



PRESS RELEASE

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AARHUS RESEARCHERS HELP UNCOVER 3,000 YEARS OF ROMAN HISTORY IN UNIQUE EXCAVATION OF CAESAR'S FORUM

The Aarhus University Research Foundation contributes to the crucial phase of a comprehensive excavation of Caesar's Forum in Rome. This is done with a grant of DKK 10 million under the Foundation's new flagship initiative, 'AUFF Flagships'.

When an international team of archaeologists enters the decisive phase of an extensive excavation of Caesar's Forum in Rome, Danish hands will be an important part of the game.

Professor and Centre Director Rubina Raja of the Centre for Urban Network Evolutions (UrbNet) at the University of Aarhus and Dr. Jan Kindberg Jacobsen from the Danish Institute in Rome are in charge of the project together with Director Dr. Claudio Parisi, Sovrintendenza Capitolina ai Beni Culturali – Direzione Musei archeologici e storico-artistico.

Caesar's Forum is best known as the home of Julius Caesar's monumental public space in the heart of the late Republican Rome, which contains materials about all of Rome's long history. So far, modern and medieval phases have been uncovered. The subsequent and decisive phase of the excavation will uncover the remaining more than 3,000 years of archeology and history, being the first excavation to cover the entire history of Rome in one urban excavation. Using the latest 'high definition' methods and technologies from both archeology and natural sciences – which UrbNet has been pioneering since 2015 – the excavations of Caesar's Forum will provide fundamental new insights into the development of one of the world's most important urban areas.

The archaeological project in the heart of Rome is funded partly by the Carlsberg Foundation and partly by the Aarhus University Research Foundation's new flagship initiative (AUFF). The excavation project was started in 2017 with substantial funding from the Carlsberg Foundation and a collaboration between the Centre for Urban Network Evolutions (University of Aarhus), the Danish Institute in Rome and Sovrintendenza Capitolina ai Beni Culturali. The Caesar's Forum project has now received a grant of DKK 10 million from the Aarhus University Research Foundation to continue some of the most significant archaeological studies in Italy in recent years.

About the grant from the Aarhus University Research Foundation

AUFF Flagships is a new and ambitious type of grant that supports extraordinary research efforts at Aarhus University. The grant requires cooperation with one or more national actors, and the expectation has been that the project would also receive support from one or more other foundations. The selected project is a collaboration with the Carlsberg Foundation.

The Aarhus University Research Foundation received four applications, one from each of the four faculties (Arts, Business and Social Sciences, Health and Science and Technology). All applications were submitted for an academic, international peer review, and the project proposal was thoroughly reviewed by two experts from the relevant research field. The application from Rubina Raja and Dean Johnny Laursen received a review with a total score of 4.95 on a scale of 1-5, with 5 representing the score 'Outstanding'. All four projects are great projects and have all been subjected to thorough reviews, but the experts found that precisely 'Caesar's Forum' stands out.

For more information, please contact:

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Attached are photographs for use without charge. Photographies and explanations:



1. Sine Saxkjær:

The Forum of Caesar in Rome, Italy. With the funding generously donated by Aarhus University Research Foundation, The Caesar Forum Project will continue to give groundbreaking new insights into one of the world's most important urban sites. (Photo: Sine Saxkjær, The Caesar Forum Project).

2. Giovanni Murro:

The excavation field from the first phase of the excavations was situated in the south-eastern end of the Forum of Caesar facing the Via dei Fori Imperiali. (Photo: Giovanni Murro).

3. Sine Saxkjær:

Previous work within the Caesar Forum Project included a survey of the cellars from the Alessandrino neighbourhood, situated below the excavation field. In the second crucial phase of the excavation project funded by Aarhus University Research Foundation, these will be demolished in order to continue the exploration the more than 3,000 years of history on the site. (Photo: Sine Saxkjær, The Caesar Forum Project).

4. Rubina Raja:

Photography: Lars Svankjær