

Senses, Cognition, and Ritual Experience in the Roman World

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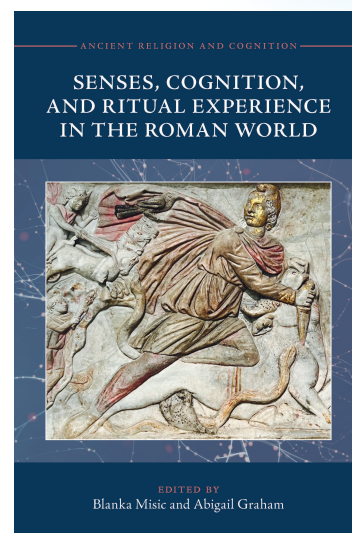
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How do the senses shape the way we perceive, understand, and remember ritual experiences? This book applies cognitive and sensory approaches to Roman rituals, reconnecting readers with religious experiences as members of an embodied audience. These approaches allow us to move beyond the literate elites to examine broader audiences of diverse individuals, who experienced rituals as participants and/or performers. Case studies of ritual experiences from a variety of places, spaces, and contexts across the Roman world, including polytheistic and Christian rituals, state rituals, private rituals, performances, and processions, demonstrate the dynamic and broad-scale application that cognitive approaches offer for ancient religion, paving the way for future interdisciplinary engagement. This title is part of the Flip it Open Programme and may also be available Open Access. Check our website Cambridge Core for details.

Introduction: experiencing rituals; 1. Remembering the rites: religious learning network model and transmission of religious rituals in the worship of *Nutrices Augustae* (Poetovio, Pannonia Superior); 2. The haptic production of religious knowledge among the vestal virgins: a hands-on approach to Roman ritual; 3. Haptic colour: experiential viewing in Graeco-Roman sacred spaces; 4. Ain't nobody gonna rain on my parade: experiencing Salutaris' procession as a ritual event; 5. Objects and ritual in Egeria's fourth century pilgrimage: the props of my faith; 6. Conclusions: (re) creating ritual experiences.



January 2024

235 × 160 × 18 mm 242pp 8 b/w illus. 17 colour illus. 1 map

Hardback 978-1-00-935554-4

Original price	Discount price
£85.00	£68.00
\$110.00	\$88.00

'It is difficult to underestimate the enormous added value of this study. By adding neuroscience, CSR, Cognitive Historiography, biocultural approaches and haptic views on ritual and ritual dynamics, we can now make visible previously invisible dimensions within cult participation, personal religion and ritual performance. ... [a] scholarly and literary gem that will be part of the discourse on ancient religion and ritual for a long time to come.'

Mark Beumer,
Kleio-Historia



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