

## **Christian Mann – Leif Isaksen: “*Athletes and Spaces in the Hellenistic World*”**

The topic of our presentation is a database about Hellenistic athletes. The database is in the process of development at Mannheim University, it forms part of a research project (funded by the German Research Council) about “The self-presentation of athletes in the Hellenistic period: social identities, political identities, ethnic identities” (<http://mafas.geschichte.uni-mannheim.de/english%20version/projekte/self-representation.html>). The function of the database is twofold: It is used as a research tool by the project team itself, but it will also be published in the internet and therefore made available for any scholar who is working in this field.

The first step was the collection of data about athletes in the Hellenistic era: via reference works (Moretti, *Iscrizioni agonistiche greche*; Ebert, *Siegesepigramme*; *Inschriften griechischer Städte in Kleinasien* etc.) and via databases (TLG, PHI, SEG etc.); the data was filled into a simple word-table. In a second step, the table was converted into filemaker. The next step is the normalization of the data, and that is the work that is in the process right now.

In the present status, the database has the following categories:

- Victory ID (running number)
- name of the athlete
- father’s name
- name of the festival (Pythia, Panathenaia etc.)
- discipline (stadion, pankration, horse race etc.)
- age category
- date of victory (precise or approximate)
- Polis affiliation
- social status
- source(s)
- bibliography

The database offers search options for different purposes: Someone might just use it to collect sources and publications concerning one single athlete. But most users will have more intricate questions, most of them addressing the relationship between athletic data and geographical data. Some examples: Which region produced many successful athletes in a certain period? Which were the preferred disciplines of athletes from Crete? How large was the “catchment area” of certain festivals? Which festivals were preferred by the Ptolemies and the Attalids concerning their hippic activity?