

## **DESCRIPTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC (IN ENGLISH)**

The aim of the project are testimonies of illegitimate children in Greek and Latin epigraphic texts from the eastern provinces of the Roman Empire. The main purpose is to develop methods for the identification of children born out of wedlock in the inscriptions and to examine their social situation. The basis for these considerations will be the data obtained from the analysis of epigraphic testimonies from the period from the first century AD until 212, when all of the free inhabitants of the Empire have obtained the right of Roman citizenship. The terminology used in the sources relating to illegitimate children during the Principate was far from uniform. One is tempted to conclude that in the context of their legal situation is the character of equality between all types of children born out of wedlock, which in turn had a negative impact on the precision used for the determination of the nomenclature. For this very reason until the reign of Constantine the Great, we doesn't have any technical terms for children from various categories of extra-marital relationships. Among the most common Latin phrases there are *spurii filius/liber* and *filius/filia naturalis*. The latter term, however, especially in the legal sources, included also children from the legal marriage, which makes it difficult to identify them. To examine the frequency of occurrence of terms in time and space, both in Greek and Latin inscriptions, will verify the results of research of Beryl Rawson, from which it follows that the terms defining of children from informal relationships appeared in inscriptions rarely and most often can be identified solely on the basis the legal status of their parents.