

# **THE PALATINE EAST POTTERY PROJECT: A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO THE STUDY AND PUBLICATION OF AN EXCAVATED POTTERY ASSEMBLAGE FROM ROME**

Janne P. Ikäheimo<sup>1</sup> -- J. Theodore Peña<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Postdoctoral researcher, Academy of Finland, c/o Institute for Cultural Studies, University of Helsinki, Finland.*

<sup>2</sup>*Professor, Department of Classics, The University at Buffalo, State University of New York.*

This poster presents an overview of the methodological procedures being employed by the Palatine East Pottery Project to study and publish the 12 tons of Roman pottery recovered in the Palatine East Excavations in Rome. A combination of traditional and innovative procedures is being used for the classification, characterization, quantification, and presentation of the materials. The classification of materials is being undertaken on the basis of fabric, while the form typology is based on a combination of morphology and forming procedures. Fabrics are defined by examining large numbers of examples under a low-power microscope, with petrographic analysis employed to refine fabric descriptions. A program of NAA is also being utilized to partition the regionally-produced wares manufactured from fine-bodied marine clays and to match these with source clays. In order to provide for maximum intercomparability with the results from other projects, the materials are being quantified by a battery of techniques, including sherd count, weight, minimum number of vessels, and estimated vessel equivalents. To allow the data pertaining to transport amphorae to be converted into more meaningful figures a CAD-based routine is being used to calculate the mean volume of the various amphora classes represented on the basis of profile drawings. Various data sets are being prepared for intermediate publication on the internet, while the final paper publication will present several forms of data on a CD-ROM insert. The final result will represent a methodologically ambitious exposition of a large assemblage of material spanning the entire period of the Roman empire.