



Afterlives with Kara Cooney

Episode #9: Crash Course – Sickness and Death in Ancient Egypt

Kara Cooney & Jordan Galczynski

In this “crash course” episode, Kara and Jordan discuss one of Kara’s earlier recordings on the prevalence (and constancy) of sickness and death in ancient Egypt. How many men would usually die while out on an expedition for mineral resources? What was it like living with a body full of parasites and bacterial infections? What can we learn from the ancient world as we go through a pandemic ourselves?

- Worldometer Covid tracker: <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>
- [*Authoritarianism: What Everyone Needs to Know*](#) (Oxford 2018) by Erica Franz
- On [life expectancy](#) throughout history
- Ancient Egyptian expeditions
 - Hikade, Thomas. “[Expeditions to the Wadi Hammamat during the New Kingdom.](#)” *The Journal of Egyptian Archaeology* 92 (2006): 153–68.
 - [Wadi el Hudi](#) mines
- History of the [1918 flu pandemic](#) and the [bubonic plague](#) (“the black death”)
- *The Economist* on [post-pandemic booms in history](#)
- [Common illnesses](#) in the ancient world
- More information on [disease and other causes](#) for the Late Bronze Age collapse
- For more on plague at Amarna
 - [Beyond Amarna: The “Hand of Nergal” and the Plague in the Levant.](#) *Ugarit Forschungen* 48 (2017), 223-247.
 - In [this article](#) Egyptologist Marc Gabolde discusses plague and the end of the Amarna period
- *Slate* on [death and childbirth](#) throughout history

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YouTube: https://youtu.be/TrS5Uo_SgtU

Website: <https://karacooney.squarespace.com/podcast-afterlives>

Follow Jordan on social media:

Twitter: @JAGalczynski

Website: <https://jagalczynski.squarespace.com>