

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

LECTURE SERIES FB07

26.11.

Isabel Steinhardt M.A. (Egyptology)

**Privileges and prestige:
New research to the prosopographical profile of Dahschur during the Middle Kingdom**

Dahshur is especially known for its landscape-defining pyramids. However, the necropolis has much more to offer. Thus, the corpus of temple donations examined here sheds light on the local social structures of the time. The starting point of the investigation is the valley temple of the Bent Pyramid in Dahshur, which is located 30 km south of Cairo and has been used throughout all historical periods of Egyptian history. This

circumstance enables the collection of versatile prosopographical data that makes individuals tangible and networks reconstructable. This is of particular relevance, as sparsely information has been handed down to us, or rather has not yet been fully investigated and compiled, on the majority of the ancient Egyptian population.

In the first part of the lecture I shall contextualise Dahshur, the period of the Middle Kingdom (about 2055-1650 BC), and the examined corpus, followed by an introduction of the subject. In the second part, a presentation of tangible individuals with their impressive evidence as well as a reconstruction of a prosopographical network will be shown. Some of the research questions are: Who were the donors? Which names and titles did they have? Where did they live or came from? What professions did they exercise? In the third part, a prosopographical profile is reconstructed from the data. This is visualized using social network analysis (SNA) - a methodology from social sciences. On the one hand it shows how the SNA can also be applied to ancient networks, on the other hand the examples indicate the limits of the method and the corpus.

The corpus of Dahshur examined here is unique in its form and shows the privileges that people enjoyed and the consequential prestige that seems to have evolved over the centuries.