



Clark, L. (2021): 'Health and Disease in Early Byzantine Burials from the Near East'

Rosetta **Special Edition CAHA Colloquium 2021: 2**

<http://www.rosetta.bham.ac.uk/CAHAColloquium2021/Clark.pdf>

Health and Disease in Early Byzantine Burials from the Near East

Laura Clark

The value of human remains from the archaeological record has not always been appreciated by Byzantinists, and studies on diseases such as leprosy and plague have until recently relied mainly on literary evidence. However, research on health and disease from human skeletal remains can inform on living conditions, adaptation, and other aspects of a living population that are significant in studies of 'common' people, who otherwise remain largely silent in history.

This paper discusses health and disease in human skeletal populations, with examples from both rural and urban settings from the early Byzantine Near East (4th-7th centuries CE), and asks what we can understand about these people through an examination of their remains. It begins with a discussion of skeletal indicators of stress and infection, before specific examples from the early Byzantine Near East are given.