

# **Pergamon: Layers of Interrelation between Economy and Urban Physiognomy (Extended abstract for publication)**

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The excavations at Pergamon in western Anatolia have been among the flagship-projects of German Classical Archaeology abroad for 140 years. Together with ‘Bauforschung’, epigraphy, and – more recently – a broad spectrum of sciences and geosciences, many aspects of ancient urban culture particularly of the Hellenistic and the Roman period have been studied in detail. Therefore, Pergamon offers a very promising data-set for current approaches to the ancient city. Among these approaches, the analysis and interpretation of specific urban physiognomies is still an emerging field. From an archaeological perspective, various elements of urban life such as topography and the natural environment, built spaces, objects and images as well as performative processes have to be taken into account. Furthermore, the physiognomies shall not be misunderstood as static labels, which cities once received and perpetuated in an unchanged manner. Similar to urban identities – to which the physiognomies contributed – they are dynamic settings, which underwent transformations over time and need to be analysed diachronically. In this respect, Pergamon offers the rare chance of sufficiently preserved urban fabric both from the Hellenistic and the Roman period.

Which factors contributed to ancient urban physiognomies? In a great number of studies, which have been published in the field of ‘Stadtforschung’ (urban studies) since the 1970ies, the interpretations of architectural spaces and images are generally on a socio-political, ideological, religious or aesthetic level. The recognition and inclusion of the economy as an essential factor for the development of urban physiognomies is therefore still underdeveloped. The same goes for ecology in the sense of complex human-environment interactions, which played a major role in the formation, use and reception of cities as elements of microregions.

In order to meet these desiderata, an intensified incorporation of economy and ecology in the analysis and interpretation of ancient urban contexts is needed.

It is the aim of this abstract to highlight some aspects of future research at Pergamon focusing on layers of interrelation between economy and urban physiognomy. In this context the number of potential consumers, producers and workforce on the one hand and of inhabitants of urban spaces on the other is crucial. Therefore the better understanding of the Pergamon’s demography and its transformation between the Hellenistic period and the Roman imperial age forms a major aim. Settlement archaeology can provide new clues for the extension of the Roman settlement and – at least partly – for its structure, which is the basis for new estimates of population numbers. The same is valid for a more detailed knowledge of the settlement structure and its density within the microregion. Palaeoanthropological research at Pergamon and in the microregion

promises new insights in the dynamic development of the population and factors such as migration, which were potentially relevant in this context.

While several survey projects between 2006 and 2017 in the western upper Kaikos-valley and the Kane-Peninsula yielded important new information, a convincing diachronic reconstruction of the settlement structure of the entire microregion in relation to the use of resources still needs more archaeological and geographical survey data, which have to be interpreted in the framework of a joint approach. This remains a major desideratum.

The relation between urban physiognomies and the economy goes beyond an estimation of wealth that could be invested in public and private architecture, images or performative processes. Production, trade and consumption themselves contributed in the form of built spaces, objects and actors to the urban appearance and atmospheres. However, a systematic analysis and interpretation of economic spaces and topography of Pergamon is still missing, although the necessary data is fully accessible. Such an approach could be combined and confronted with the economic topographies of neighbouring cities such as Elaia or Pitane, which had specific functions for production and distribution within the micro-region.

A particularly promising field for future studies on the mutual relations between urban physiognomy and economy is the building industry and its transformation between the Hellenistic period and the Roman imperial age. In both periods the city saw large building programmes. In this context, the manifold relations between the resources of the microregion and the construction activities shall be studied. A central question is how the ecology of the micro-region was influenced by the doubling of Pergamon in its size from the late 1<sup>st</sup> century AD onwards and an accompanying building programme of imperial dimension.

A methodological framework is needed, which allows the interpretations of very different data sets ranging from visual, spatial and technological analysis of objects and images to scientific approaches towards landscapes and resources. The study of architecture and urban design has to be related to approaches towards material culture and landscapes presented by Phillip Bes and Anneke Keweloh-Kalotta or Daniel Knitter and Bernhard Ludwig in the AIAC Panel 8.11.

In this context, the concept of social ecology offers an effective tool for investigating the dynamic relationships between society and nature, which are described as material and energetic exchange. In order to include more traditional research on 'Stadtkultur' in a systematic manner, it needs specific further development. On such a methodological basis, a broad spectrum of potential research topics on the interaction of societies with their natural environment emerges. This interaction can be studied on a socio-political, an economic, symbolic-religious or aesthetic level, which represents a particular interdisciplinary challenge.

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