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ROMAN BAZAAR OR MARKET ECONOMY? EXPLAINING TABLEWARE DISTRIBUTION PROCESSES IN THE ROMAN EAST THROUGH COMPUTATIONAL MODELLING (TOM BRUGHMANS)

The study of the Roman economy is populated by a large number of sometimes conflicting models. These models are rarely formally compared, and many remain untested due to the limited use of formal hypothesis testing methods in Roman studies and the significant data requirements to enable their use. This paper illustrates how broad patterns in large archaeological datasets allow for aspects of these models to be tested, and suggests agent-based network modelling as a particularly fruitful approach for the study of the Roman economy.
