a similar premise as this thesis, on the subject of *amicitia* among (mainly) the upper classes.

attention at all, even though in economics, the economics of the family is an established field, and in labour history the family and household are becoming increasingly central to the analysis.¹²

The preindustrial family has often been explained by the model of the 'family economy'. The family economy explains the family as the unit of production and consumption; in my view, this is reflected in ancient Rome in the predominance of small-scale urban workshops. Small-scale workshops clearly were an important part of the urban landscape. The model of the family economy does not match completely with what we know about ancient Rome, however. Families were crucial to the functioning of the Roman labour market, but not necessarily, and not only, as the unit of production and consumption. The evidence illustrates that there were also numerous wage-earning families, and families that included some wage-labourers, for example. In order to accommodate this diversity this thesis worked with the more inclusive model of the 'adaptive family economy', which has more explaining power for the Roman empire than the family economy model.¹³ The adaptive family economy in the context of Roman family ideals explains why women were found in domestic and subservient roles, but it can also explain their presence as artisans and entrepreneurs. Families consciously and unconsciously allocated an individual's labour activities, and differentiation was as much a strategy as engagement with the family business.

The demography of the family defined the amount of labour that was needed to support everyone, but also who was available to work. More than a demographic given, the demographic make-up of the family was subject to socio-cultural conventions, such as contemporary ideals about family form and marriage ages. A neo-local marriage pattern in Roman Italy guided the decision to get married when resources were sufficient to set up a new separate household, which probably pushed the median marriage age towards the late teens for women and late twenties for men. In the urban context of Roman Italy, it is likely that the simple (nuclear) family was the dominant family form, although this regularly included slaves and freedmen. City-dwellers appear to have lived in relatively small families – a relatively later marriage age will have curbed fertility to some extent. Several other ways to practice family planning were available, but none of them were really reliable. Raising fewer children, or having fewer children that survived into adulthood, however, meant that there was more money to invest in the upbringing and education of remaining children. The economic opportunities and the resources of a family therefore will have influenced family formation and composition, just as much as the disease-ridden environment of the larger cities did.

12 Cigno (1991); Van der Linden (2013) 222 with references; Cf Van der Linden (2006) 27–8; Lucassen (2013) 7.

13 Introduced by Wall (1985).

The slave presence in the nonelite household is likely to have been limited to one or two. Slaves needed to be maintained, and it was expensive to keep a slave underemployed when demand fell. A small permanent slave workforce meant optimal flexibility in volatile market.¹⁴ A restricted number of slaves and ex-slaves ensured access to (skilled) labour, while it did not drain the household resources too much when business was slow. Such economic considerations are less likely to have played a part in wealthy elite households, where slaves could be found in large numbers: more than half of all urban slaves were probably linked to one of these large *domus*. Slaves were an indicator of wealth. Slaves were also economically active within the household, however, leaving few vacancies in the domestic sector open to freeborn labourers. What was virtually a slave monopoly of the domestic sector therefore may have limited job opportunities for freeborn women in particular, who we might expect to have worked mostly in this type of jobs, in line with gender ideals – which is what happened in early modern Europe. Indeed, women are found chiefly in the role of *nutrix* (wet-nurse), or *ornatrix* (hairdresser), and even here slave- and freedwomen outnumber freeborn women by a large margin.

The work of slaves was integral to the economics of the family, both in small households and in elite *domus*. The economic bond between the family and their slaves generally continued after manumission, and many ex-slaves maintained close connections with their former masters. The freedmen became ‘extended family’; this extended family could be important for securing labour power whenever skilled labour or trustworthy labourers were in short supply; patrons and freedmen forged significant and potentially vast networks of trust of the kind that were so vital to the Roman economy.¹⁵

The Roman family was demonstrably significant as an economic entity. Economics therefore provides an additional criterion to define who should be included in the elusive Roman ‘family’, and a way to understand its structure and some of the organizing principles behind it. Economic considerations and strategies must have played a part even in the constitution of the nuclear family, through marriage alliances and measures for curbing or encouraging fertility, or its slave component. Conversely, family structure opens a valuable window onto the Roman labour market. Family form – the demography of the family – was not a stable factor, however. The family moved through a so-called family life cycle, driven forward by the standard life-events of birth, marriage and death that shape the structure of the family over time. With the addition or subtraction of family members, labour demand and labour supply change. At the birth of a child, for example, the family’s needs go up (there is an extra mouth to feed), and the labour supply goes down (because the mother devotes time to childcare and the infant obviously

14 Hawkins (2017).

15 Verboven (2012a); Mouritsen (2011a).

cannot work) – if, as in this example, the calculation leads to a net loss, we speak of a life cycle squeeze, a situation that calls for a change of the family's economic strategy.

The principle of the family life cycle also operated in elite households, only with a large slave population the demographic effects are potentially multiplied. Slaves, too, engaged in recognized though illicit 'marriages' (*contubernia*) and had families with a life cycle of their own. They had children, they sometimes also had slaves that – once they were freed themselves – they could manumit, and they passed away. The slave family life cycle of a household had an obvious effect on the need for additional slaves, or on the form of slave education. The slave *vernae* who were born, raised, and educated within the household, were a preferred choice, but it is likely that home-born slaves were not enough to fulfil demand for slave labour. It was impossible to predict when a (skilled) slave would need a replacement, and it took time to raise and educate a *verna*. As a result, the market for forced labour probably remained substantial.

Human capital

The family determined an individual's part in the labour market to a large extent. Investment in human capital was also a family decision. Skill paid off: skilled labour paid about twice as much as unskilled labour. There is enough evidence to suggest that in theory at least, job-training in the form of a basic education or apprenticeship was open to everyone, to slave and free, boy or girl. Contrary to the influential view that job-training was not an option for freeborn girls, the apprenticeship contracts show that some of them did receive job-training. Moreover, it was argued in chapter 3 that the dominant marriage pattern left freeborn girls enough time to undertake an apprenticeship or learn from their birth families before they got married. There were, however, factors other than gender that curbed investment in human capital. The high rate of mortality predicts lower investment, because it implied a risk that the returns to that investment might be short-lived. Education did not come cheap, and financial constraints are therefore also likely to have played a part. Not everyone could afford to miss out on the income a child could generate. In this respect it is interesting to note that since skilled labourers were better off than unskilled workers, they could more easily afford an education for their children: this phenomenon is called intergenerational persistence. Intergenerational persistence in Rome did not imply that children always followed in their parents' footsteps, however. Job differentiation between the generations is well-attested. The most significant implication here is that intergenerational persistence predicts a continuous presence of freeborn skilled labourers in Roman society.

Elite households invested heavily in basic education and higher skill levels for slaves. There were (in-house and street-) schools where many slaves learnt the basics of reading and arithmetic, and some received additional training by learning on the job or through more formal apprenticeships. The master could cash in on his or her investment by em-

ploying the skills of slaves, or by selling them or their labour power. Under circumstances of highly fluctuating demand, freeborn skilled wage-workers thus faced severe competition from the servile population. An education may have been viable especially if there was a reasonable chance of becoming an independent entrepreneur, and that was not for everyone. This may have further limited freeborn investment in human capital and reinforced slaves' position in the market.

In sum, in both small and large households, the family, or the head of family, decided on collective labour participation and labour allocation, and the amount of investment in human capital for each family member. The Roman 'family business' could thus take various shapes and forms, from a household production unit to the cooperation between patron and freedmen.

Non-familial labour collectives

Labour opportunities were also decided by other, non-familial social structures. In the early modern world, craft unions or guilds are the prime example. In Rome, the most obvious equivalent of such labour collectives were voluntary associations or *collegia*. They exemplify the economic functioning of all kinds of social networks, however. Whenever people get together there are economic benefits to be gained, a phenomenon which may be described as the economics of association. In the absence of a watertight legal framework for the enforcement of labour relations, the importance of mutual trust or personal security should not be underestimated. Market information, as we have seen, was hard to come by. Information travelled with people, but people are only as good as their word, and it takes a certain amount of trust to act on that information. A *collegium* provided a trust network, a safety net that helped decide who to rely on. The ties among *collegiati* therefore were extended social ties, with clear economic consequences. The formal organisation of *collegia* made them particularly useful for economic purposes. This is true even if outright collective economic action by the associations is rarely attested. It would thus be anachronistic to see them as Roman trade unions. The comparison with early modern guilds is helpful up to a point, because early modern guilds were not actually the monopolists they were once thought to have been. But *collegium* membership will have lessened transaction costs of finding business partners and employees, and perhaps the collective reputation of an association also made these *collegiati* the go-to place for consumers.

A Roman labourer was therefore not entirely free in his or her choices on the labour market, but had to deal with family and sometimes also with an association. This tension between social institutions is significant: it is what decided a labourer's market position. To a certain extent family and *collegium* were complementary: family encouraged or precluded labour participation and paid for an education, whereas a *collegium* provided the business contacts for an active participant in the labour market. Yet there were some

functional overlaps between the two. Job-training was sometimes facilitated not by family, but by fellow *collegiati* who may have lent the money, or helped out in a more hands-on manner by taking in apprentices. Conversely, business contacts for example were also maintained through family, or a business partner became family by marriage. Sometimes family members were also members of the same *collegium*. Both institutions built one's reputation and social capital.

In an urban context perhaps the associations were more central than family: there are reasons to think that family ties were weaker in the city than in the countryside, thereby creating the need for associations as a replacement for the social network and the safety net that the family provided. This is a phenomenon that is historically well-attested, and the evidence seems to indicate a similar pattern in ancient Rome. A predominance of young males among the migrants, who could and did not always bring their families with them, is suggestive. Insofar as can be ascertained, families in Roman cities were generally small and the dominant family form there was nuclear. Under these circumstances, the advantage of joining a 'substitute family' in the form of a *collegium* must have been considerable.

Roman associations were relatively open institutions. This means that their social network was available to most: there are slave members attested as well as freedmen and freeborn, but membership was probably out of reach for the destitute, and we see few or no female *collegiati*. The *collegia* were selective in who they admitted, in order to protect their credibility and creditworthiness. It is perhaps their exclusivist character that explains why only a minority seems to have joined. However, for an honest worker with few prior connections in the city an association may well have provided a relatively easy point of entry into the urban labour network.

THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE ROMAN CASE TO GLOBAL LABOUR HISTORY

Global labour history is not conceived as a 'school', but rather as an 'area of interest'; it is not a vertical organization, but a network continuously assembling and breaking up in relation to specific research projects; it does not aim for a new 'grand narrative', but rather to partial syntheses based on multiple empirical research and various intellectual interpretations.¹⁶

16 De Vito (2013) 12.

The broader context for my research project is global labour history. During the ‘Golden Age of Labour History’, Antiquity fell through the cracks.¹⁷ Pioneering studies of labour published before WW II provided important insights on labour history, including labour in ancient Rome, but they lacked theoretical and methodological sophistication. After the second World War, particularly in the 1960’s, 70’s and ‘80’s, labour history was taken up anew. A rapidly expanding body of research was devoted mainly to labour in Western Europe and North America, from the Industrial Revolution until present times. The wish to explain the so-called ‘rise of the West’ led to a limited field of research focusing on wage labour in the context of early capitalism. The pre-industrial Roman empire did not fit that enterprise. Moreover, as a result of Finley’s influential views, the Roman economy was long considered to be fundamentally different in nature, as a non-capitalist society, and Rome was therefore generally left out of labour history accounts.

In the final decades of the twentieth century, globalization gave rise to the academic field of ‘Global history’.¹⁸ The globalizing trend soon extended itself to the (by that time) struggling field of labour history,¹⁹ leading scholars to express the desire for a radically different approach to labour history.²⁰ Van der Linden and Lucassen promulgated global labour history, a kind of “universal history of work” that expanded the field geographically, notably to incorporate the eastern world, and thematically, but also chronologically.²¹ The first step was to include the run-up to the Industrial Revolution from ca 1500 onwards. This led to a vast project called the ‘Global Collaboratory on the History of Labour Relations 1500-2000’.²²

Global labour history acknowledges that not every labour effort since the Industrial Revolution concerned wage labour; various forms of commodified labour can coexist, even for one historical individual.²³ This understanding opened up the way to recognize that wage labour might be present in pre-industrial societies too, alongside other labour relations – including forced labour. Although this is not the place to present an extensive

17 For the historiography of labour history and the development of global labour history, see e.g. De Vito (2013); Van der Linden and Lucassen (1999); Lucassen (2006); Lucassen (2013).

18 ‘Global history’ currently seems to be the favoured term. The first issue of the *Journal of Global History* was published in 2006; the ‘Oxford Centre for Global History’ was established in 2011.

19 Struggling field: e.g., Burgmann (1991); Frances and Scates (1993); Van der Linden ed. (1993).

20 Global labour history was brought into existence with Van der Linden and Lucassen (1999).

21 Van der Linden (2006) 21; cf Van der Linden (2012) 62-3 including both ‘a universal history of work’ and ‘a history of globalized work’; expressing clear limits to its (current) reach, Winn (2012).

22 <https://collab.iisg.nl/web/labourrelations>, accessed 23-8-2016.

23 Van der Linden (2012) 63-66.

global labour history approach to the Roman urban labour market, some preliminary observations on the Roman case may be made.²⁴

Rome was not exactly a capitalist society. However, this thesis illustrated that next to a very large agricultural population living by self-subsistence, the evidence for more urbanized regions shows that market forces in labour were also present and influential. The Roman empire clearly was familiar with wage labour. Lucassen argued that the volume of small coins that circulated in any given society is a sound indicator for the extent of wage labour and 'small independent producers working for the market'.²⁵ The widespread use of coins and, closely related, prices, may also point to market forces and/or a market economy more generally.²⁶ The coin finds from the Roman empire are well-known. The degree of monetization and its implications, perhaps, less so.²⁷

The findings of the foregoing chapters suggest that the history of market economics runs deeper than previously thought and that the Roman economy had many 'modern' traits. At the same time, market imperfections in the Roman empire, conversely, call into question the strictly economic views of price theory and reinforce the sociological and neo-institutional approaches to the historical economy. In the case of the urban labour market of early imperial Italy, a focus on social structures of the family and non-familial labour collectives has proven to be particularly helpful.

Roman labour relations

Urban labour in Roman Italy gave rise to a wide spectrum of labour relations including, but not restricted to, self-subsistence, wage labour, and small independent producers for the market. The existence of slavery in Rome is of course particularly distinctive. Global labour historians of the 'Global Collaboratory on the History of Labour Relations 1500-2000' (see above) have developed a universal classification system for labour relations, "intended to cover the whole world, from 1500 and in principle also for earlier periods".²⁸ In what follows I will examine how Roman labour relations fit into their

24 De Vito (2013) has recently made a strong case for the inclusion of pre-industrial societies in global labour history. De Vito and Lichtenstein eds (2015) on global convict labour includes a chapter on ancient Rome: Groen-Vallinga and Tacoma (2015); so does a special issue of *Workers of the world* on global labour history: Zuiderhoek (2013). Earlier, tentative attempts to include preindustrial societies in what is largely a history of ideas on work and labour, may be found in Ehmer and Lis (2009); Lis and Soly (2012).

25 Lucassen (2007); (2013) 22.

26 Lucassen (2013) 22: "deeply monetized societies must have had market economies". See also Temin (2013), Kessler and Temin (2008), Temin (2001).

27 Cf Hopkins (1980); De Ligt (1990); De Ligt (2003).

28 Hofmeester e.a. (2016) 6.

*Taxonomy of labour relations.*²⁹ The purpose of this exercise is twofold: first, it provides a schematic overview of the Roman labour market through its labour relations and second, it is a first attempt to apply the taxonomy to the Roman situation, testing its applicability in an ancient economy. Table 6.1 presents a schematic overview of Roman labour relations, divided by household type. I have included the rural household, and I have distinguished between two categories of nonelite households on the basis of their main income: self-employed, or wages.

Most rural families are likely to have been largely self-sufficient, allowing for small-scale market transactions (4a and 4b).³⁰ I have included their contribution to the urban labour market as employers and employees in the seasonal labour cycle in table 6.1. The full range of labour relations brings out the importance of labour for the market in an urban context (= all classifications within the range 12-17). Its frequent recurrence shows that the category of wage labourers (14) is likely to have been substantial, and the flexibility necessary to deal with market insecurity predicts that many Romans will have turned to one form of wage labour or other at some point in their life.

One of the noteworthy findings from the Global Collaboratory on the History of Labour Relations is that combinations of different labour relations for one individual are the rule rather than an exception.³¹ The exercise brings out the vagueness of the distinctions between various groups of Roman labourers: slavery recurs in all households, and in various forms (6; 17.1-2). In Rome, seasonality and the labour cycle predict that very many labourers will also have conformed to this pattern of multiple labour relations or occupational pluralism. Conversely, the overview indicates that the same assignment in a nonelite household might be executed by any one of no less than twelve types of labourers.

An attempt to place slaves and freedmen within the taxonomy immediately reveals that there is no overlap between legal status and economic position as identified through a labour relation. Slave, freed and free were all part of one integrated labour market, even though they functioned as imperfect substitutes. It is significant that parallel developments of 'reconceptualizing the working class' can be found in global labour history, identifying a similar heterogeneous nature within the category of slave labour as well as a feeble dividing line with free wage labour in other historical societies.³²

29 Stapel (2016), <http://hdl.handle.net/10622/OJYQOR>, IISH Dataverse V1. For ease of reference the Taxonomy is included in the appendix to this chapter. Explanation of the various categories in Hofmeester e.a. (2016), <http://hdl.handle.net/10622/4OGRAD>, IISH Dataverse V1; a caveat: the *Taxonomy* was meant to codify actual data on historical individuals, not for this kind of theoretical use.

30 Hofmeester e.a. (2016) 8 with n. 22; Cf De Ligt (2003).

31 Hofmeester e.a. (2016) 9.

32 Van der Linden (2012) 63-6 and on 67-8 ('reconceptualizing the working class').

Table 6.1 Schematic view of Roman labour relations from the perspective of the family by means of the classification system of the Global Collaboratory on the History of Labour Relations (appendix 3).

	Taxonomy category
Agricultural family	
Housework	5 Kin non-producers
Slave labour	17.1 working for proprietor 17.2 for hire
Hiring additional seasonal labour	13.1 employer of free wage earners 14.2 Piece rate wage-labourers 14.3 Time rate wage-labourers 17.2 slaves for hire
Seasonal rural-urban migration	14.2 Piece rate wage-labourers 14.3 Time rate wage-labourers
Nonelite family a) entrepreneur	
The entrepreneur (m/f)	12a self-employed leading producers 13.1 employer of free wage earners 13.2 employer of indentured labourers (freedmen <i>operae</i>) 13.4 employer of slaves
Kin	12b self-employed kin producers
Housework	5 kin non-producers
Slaves	17.1 working for proprietor 17.2 for hire
Freedmen	12b self-employed kin producers (freedmen viewed as extended family) 15 indentured labourers (<i>operae</i>)
Wage-earning family members (including those apprenticed out)	14.2 piece rate 14.3 time rate
Extra hired hands, freeborn/freedmen/slaves/apprentices	14.2 piece rate 14.3 time rate 17.2 slaves for hire
Nonelite family b) wage-earning family	
Housework	5 Kin non-producers
Wage-earning family members	14.2 Piece rate 14.3 Time rate 14.4 Cooperative subcontracting
Elite <i>domus</i>	
Ruling family	13.1 employer of free wage earners 13.2 employer of indentured labourers (freedmen <i>operae</i>)
Slaves housework	6 household servants
Free hired labour	14.2 piece rate wage-labourers 14.3 time rate wage-labourers
Freedmen	12b self-employed kin producers (viewed as extended family) 15 indentured labour (freedmen <i>operae</i>)
Slaves	17.1 working for proprietor 17.2 for hire

Instead of slavery, the dichotomy between free and unfree labour and the spectrum of dependency that lies in between takes precedence in the new labour history.³³ In Roman society, moreover, the boundaries between legal categories were not fixed: free-born people could become slaves, slaves became freedmen, freedmen's children were freeborn. The life and labour cycle of an individual is therefore likely to have seen him/her progress through various labour relations. Slaves could go from dependent slave labour (6, 17.1 and/or 17.2) to a shop of their own with a family or *colliberti* (12a and 12b) and with their own employees (13).

One of the testable hypotheses that the taxonomy set out to answer is that "the combination of different sorts of labour relations within the same household promotes the resilience of all its members to downward social mobility."³⁴ This hypothesis is highly relevant to the labour market of Roman Italy in the early empire. Table 6.1 shows a remarkable variety of possible labour relations within the nonelite family, particularly the entrepreneurial nonelite family. A small slave workforce, the option of manumission and the continued economic bonds between patrons and freedmen, ensured that nonelite households in the city had a variety of economic strategies available to them. This flexibility is probably one of the reasons why slavery remained so popular for so long.

The taxonomy includes a category of tributary labour (8-11), that does not occur in table 6.1. The category concerns various types of labour left out of the current analysis, such as convict labour, and conscripts (both category 8), though soldiers from Roman Italy in the early empire were mainly a very particular group of wage-earners (14.3), debt-bondage, or the *servus quasi colonus*.³⁵ The collective slaves and freedmen of associations are a very particular group of labourers that strain the limits of the taxonomy.³⁶ Similarly, public slaves are difficult to classify.

Despite the exclusion of a few groups that could be incorporated with minor adaptations, I think that the taxonomy of labour relations is useful for mapping the Roman labour market, at least as far as vertical labour relations are concerned, that is relation-

33 Brass and Van der Linden (1997); Palmer (1998); Engerman (1999); Brown and Van der Linden (2010).

34 Hofmeester e.a. (2016) 11.

35 Groen-Vallinga and Tacoma (2015).

36 Slaves of *collegia* perhaps could be added under (11) and freedmen under (9), if working for *collegia* can be classified as tributary labour.

ships of dependence.³⁷ For a project aiming “to draw up a worldwide inventory of all types of labour relations, in all their facets and combinations, in different parts of the world...”, horizontal labour relations are notably lacking.³⁸ By horizontal labour relations I mean a *societas* between *colliberti*, or a business partnership on equal terms between *collegiati* for example. Whereas the taxonomy gives due credit to the family (‘the first shell’), the household (‘the second shell’), or communities of several households, and a polity (‘third shell’), the market is the fourth category. Associations and non-familial labour collectives, which clearly played an important part in labour relations of early imperial Italy, cannot be accommodated in this scheme.

Much is to be gained from the cooperation between ancient historians and global historians. Initiatives like the taxonomy for labour relations indicate to the ancient historian where to look for the invisible Romans, and may assist in the search for useful comparisons. Conversely, it is hoped that labour historians of other periods will take sufficient note of the fact that the Roman labour market was just as complex as that of any other historical society.

This thesis has argued that the urban labour market of Roman Italy in the early empire was shaped and structured through the social relations of the family and other, non-familial associations. While the crucial role of the family has been widely recognized by global labour historians, non-familial associations merit more attention than they have received so far.

37 Thus, 14.4 refers to the possibility of hiring groups, with group-wise remuneration, usually piece rate, for example brickworkers. Cf. Hofmeester et al. (2016) 15 with n. 39 for references. This is probably what Diocletian’s *Prices Edict* 7.15-16 indicates when the brickworkers receive daily *pastus* as well as a piece rate. The point here is that groups of *slaves* were also hired out in the building industry, calling perhaps for an extra category employer, ‘of a group of slaves’ (*13.5), and slaves (*17.3 working for proprietor in group/ for group hire).

38 Hofmeester e.a. (2016) 4-5.

Appendices

APPENDIX 1: CATALOGUE OF JOB TITLES

This list started from the combined catalogues of Joshel, Treggiari and Von Petrikovits.¹ The resulting list was then expanded with many job-titles from epigraphy, literature and legal sources that were not previously included. The translations provided are a combination of those by the three authors mentioned, the Lewis and Short Latin dictionary, and my own interpretations.

a manu, amanuensis	secretary
abietarius, abetarius	timber merchant
accomodator	unknown
actarius	scribe, record keeper
actor	agent, administrator
acuarius	maker of needles (or variant of <i>aquarius</i> ?)
acuclarius	needle-maker
acutarius	maker of sharp objects
admissione, ab	usher
adplumbator, applumbator	solderer
advocatus	lawyer
aedifex, aedificator	builder
aedificia, ad/ supra	superintendent of urban property
aedituus	keeper of a temple
aequator monetae	coinage tester(?)
aerarius statuarius	maker of copper statues
aerarius vascularius	maker of copper vessels
aerarius	coppersmith
agrimensor	land surveyor
albarius	worker in stucco
alicarius	maker/dealer of things in halica (spelt)
alipilus	plucker of armpit hair
aluminarius	dealer in alum
ampullarius	maker of miniature amphorae (<i>ampullae</i>)
anaglyptarius	maker of reliefs
anagnostes	reader
anatiarius	dealer in ducks
antiquaries	teacher of paleography

1 Joshel (1992) 176–82; Von Petrikovits (1981) 83–119; Treggiari (1980) 61–4.

anularius, anellarius	ring-makers
aquarius	workman for a household's water supply?
aquilegus	water-diviner
arcarius, arcuarius	treasurer, cashier
archimagirus	chef-cook
architectus, arcitectus	architect
arcularius	chest- or cupboard-maker
argentarius artifex	silversmith
argentarius vascularius	maker of silver vessels
argentarius	banker, money changer
argento, ab	person in charge of silver, or the treasury?
armamentarius, armamintarius	one engaged with <i>armamenta</i> , weaponry
armariarius	cabinet maker, carpenter
armiger	armor-bearer
armillarius	bracelet maker
aromatarius	spice dealer
artifex	artisan
asinarius	ass driver
asturconarius	breeder and/or driver of <i>asturcones</i> (horses from Asturia in Spain)
atriensis	majordomo and servants who cleaned and maintained the house
aurarius	goldsmith
aurator, ad statuas aurandas	gilder (of statues)
auri acceptor	goldsmith/dealer in gold?/pawnbroker?
auri netrix	gold spinner
auri vestrix	gold embroiderer
auricaesor	gold cutter
auricoctor	gold smelter?
auriductor in lamina	gold embosser in sheets of gold
aurifex brattiarius	gold-leaf beater
aurifex, aurufex	goldsmith
aviarius altiliarius	dealer in fattened birds (bird fattener?)
aviarius	dealer in birds
axearius	axle maker
ballistarius, ballistrarius	maker of <i>ballistae</i> (catapults)
balneator, balneator privatarius	bath attendant

baltearius	belt-maker (?)
barbaricarius, barbaricas	brocade maker, embroiderer
baxiarius, baxearius	sandal maker
blattiarius	purple worker
botularius	sausage maker
bracarius	tailor
brattiarius inaurator	goldbeater, gilder
brattiarius, -a	goldbeater, maker of gold leaf
bucaeda, bucida	butcher
buccularius	maker of cheek-flaps for helms
burdonarius	hinny driver
bybliopola	bookseller
cabator (cavator)	engraver, gem cutter, excavator
caelator, gelator	engraver
caementarius, cementarius	bricklayer, mason
calcariensis	lime burner
calcarius	chalk burner
calceolarius	shoemaker
calciator, calceator	shoemaker
calcis coctor	lime burner
calculator	mathematician?
caligarius	bootmaker
cameliarius	camel driver
candelabrarius	maker of candelabra, lampstands
candidarius	white-bread baker
cantor, -trix	singer
capistrarius	holster maker
capsarius	servant who carried a child's bookcase, scroll-holder carrier
capulator, caplator	one who carries oil from the presses
carbonarius	coal-dealer
carinarius	dyer in a modish tint
carpentarius	wagonwright
cassidarius	helmet maker
caudicarius	lightermen, bargees
caupo, copo	innkeeper
cellarius, cellarius	provisioner, storeskeeper

centonarius	patchwork maker, ragman
cerarius	wax-figure maker
cerdo	handworker
ceriolarius	wax-candle-maker
ceromatita	gymnastics instructor
cervesarius	beer brewer
chartarius	dealer in paper, paper-maker
chorographarius, chorogra- phus(?)	geographer, map designer
ciliciarius	wig-maker
circi nuntius	announcer of the circus
circitor, circu(m)itor	overseer of water-way management (repair man?)
cisiarius, gisiarius, cisianus(?)	cab-driver/-owner
cistarius	guardian of a chest or wardrobe
citharoedus	lyre player and singer
citrarius	workers in citrus-wood
clavarius	nail smith
clavicularius, clavicarius	keymaker, locksmith
cloacarius	sewer cleaner
clostrarius, claustrarius, clastrarius	locksmith
coactor	collector
cocio	dealer
cocus, coquus, coctor; supra cocos	cook; supervisor of cooks
colorator	painter of houses?
columnarius	pillar maker
comoedus	comic actor
conditarius, -a	chef de cuisine?
conditor	seasoner
coriarius subactarius	preparer of hides for tanning
coriarius, corarianus	tanner
corintharius	worker in Corinthian bronze
corinthis, a	caretaker of Corinthian ware
cornicularius	assistant, aid, secretary (in civil offices)
coronarius	garland maker
crepidarius	maker of sandals, slippers
crustarius	one who makes embossed figures

crustularius	confectioner
cubicularius	bedchamber servant
cubiculo, a	servant in charge of bedroom
culinari	kitchen servant
cullearius	maker of <i>cullei</i> (leather bags?)
cultrarius	knife-maker, cutler
cunaria	infant attendant
cuparius	cellar-master
curator aedificiorum	superintendent of urban property
custodiarius	jailer
custos	guard, keeper
dealbator	plasterer
deaurator	gilder
decempedator	land surveyor
diabathrarius	shoemaker for light shoes (<i>diabathra</i>)
diatretarius	cage cup maker
diffusor olearius, diffusitrix	one who taps oil from a larger amphora to a smaller one
dispensator	steward
dissignator	usher/undertaker
dolearius	vessel-maker
dulciarius	confectioner
eborarius, eburarius	worker in ivory
embaenitarius	unknown, but regularly attested
ep(h)ippiarius	maker of horsecloths, saddler?
equiso	groom, stableman
essedarius	maker of <i>essedae</i> (war chariots)?
exactor	collector or overseer
exemptor	quarryman
exonerator calcariarius	lime unloader
exstructor	builder
fabarius	bean seller
faber argentarius	silversmith
faber automatarius	maker of <i>automata</i> (machines)
faber balneator	provider of services in the baths?

faber dolabrarius	cooper
faber eborarius	worker in ivory
faber ferrarius	ironsmith
faber ferrius	ironworker
faber intestinarius	joiner, inlayer (carved fine interior woodwork)
faber intestinus	wood-worker
faber lecticarius, lectarius	maker of beds
faber oculariarius, ocularius	maker of eyes for statues
faber solarius baxiarius	maker of woven footwear
faber subaedianus	builder working on interiors
faber tignuarius	carpenter
faber	worker; sp. builder or carpenter
fabricator	craftsman
factor	oilpresser
faenarius	hay salesman
faenerator, -trix	moneylender
falcarius	sickle smith
ferramentarius	worker with iron equipment
ferrariarius	someone in iron-mining
ferrarius, -a	ironsmith
fictiliarius	potter
fictor, finctor	sculptor?
figlinator	brick-maker
figularius, figulator, figulus, figelus	potter
flammarius, flammearius	dyer in very red colour
flator argentarius aerarius	moulder, sp. in minting
flaturarius	caster
florentinarius	damast-weaver?
focarius	kitchen servant
fontanus	someone who has to do with a water source (<i>fons</i>)
fossor, fosor	grave digger?
frumentarius	grain dealer
frumento, a	custodian of household grain
fullo	fuller
funerarius, funerator	undertaker
furnarius, -a	baker?
fusor (olearius)	moulder, in metal or oil

gallicarius	maker of Gallic shoes
gallinarius, -a	poulterer
gaunacarius	furrier
gemmarius sculptor	gem engraver, gem sculptor
gemmarius, -a	jeweller
geometres	geometrician
gerdius, gerdia	weaver
germanus	bodyguard
gerulus	bearer, porter
gladiarius, gladiator	sword maker
glutinarius	maker of glue or paste
glutinator	papyrus-gluer
grammaticus	grammar teacher, teacher of language
gypsarius, gupsarius	maker of plaster casts
hariolus, hariola	prophet, prophetess
harundinarius	seller of reeds (for hunting or fishing, or roofs) or writing pens?
haruspex, haruspica	soothsayer
hereditates, ad	financial administrator or account keeper of inheritances
holitor, hilitores	greengrocer
hordearius	barley-seller
horologiarius	watch maker
horrearius	storehouse man
hospitiis et paedagogus puerorum, ab	servant in charge of guests and attendant/teacher of slave children
hymnologus	singer of hymns
iatralipte, iatraliptes	doctor who cured by ointments and massage, masseuse
iatromea	midwife
imagines, ad	in charge of paintings/statues
inaurator	gilder
indusiarius	maker/dealer of over-tunics
infector	dyer
inpaestator	metal embosser
inpedimenta, ad	caretaker of baggage

inpiliarius	maker of felt footwear
insignarius, insignitor	gem-cutter
institor unguentarius	perfume seller
insularius	rent collector or supervisor of an <i>insula</i>
inundator	flooders?
iumenta, supra	person in charge of pack and draft animals
iumentarius	driver or supplier of coacher and carts, dealer in baggage animals
lactarius, lactearius	dealer in milk/ milk cakes?
lagonarius, -a; lagunarius, -a	bottle-seller, potter
lanarius carminator	wool carder
lanarius coactilarius, -coactilarius	maker of felt, felter
lanarius	maker of woolen cloth
lanificarius	cloth cleaner
lanipendus, -a	wool weigher, spinning supervisor
lanista	trainer/owner of gladiators
lanius, lanio, laniarius	butcher
lanternarius	lighterman
lapicida, lapicidarius	stonecutter
lapidaries, lapidaries structor	stoneworker
laquearius	maker of panelled ceilings
lavator, lotor	washer
lectarius, lectuarius	bed-maker
lecticarius	litter bearer
lector, -trix	reader
lenuncularius	barge-skipper
libarius	cake baker
libitinarius	undertaker
librarius a manu	scribe, secretary
librarius, -a	scribe, copyist, secretary
librator	land-measurer, equaliser
libripens	weigher?
lignarius	dealer in wood
limarius, faber limarius	file hewer
limbularius	maker of girdles, ribbons and so on
linarius	linen weaver/dealer

lintearius, linteo	linen weaver
linyfarius, linyfio	linen weaver/dealer
loc(u)larius	maker of <i>loculi</i> (niches)?, box-maker
locationes, ad	administrator or account keeper of contracts or leases?
lorarius	harness maker
lyntrarius	boatman
macellarius	provisions dealer
macellensis	market man
machinarius	engineer
machinator	engineer
magister	teacher
malleator, malliator	beater (minting)
manceps	dealer, usually in slaves
manicarius	worker with <i>manicae</i> (bandages for the sword-arm of a gladiator)
manticularius	maker of handbags and so on
manulearius	maker of clothing with long sleeves
manupretarius burrarius	one who creates <i>burrae</i> for an hour-wage
margarita, ad	caretaker of pearls
margaritarius, -a	pearl setter
marmorarius, marmarius	marble mason, marble cutter
materiarius	timber merchant
mediastinus	servant, medical assistant
medicamentarius	apothecary
medicus chirurgus	surgeon
medicus equarius et venator	horse doctor and huntsman
medicus iumentarius	doctor of draft animals
medicus oculusarius	eye doctor
medicus, -a	doctor
mellarius	dealer in honey
membranarius	parchment-maker
mentor aedificiorum	surveyor/measurer of buildings
mentor machinarius	grain measurer
mentor, (metator)	surveyor
mercator bovarius	dealer in cattle

mercator olei hispani ex provincia Baetica	dealer in Spanish oil from the province of Baetica
mercator sagarius	dealer in cloaks
mercator venalicius	slave dealer
mercator	dealer, trader, merchant
metallarius, metallicus	mine-worker
mima	mime (f)
miniarius, minaria	one who makes paint from tin
minister, -tra	servant
ministrator	waiter
molendinarius	mill-worker
molinarius, molitor	miller
molochinarius, molocinarius	maker of clothes from tree mallow
monetarius	minter
mulio	mule driver
mulomedicus	veterinarian
multicarius	maker of <i>multicia</i> (thin cloth)
murilegulus	one who fishes for purple-fish
musearius, musaearius, musarius, musivarius	mosaicist
musicarius	person in charge of music?
musicus	musician
myrrepsius	maker of salves and oils
nauegus aupiciarius	maker of auspicious signs on ships?
nauegus, naupegiarius	shipbuilder
navicularius	shipowner
negotia(n)s coriariorum	dealer in tanned hides
negotians lagonaris	dealer in wine bottles
negotians perticarius	dealer in poles or rods
negotians pigmentarius	dealer in paints and cosmetics
negotians salsamentarius et vinarius maurarius	dealer in salted fish and Moroccan wine
negotians salsarius et malaci- tanus	dealer in salted fish and fish sauce from Malaga
negotians siricarius	dealer in silk
negotians vinarius, navicularius	dealer in wines, shipper
negotians, negotiator	tradesman, dealer
negotiator aerarius et ferrarius	dealer in copper and iron

negotiator fabarius	dealer in beans
negotiator frumentarius	dealer in grain
negotiator lanarius	dealer in woolens
negotiator lintiarius	dealer in linens
negotiator marmorarius	dealer in marble
negotiator olearius ex Baetica	dealer in oil from Baetica
negotiator penoris et vinorum	dealer in food and wine
negotiator sagarius	dealer in cloaks
negotiator suariae et pecuariae	dealer in pigs and cattle
negotiator vestiarius	dealer in clothing
negotiator	slave manager of master's business
negotiator, negotians ferrarius	dealer in iron
negotiator, negotians vinarius	dealer in wines
negotiatrice frumentaria et legumenaria	dealer in grain and pulse
nomenclator	name teller
notarius, -a	shorthand writer, stenographer
numida	messenger or outrider
nummularius	money changer
nutrix	child nurse
obstetrix, opstetrix	midwife
offector	dyer
officator, -trix	manager/owner of a workshop
olearius, oleareus, olarius	oil dealer
operarius	workmen
opifex	worker, artist
orator	rhetor
ornatrix, ornator	hairdresser
ostiarius, -a	porter, doorkeeper
paedagogus, -a	child attendant
paenularius	cloak-seller
panarius	baker
panchrestarius	confectioner
parmularius	shield-maker
pastillarius, pastilarius	pill-maker (or bread-maker)
pastor	shepherd

patagiarius	lace maker
pavimentarius	paviours
pectinarius, pectenarius, pectinator	wool comber or comb-maker
pedisequus, -a	attendant, foot servant
pellio, pellionarius	furrier
pernarus, pernarius	seller of ham
philosophus Epicureus	Epicurean philosopher
philosophus Stoicus	Stoic philosopher
philosophus	philosopher
phrygio, frygio	gold embroiderer
picarius (coll)	tar-burner
pictor imaginarius	figure painter
pictor parietarius	wall painter?
pictor	painter
pigmentarius	dealer in paints and cosmetics
pilicrepus	ballplayer
pincerna	mixer (of drinks)
piscator, -trix	fisherman (-woman)
pistor	baker
pistricarius	baker
pistrinarius	baker
placentarius	baker
plastis, plastes, plasta	pottery, statuary, model-sculptor
pliatricrix	clothes-folder (f)
plostrarius (plaustrarius)	foreman, cart-maker
plumarius	embroiderer, brocader with feathers
plumbarius, plombarius	maker of (lead) pipes, plumber
plutarius	maker of balustrades
poeta	poet
politor eborarius	ivory polisher
politor	polisher
pollinctor	washer and anointer of corpses
pollio	polisher
pomarius, -a	fruit seller
popa (popinaria?) popinarius, popinator	keeper of a cookshop
praebitor vinarius	supplier of wine

praeceptor	teacher, instructor
praeco vinorum	crier of wines
praeco	crier
praegustator	taster
procurator	manager
promus	distributor of provisions
psecas	girl servant who oils hair
pugillarius	maker of writing tablets
pullarius	poulterer, chicken-keeper
purpurarius, -a	dyers and seller of purple cloth
putearius	fountain builder
quadratarius, quadratatorius	stonemason
quasillaria	spinning woman
raedarius, rhedarius	coachman, coach builder
redemptor	contractor
refector pectinarius	comb-repairman?
resinaria	dealer in resin
restio, restiarius	rope-maker
retiarius	net-knitter (gladiatorial?)
retifex	net-knitter
rhyparographus	painter of offensive material
rogator	questioner
rosarius	garland maker with roses, cf <i>violarii</i> and <i>coronarii</i>
saccarius, sacarius	porter of sacks
sacomarius	weighter/weight-dealer
sagarius	maker of cloaks
sagittarius	arrow maker
salarius (salinator?)	dealer in salted fish
salgamarius	dealer/maker of salted produce
salinator	dealer in cooking salt
salsamentarius	dealer in salted fish
salsarius	salter
samiarius, samiator	polisher
sandalarius	shoemaker
sandapilarius	corpse-bearer

saponarius	soap maker
sarcinatrix, -tor, sarcitor, trix, sartor, -trix	mender, seamstress
scabillarius	ritual musicians?
scalarius	stair-maker
scalptor	stone carver
scandularius	clapboard maker
scapiaria	maker of seller or vessels called <i>scaphia</i>
scaurarius	slag worker
scissor	pruner
scordiscarius	saddler
scriblitarius	pie-baker
scriniarius	maker of <i>scrinia</i> (cases)
scriptor titulorum	sign-writer
sculptor, scultor	sculptor
scutarius	shield maker
sector, – serrarius, – zonarius, – materiarum roborearum	sawyer
securicularius	axle maker
segmentarius	maker of <i>segmenta</i> (decorative strips for clothes)
sellularius, artifex -	maker of litters, chairs
seminaria	seller of seeds
seplasiarius	salve maker
sericarius, -a; siricarius	silkworker, seller of silk
sigillarius, sigillariarius	maker of <i>sigilla</i> (statuettes)
signarius, artifex -	skilled sculpture worker
silentarius	silence maintainer
silicarius	street plasterer
siliginarius, pistor	whitebread-baker
silvicaedus	lumberjack
similaginarius, pistor	whitebread-baker
sindoniacus, sintoniacus	weaver of sindon
sofista	teacher of public speaking
solatarius, solatarus	maker of women's shoes
solearius, solarius	shoemaker
spadicarius	brown-dyer
spatharius	someone to do with longswords

spec(u)larius, spec(u)lariarius, ars ispeclararia	worker in mica or isinglass, mirror maker?, glazier
speculum, a	caretaker of mirrors
staminaria	weaver
statuarius	maker of statues
strator	groom
stropharius	bra-maker
structor lapidarius	stone worker
structor parietarius (varietarius)	builder of walls
structor	carver, builder
stuppator	worker with flax?
subaedianus, subidianus, subedianus	worker on interiors
subornatrix	beautician-servant?
subrutor	demolition man
suffossor	digger
sumptuarius	agent in charge of household expenditures, cashier
supellectilarius, ad supel- lectilem	caretaker of furniture
sutor cerdo	shoemaker
sutor institor caligarius	shoemaker
sutor veteramentarius	shoemaker
sutor	shoemaker, cobbler
symphoniacus	musician
tabellarius	courier
tabellio	notary
tabernacularius	tent maker
tabernarius, -a	shopkeeper, tavern keeper
tabularius	accountant, bookkeeper
tector lignarius	carpenter
tector	plasterer, stucco worker, carpenter
tector, albarius -	plasterer
teglarius	brick worker
tesselarius, tessalarius, tessel- lator	maker of <i>tessellae</i> or dice
tesserarius lignarius	maker of wooden(?) dice
testarius	ore smelter

textor, -trix	weaver
thurarius, -a	incense dealer
tibiarius	maker of reed pipes, flute-maker
tignarius, tignarius, tignarius	carpenter
tignor	carpenter
tignoserrarius	timber worker
tinctor	dyer
tonsor peccorum	sheep shearer
tonsor, -trix; tosor, tostrix, tussor, tosillaria	barber, f shearer of nap on woolen cloth
topiarius	ornamental gardener
torcularius	winepress maker
toreutes	metal engraver
toreuticensis	embosser
tractator, -trix	masseur, masseuse
tricliniarcha	caterer?
tritor argentarius	chaser of silver
tubarius	dealer in tubes
tubularius	= tubarius?
tudiator = χαλκοτόπος	bronze beater
unctor, -trix	masseur, masseuse
unguentarius, -a	perfumer
urinator	diver
ustor	corpse-burner
valetudinarium, ad/supra	infirmity staff/supervisor
valvarius	maker of double doors?
vascularius, vasarius	maker of metal vessels
velarius	curtain closer, curtain or awning maintenance man
venalicius	slave-dealer
vespillo, vispillo	corpse-bearer
veste, a/ ad vestem	caretaker of clothing
vestiarius tenuarius	tailor of fine clothing
vestiarius, -a	tailor
vestifex	tailor
vestificus, -a	tailor
vestiPLEX	clothes folder

vestiplicus, -a	clothes folder, presser
vestispica	caretaker of clothing
vestitor	tailor
veterinarius	veterinarian
vexillarius	maker of <i>vexilla</i>
victimarius	assistants at sacrifice
vietor, vitor	basket maker
vilicus	overseer, manager
viminarius	tracer
vinarius	wine dealer
violarius	violet-dyer; garland maker with violets
viridarius	gardener
vitriarius, vitrearius	glazier
vitricus	glazier
zonarius, sonarius	girdle maker

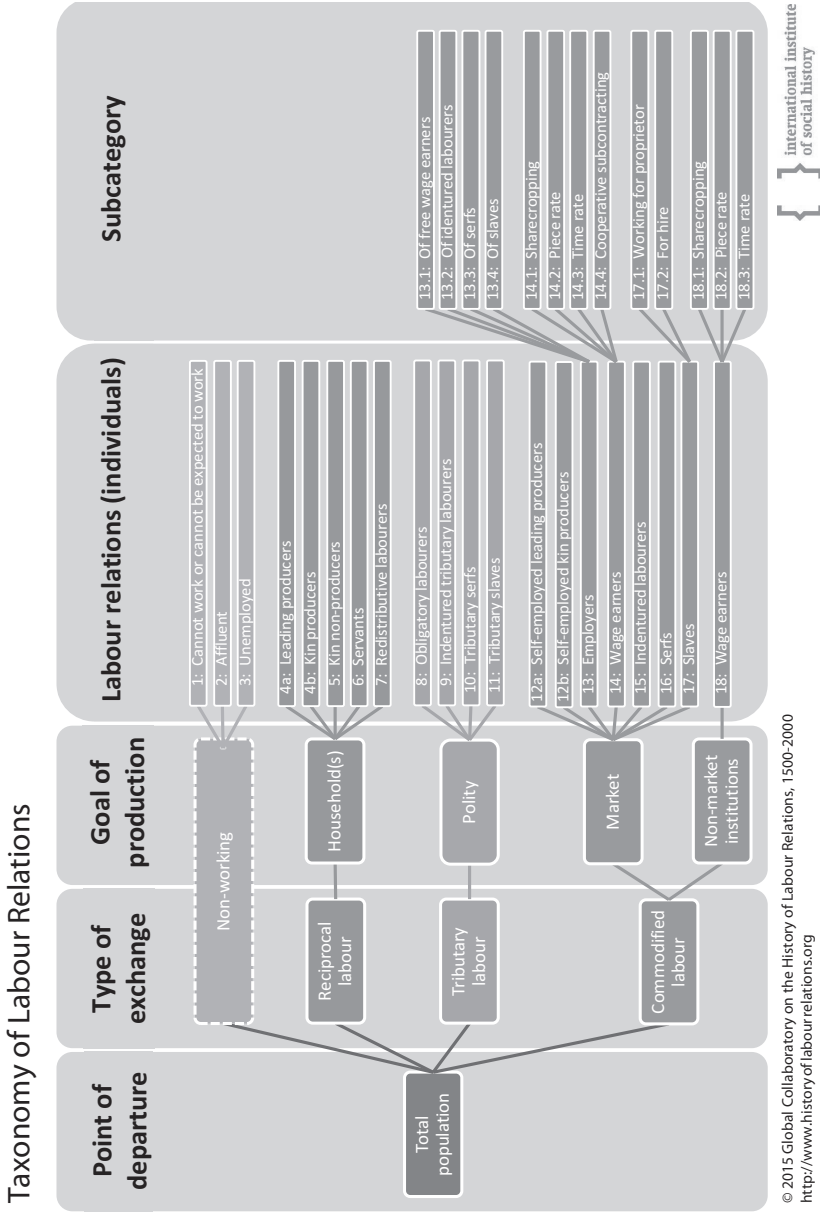
APPENDIX 2: APPRENTICESHIP CONTRACTS

This collection includes all documents securely attesting to an apprenticeship, including contracts, apprenticeship registrations and one letter.

Reference	Date	Origin	Profession	Free/slave	m/f
1 P. Heid. 226	215/213 BC	unknown	medicine	Free	M
2 BGU 4. 1124	18 BC	Alexandria	?	Free	M
3 BGU 4. 1125 = SB 22. 15538	13 BC	Alexandria	flute player	Slave	M
4 SB 6. 9445	5/6 AD	Oxyrhynchus	stone-mason	Free?	M
5 P. Tebt 2. 384	10 AD	Tebtunis	weaver	Free	M
6 P. Mich. 5. 346a	13 AD	Tebtynis	weaver	Slave	F
7 P. Mich. 5. 346b	16 AD	Tebtynis	builder	Free	M
8 P. Oxy. 2. 322 = SB 10. 10236	36 AD	Oxyrhynchus	weaver	Free	M
9 P. Mich. 2. 121, recto II, 8	42 AD	Tebtynis	weaver	Free	M
10 P. Fouad. 1. 37	48 AD	Oxyrhynchus	linen weaver?	Free	M
11 P. Mich. 3. 170	49 AD	Oxyrhynchus	weaver	Free	M
12 P. Osl. 3. 141	50 AD	Karanis	weaver	Free	M
13 P. Wisc. 1. 4 = Papyrologica Lugduno Batava XVI	53 AD	Oxyrhynchus	weaver	Free	M
14 P. Oxy. Hels. 29	54 AD	Oxyrhynchus	weaver	Free	M
15 P. Mich. 3. 171	58 AD	Oxyrhynchus	weaver	Free	M
16 PSI 10. 1132	61 AD	Talei	?	Free	M
17 P. Mich. 3. 172	62 AD	Oxyrhynchus	weaver	Free	M
18 PSI 8. 871	66 AD	Oxyrhynchus	?	Free	M
19 P. Oxy. 2. 275	66 AD	Oxyrhynchus	weaver	Free	M
20 P. Oxy. 41. 2971	66 AD	Oxyrhynchus	weaver	Free	M
21 P. Osl. Inv. 1470 = SB 24. 16186	70 AD	Oxyrhynchus	weaver	Free	M
22 P. Heid. 4. 326	98 AD	Ankyron	?	Free	F
23 P. Heid. 4. 327	99 AD	Ankyron	dancer?	Free	M
24 SB 24. 16253 = SB 12. 10946	98-117 AD	Oxyrhynchus	?	Free	M
25 P. Tebt. 2. 442 = SB 12. 10984	113 AD	Tebtynis	weaver	Free	M
26 P. Tebt. 2. 385	117 AD	Tebtynis	weaver	Free	M
27 P. Col. Inv 164	118-138 AD	Oxyrhynchus e.o.		Free	M
28 P. Mich. Inv. 4238	128 AD	Theadelphia	carpentry	Free	M
29 P. Ross. Georg. 2. 18. 450	140 AD	Arsinoite		Free	F
30 St. Pal. 22. 40	150 AD	Soknopaiou Nesos	weaver	Slave	M
31 P. Oxy. 4. 724	155 AD	Oxyrhynchus	shorthand-writer	Slave	M
32 P. Vars. S.n. 7 = SB 6. 9374	170 AD (169?)	Ptolemais Drymou	weaver	Free	M
33 P. Oxy. 4. 725	183 AD	Oxyrhynchus	weaver	Free	M

	Reference	Date	Origin	Profession	Free/slave	m/f
34	P. Grenf. 2. 59	189 AD	Soknopaiou Nesos	weaver	Slave	M
35	P. Oxy. 41. 2988	100-200 AD	Oxyrhynchus	shorthand-writer	Slave? (<i>pais</i>)	M
36	PSI 10. 1110, verso l	150-200 AD	Theogonis	?	Free	M
37	P. Oxy. 14. 1647	150-200 AD	Oxyrhynchus	weaver	Slave	F
38	BGU 11. 2041	201 AD	Arsinoite	weaver	Free	M
39	P. Oxy. 38. 2875	200-250 AD	Oxyrhynchus	builder?	Free	M
40	P. Oxy. 41. 2977	239 AD	Oxyrhynchus	wool-carder/ hairdresser?	Slave verna	M
41	P. Oxy. 31. 2586	264 AD	Oxyrhynchus	linen weaver?	Free	M
42	P. Oxy. 67. 4596	264 AD	Oxyrhynchus	weaver	Free	F
43	P. Mich. Inv. 5191a = SB 8. 13305 was P. Mich. Inv. 5191b	271 AD	Karanis	weaver	slave?	F
44	P. Kell. G. 19a appendix = SB 24. 16320	293-304 AD	Kellis	weaver	Slave	F
45	BGU 4. 1021	200-300 AD	Oxyrhynchus	wool-carder/ hairdresser?	Slave	M
46	PSI 3. 241	200-300 AD	Antinoopolis	weaving?	Slave	F
47	P. Mich. Inv. 337 = SB 14. 11588	late 4th c?	Unknown	linen weaver?	Free	M
48	P. Aberd. 59	300-500 AD	Panopolis (?)	?	Free	F
49	PSI inv. 195 = SB 14. 11982	554 AD	Oxyrhynchus	?	Free	M
50	P. Lond. 5. 1706	500-600 AD	Aphrodites Kome	?	Free	M

APPENDIX 3: TAXONOMY OF LABOUR RELATIONS



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Stapel (2016). <http://hdl.handle.net/10622/OJYOOR>. IISH Dataverse V1.

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Nederlandse samenvatting

WERK IN DE ROMEINSE WERELD. SOCIALE STRUCTUREN IN RELATIE TOT DE STEDELIJKE ARBEIDSMARKT IN HET ROMEINS ITALIË VAN DE EERSTE DRIE EEUWEN NA CHRISTUS

Het Romeinse Rijk was bovenal een agrarische samenleving. In de vroege keizertijd was daarnaast echter een verstedelijkte economie ontstaan die zijn weerga niet kende. Niet alleen studenten van de Oudheid, maar ook overige geïnteresseerden zijn over het algemeen bekend met de overblijfselen daarvan, zoals werkplaatsen in Pompei en het monument van de bakker Eurysaces bij de Porta Maggiore in Rome. Het Rijksmuseum van Oudheden in Leiden heeft een mooie collectie gereedschappen liggen waardoor het werkende leven in de Romeinse keizertijd inzichtelijk wordt: de schedelboor of de eendenbek van de Romeinse dokter ziet er nog vrijwel exact hetzelfde uit als de medische hulpstukken die vandaag de dag in Nederland worden toegepast. Werkende Romeinen zijn herkenbaar en daarom geliefd. In wetenschappelijke publicaties zijn dergelijke vondsten veelvuldig voor het voetlicht gebracht. De populariteit van de ‘gewone Romein’ en zijn herkenbaarheid bieden handvatten bij de studie van arbeid en arbeiders in de Romeinse wereld, maar juist in die familiariteit schuilt ook het gevaar. De praktijk van de Romeinse dokter zag er naar alle waarschijnlijkheid volkomen anders uit dan nu.

Tot voor kort richtte het bestaande onderzoek zich impliciet op de groep van vrijgeboren mannen in met name steden van Italië. Dat liet de vrouwelijke helft van de bevolking grotendeels buiten beschouwing, om nog maar niet over slaven en vrijgelatenen te spreken. Voor elke opdracht was er een veelvoud aan arbeidskrachten beschikbaar en het volstaat daarom niet om het werk van vrijgeborenen, mannen, of slaven los te bezien. De familiariteit met het bewijsmateriaal gaf daarnaast de illusie van overvloed, waarbij dreigde te worden vergeten dat het hier slechts een klein percentage van de bronnen uit de Romeinse keizertijd betrof dat werd uitvergroot – zeker zolang de verbinding tussen literaire, documentaire, juridische en materiële bronnen niet structureel gelegd werd. Veel van het materiaal is dus bekend. De gewenste integrale aanpak van de bronnen komt inmiddels steeds vaker naar voren in detailstudies van onderdelen van de Romeinse economie (bijv. Wilson en Flohr 2016). De laatste decennia hebben ook grote ontwikkelingen laten zien in de manier waarop de Romeinse economie bestudeerd wordt (bijv. Bang 2008; Temin 2013a). Ondanks deze vruchtbare voedingsbodem ontbreekt tot nog toe een integrale analyse van werk en de gehele stedelijke bevolking binnen het kader van de recente inzichten over de Romeinse economie, en dat is de lacune waarin dit proefschrift wil voorzien.

‘Werk en de stedelijke bevolking’ is niet hetzelfde als de ‘beroepsbevolking’ van Romeins Italië in de eerste drie eeuwen na Christus. De wellicht wat omslachtiger formulering is bewust gekozen. Werk omvat beroepsmatige arbeid, maar ook onbetaalde bezigheden die (gezins-)arbeid faciliteren. Daarnaast reflecteert de keuze voor ‘werk en

de stedelijke bevolking' als onderwerp het belang van de context waarbinnen werk functioneert. Een individuele arbeider moet niet op zichzelf bezien worden. Hij of zij was één van vele radertjes die de Romeinse arbeidsmarkt draaiende hield waarbij aansluitende grote en kleinere tandwielen de draairichting mede bepaalden. Die tandwielen kunnen uitgelegd worden als verscheidene sociale en culturele factoren waardoor de Romein bewust en onbewust beïnvloed werd. Dit proefschrift laat zien op welke manier daarbij richting werd gegeven door de centrale raderen van familiebanden, en dwarsverbanden met anderen. Het onderzoek richt zich op de periode van de vroege keizertijd, van keizer Augustus (31 v. Chr.–14 n.Chr.) tot en met keizer Diocletianus (284–305 n.Chr.), hetgeen samenvalt met de periode waarvoor het bewijsmateriaal het meest overvloedig is. Geografisch beperkt dit onderzoek zich tot Italië, waar de bevolkingsdichtheid en de mate van verstedelijking hoger lag dan elders in het Rijk, en waar de uitzonderlijke stad Rome de motor was van de economie.

De Romeinse elite propageerde een ideaal van niet hoeven werken. Een dergelijk ideaal was voor de overige 95 procent van de samenleving onhaalbaar. De stem van de nonelite is met name te horen in beroepsinscripties, die de belangrijkste bron vormen voor mijn onderzoek naar de stedelijke arbeidsmarkt. Romeins Italië heeft ongeveer twee- tot drieduizend beroepsinscripties voortgebracht, hetgeen kan worden aangevuld met ongeveer honderd afbeeldingen en tweehonderd inscripties van (beroeps-) associaties. Er worden nog regelmatig nieuwe inscripties gevonden en gepubliceerd. Om deze reden is hier geen lijst of database van documenten opgenomen, maar een nieuwe catalogus van beroepen (appendix 1) waarmee de lezer via digitale databases op eenvoudige wijze de relevante teksten inclusief eventueel latere addenda kan oproepen.

Alleen al de aantallen geven aan dat de beroepsinscripties geen afspiegeling vormen van de beroepsbevolking, waarbij ook overige bekende problemen van representativiteit in de epigrafische bronnen nog een rol spelen. Veel inscripties bieden weinig tot geen context. Om de context van werk in de Romeinse samenleving te reconstrueren wordt in dit proefschrift waar mogelijk eveneens gebruik gemaakt van literaire, documentaire, juridische en materiële bronnen. De bredere context van sociale structuren waarbinnen het antieke bewijsmateriaal moet worden gelezen, komt echter vooral in beeld onder invloed van de New Institutional Economics (NIE) dat de weg heeft vrijgemaakt naar vergelijkingen met andere historische samenlevingen. Moderne studies naar arbeid en werk laten zien hoezeer individuele arbeidsmogelijkheden ingebed zijn in socio-culturele structuren. Het wordt steeds duidelijker dat een historische arbeidsmarkt vrijwel nooit volledig geïntegreerd is maar dat er een onderverdeling optreedt op basis van cultureel bepaalde aspecten, waarbij gedacht moet worden aan verschillen in kansen tussen man en vrouw, of verschillen op basis van afkomst. Dit fenomeen heet arbeidsmarktsegmentatie en blijkt een vruchtbare manier om naar de Romeinse

arbeidsmarkt te kijken – er allereerst van uitgaande dat er mag worden gesproken van een arbeidsmarkt in een dergelijke pre-industriële samenleving.

Hoofdstuk 2 zet uiteen in hoeverre economische theorieën van marktwerking en arbeidsmarkt inzicht kunnen geven in de stedelijke arbeidsmarkt van Romeins Italië. Het voert te ver om met Temin (2013a) te spreken van een geïntegreerde Romeinse markteconomie op rijksniveau. Op kleinere schaal daarentegen valt er binnen de stedelijke context van Romeins Italië zeker te spreken van lokaal of regionaal georiënteerde markten, ook waar het arbeid betreft. Het regionale karakter geeft al aan dat deze op steden georiënteerde arbeidsmarkten niet volkomen geïntegreerd waren; integratie werd in hoge mate belemmerd door beperkte en trage informatiestromen. De nadruk die sociologen ook tegenwoordig op segmentatie van de arbeidsmarkt leggen blijkt bovendien evenzo van belang in Romeins Italië. De bevindingen van dit onderzoek laten zien dat het onderscheid tussen mannen en vrouwen een belangrijkere factor was voor kansen op de arbeidsmarkt dan het onderscheid tussen slaven en vrijen. De aanwezigheid van slavernij sluit de toepassing van het concept arbeidsmarkt voor de Romeinse samenleving dus niet uit, zolang we in acht nemen dat de Romeinse arbeidsmarkt niet alleen in arbeid, maar ook in arbeiders handelde. Zowel mannelijke slaven als vrijgeboren mannen hadden toegang tot een vorm van beroepsonderwijs en vooral vrouwen werden in hun mogelijkheden beperkt. Niettemin waren er ook geschoolde vrouwen en is het waarschijnlijk dat, los daarvan, iedereen die daartoe in staat was ook daadwerkelijk moest bijdragen aan het familie-inkomen. De levensstandaard in Romeins Italië was over het algemeen laag en de vraag naar werk kon sterk fluctueren. Arbeidsmarktsegmentatie werd mede bepaald en bevestigd door de sociale structuren in de samenleving, met name door middel van familiebanden (**hoofdstuk 3 en 4**), maar ook door niet-familiale collectieven (**hoofdstuk 5**).

Familie en flexibele arbeidsstrategieën van de familie vormen het onderwerp van de volgende twee hoofdstukken, waarbij een onderscheid moet worden gemaakt tussen nonelite huishoudens (**hoofdstuk 3**) en elite huishoudens of *domus* (**hoofdstuk 4**). In beide gevallen omvat de familie zowel een kerngezin als één of meer slaven en eventuele vrijgelatenen, maar in het geval van de nonelite huishoudens waren de familieleden zelf eveneens arbeiders, terwijl de elite overal mensen voor in dienst had en niet zelf de handen vuil hoefde te maken.

De strategieën van nonelite families (**hoofdstuk 3**) beginnen al bij demografische aspecten als huwelijksbanden en het beïnvloeden van de fertiliteit om het aantal gezinsleden te bepalen: kinderen waren gewenst en konden een belangrijke economische bijdrage leveren aan het gezinsinkomen, maar kinderen krijgen, adopteren, of opnemen was voor de nonelite in eerste instantie ook een grote kostenpost waarbij het nog maar de vraag was of die investering in tijd en geld zich later uit zou betalen. Diezelfde overwegingen speelden mee bij de aankoop en het vrijlaten van slaven. En het gold

eveneens voor het al dan niet investeren in menselijk kapitaal van kind of slaaf (of slavenkind), vaak door middel van een vorm van beroepsopleiding. Het economische principe van intergenerationale afhankelijkheid laat zien dat gezinnen die het beter hadden dankzij een opleiding ook regelmatig konden investeren, maar dat vele andere gezinnen de inzet van alle gezinsleden inclusief vrouwen en kinderen hard nodig hadden om te kunnen overleven en daarom geen tijd of geld beschikbaar hadden om hun kinderen een betere opleiding te geven. Dit principe verklaart zowel het feit dat er altijd vrijgeboren ambachtslieden te vinden waren in de Romeinse samenleving, als het feit dat hun aantallen nooit echt sterk toenamen. De aanwezigheid van slaven in de nonelite huishoudens en de blijvende banden met hun vrijgelatenen, maakte dat de Romeinse gezinnen theoretisch meer strategieën beschikbaar hadden dan hun vroegmoderne tegenhanger om fluctuerende arbeidsomstandigheden het hoofd te kunnen bieden. Het bestaan van familiebedrijfjes met één of meer slaven, komt overeen met het archeologische beeld van de Romeinse stad die gekenmerkt werd door vele kleine werkplaatsen/winkels (*tabernae*). Deze dissertatie laat echter zien dat loonarbeid voor sommige gezinnen minstens zo belangrijk was en dat we daarom het traditionele beeld van het Romeinse gezin als *locus* van werk en huishouden los moeten laten, ten faveure van een breder spectrum van familiestrategieën.

De slavencomponent van het huishouden speelt een nog veel grotere rol binnen de elite *domus* van **hoofdstuk 4**. Waar demografische aspecten van het eigen gezin belangrijk waren voor de nonelite, is het adaptieve element binnen de elite huishoudens vooral te vinden onder de aanzienlijke aantallen slaven en ex-slaven. Financiële overwegingen zullen een minder grote rol gespeeld hebben in economische strategieën dan voor de nonelite. Elite *domus* waren bovendien een belangrijke factor voor de werkgelegenheid in met name grotere steden – en dat gold bovenal voor de stad Rome. In die stad waren ook de ondergrondse *columbaria* te vinden, graftombes die gerelateerd kunnen worden aan dergelijke elite *domus* en waar, dankzij een unieke vorm van individuele herdenking in inscripties voor vrijwel iedere ‘bewoner’, veel van de beroepsinscripties vandaan komen, die meestal slaven of vrijgelatenen betreffen. Mijn onderzoek liet zien dat het inderdaad waarschijnlijk is dat de staf van de elite huishoudens met name uit slaven en ex-slaven bestond. Dat geeft echter geen antwoord op de vraag of deze voorkeur voor arbeiders van slavenafkomst in de elite huishoudens ook de werkgelegenheid van vrijgeborenen significant limiteerde. In lijn met de verwachtingen lijkt het erop dat de beroepen in huiselijke context waar vrouwen traditioneel werk konden vinden inderdaad grotendeels door de slaven en ex-slaven uit de *domus* werden uitgevoerd en dat voor vrijgeboren vrouwen de mogelijkheden daarmee enigszins beperkt werden. De aanwezigheid van de elite was niettemin waarschijnlijk ook een belangrijke motor voor de werkgelegenheid voor vrije ambachtslieden en arbeiders in de grotere steden, zij het dan niet zozeer *in* maar eerder *voor* het huishouden: de *domus* waren niet geheel autar-

kisch, lang niet alle benodigde diensten waren vertegenwoordigd in één huishouden. De analyse vestigt echter ook de aandacht op het bestaan van *domus*-netwerken (verg. Penner 2013), een fenomeen dat nog verder onderzocht dient te worden en inhoudt dat huishoudens complementair waren en van elkaars arbeiders gebruik konden maken.

Elite huishoudens waren ook cruciaal voor de mogelijkheden tot arbeidsopleidingen die slaven ter beschikking stonden. De leidende familie kon ervoor kiezen om slaven intern of extern extra beroepsvaardigheden op te laten doen; dit bestendigt het beeld dat er voor slaven relatief goede kansen tot scholing lagen, hetgeen ook na vrijlating hun mogelijkheden op de arbeidsmarkt sterk verbeterde en daarmee de overrepresentatie van vrijgelatenen verklaart onder geschoolde ambachtslieden in beroepsinscripties. Zowel in het geval van de nonelite als de elite huishoudens bleven banden met vrijgelatenen vaak bestaan. Op die manier werden familiebanden als het ware uitgebreid met een sterke tak van (hoogopgeleide) vrijgelatenen die een betrouwbare zakenpartner vormden, een familiebedrijf konden voortzetten, of die simpelweg konden worden ingeschakeld als er veel vraag naar (geschoold) werk was. 'Familiebedrijven' in de Romeinse samenleving konden dus een veelvoud aan vormen aannemen.

Los van familiebanden werd de plaats van een individu mede bepaald door zijn of haar plaats in andere intermenselijke dwarsverbanden (**hoofdstuk 5**). In Romeins Italië springen dan met name de professionele associaties (*collegia*) in het oog: groepen met namen als 'de associatie van de bouwers' (*collegium fabrum*). Terecht wordt in de wetenschappelijke literatuur recentelijk echter benadrukt dat de naam van een dergelijke groep niet zoveel zegt over hun belangrijkste punt van overeenkomst en dat alle vrijwillige associaties in meer of mindere mate gezamenlijke sociale en economische belangen behartigden (Wilson 1996). Associatie met anderen in welke vorm dan ook levert automatisch ook economische connecties op. Juist het feit dat ze niet alleen economische samenwerking vertegenwoordigden, maar ook sociale, religieuze en ook familiale banden, maakte dat de *collegia* functioneerden als een vertrouwensnetwerk, hetgeen (economische) samenwerking vergemakkelijkte in een wereld waarin de betrouwbaarheid van een ander (zakenpartner, werkgever of werknemer) niet makkelijk te verifiëren of wettelijk te handhaven was – en het was daarom enorm waardevol. Niet-familiale dwarsverbanden vormden een welkome aanvulling op de familiebanden, en soms namen ze daadwerkelijk de plaats in van familie voor migranten, weduwen en anderen die (tijdelijk) zonder familie waren.

Slechts een minderheid van de bevolking was lid van een associatie, ook in de bloei-periode van de *collegia* in de tweede en derde eeuw. Het is interessant dat ook hier het statusonderscheid tussen slaaf en vrij minder belangrijk was dan sekse: vrouwen waren zeer ondervertegenwoordigd, slaven niet. De armen konden zich niet veroorloven lid te worden van associaties, en aanvullende eisen voor het lidmaatschap van individuele associaties onderstreepten de exclusiviteit die ook het vertrouwen binnen het netwerk

moest waarborgen. De *collegia* waren sterk hiërarchisch van aard en reflecteerden daarin enerzijds de hiërarchie van de samenleving, anderzijds boden zij in hun interne rangorde de mogelijkheid om macht te verwerven aan hen die deze mogelijkheid nauwelijks hadden buiten de grenzen van een associatie. Een belangrijke bevinding is ook dat de frequentie en de rol van associaties heel sterk plaatsgebonden was: Rome en Ostia vertonen de meeste, en de meeste variatie in, associaties. In Ostia, en meer in het algemeen buiten Rome, was het prestige van leden echter vele malen hoger dan in de hoofdstad waar zij overschaduwde werden door de Keizer en de senatoriale elite. Collectieve actie van associaties op het gebied van de economie werd vooral zichtbaar en zinvol buiten de stad Rome.

Uit mijn onderzoek komt naar voren dat de economische functies van sociale netwerken als familie en associaties van integraal belang waren voor de Romeinse economie, waar vertrouwen en zekerheden in economische transacties schaars waren. Deze instituties gaven mede vorm aan de arbeidsmarkt en maakten het mogelijk dat de Romeinse economie zozeer tot bloei heeft kunnen komen. Deze bevindingen sluiten aan bij recente ontwikkelingen in de geschiedenis van arbeid en arbeidsrelaties (**hoofdstuk 6**). Aanvankelijk richtte dit onderzoeksveld zich vooral op de Industriële Revolutie en latere periodes. Inmiddels wordt vanuit arbeidsgeschiedenis erkend dat loonarbeid ook voor kon komen in pre-industriële samenlevingen, naast andere vormen van arbeid, inclusief slavenarbeid. Prijs-theorie en arbeidsmarkttheorie worden eveneens niet meer zo rigide toegepast omdat het steeds duidelijker wordt dat in alle historische samenlevingen ook socio-culturele aspecten een rol spelen in de economie. Mijn analyse van de Romeinse samenleving brengt sterk naar voren hoe die socio-culturele aspecten ten grondslag liggen aan de beginselen van een markteconomie. Het wordt dus hoog tijd om de interactie tussen oudhistorici en historici van de vroegmoderne periode te verbeteren. Een vingeroefening waarbij de bevindingen uit het onderzoek van deze dissertatie worden geïncorporeerd in het universele schema van arbeidsrelaties van de 'Global Collaboratory on the History of Labour Relations 1500–2000' laat zien hoe goed een schematisch overzicht de differentiatie van arbeidsrelaties in een historische samenleving kan schetsen. Het brengt echter eveneens naar voren waar de lacune zit omdat horizontale arbeidsrelaties zoals associaties en andere niet-familiale arbeidscollectieven nog niet kunnen worden geïncorporeerd. Het zijn juist deze relaties die voor het begrip van de Romeinse arbeidsmarkt zo belangrijk zijn.

Curriculum Vitae

Miriam Johanna Vallinga (Spijkenisse, 1984) graduated from OSG De Ring van Putten (Spijkenisse) in 2002. She went on to study at Leiden University where she obtained a bachelor degree in Classics in 2005. In 2007 her thesis on the use of Apuleius' *Metamorphoses* as a historical source for the life of Roman women earned her a master's degree in Classics from Leiden University (with distinction). Subsequently she completed a research master degree in Ancient History at Leiden University in 2009, specializing in Latin epigraphy and Roman social history, which resulted in a thesis on working widows in the early Roman empire. During this time she studied at University College London for a semester. She started research for her PhD-thesis in the project 'Moving Romans. Urbanisation, migration and labour in the Roman Principate' in 2010, which was executed at the Institute of History at Leiden University. Over the course of this project, she taught various courses in Ancient History at Leiden University and for Scholae (Utrecht) from 2011–2013 and 2014–2016. She obtained the Dutch University basic teaching qualification (BKO) in 2014.

Is it legitimate to speak of a labour market in early imperial Roman Italy? *The Roman World of Work* argues that the economic concepts of a labour market and labour market segmentation hold explanatory power for understanding labour in the cities of Roman Italy. It illustrates that the position of an individual in the labour market was determined by individual characteristics such as sex, legal status and skill levels. These factors were given meaning and filled in by family and non-familial relations. An individual cannot therefore be viewed on his or her own, but should be understood in the context of the prevailing social structures. Family and non-familial collectives provided intersecting trust networks that were crucial to economic interaction in Roman society, where reliable information was scarce and economic insecurity loomed large.

