

In the ancient Egyptian history, textiles emerge as a one of crucial elements in religious rituals, both within temple precincts and the sacred confines of royal and private tombs. As contemporary research in Egyptian archaeology indicates, linen, often accompanied by oils, featured prominently in various ceremonies during the New Kingdom period (approximately 1550–1070 BCE).

The primary objective of the research project “Textiles in the Ritual Context in the New Kingdom Ancient Egypt: Lexicography, Symbolism and Use” is to elucidate the multifaceted use of textiles in ritual contexts throughout the New Kingdom era. By employing a comprehensive methodology encompassing lexicographic and iconographic analyses, contextual exploration, symbolic interpretation, and interdisciplinary examination of pigments used in textiles’ depictions, the aim is to unravel the intricate tapestry of meanings embedded within these ancient fabrics.

One of the central inquiries of the study pertains to the nomenclature of textiles utilised in ritual settings. Through meticulous cataloguing and linguistic scrutiny of textual and iconographic sources, the principal investigator seeks to identify and classify the diverse array of linen employed in religious ceremonies. Furthermore, the investigation delves into the colour and quality of linen – a critical aspect that often conveys symbolic significance in ancient Egyptian rituals. By examining the sequence of depicted textiles in ritual enactments, the principal investigator endeavour to discern patterns and correlations that elucidate their ritualistic roles.

A groundbreaking facet of the research lies in the analysis of pigments utilized in the polychromed decorations of linen depictions. Through collaboration with a conservator and applying innovative scientific methodologies, the aim is to discern and analyse patterns of colour usage and ascertain whether specific pigments were employed to enhance the symbolic resonance of these representations.

Ultimately, the project's results will furnish a nuanced portrait of textiles’ role in New Kingdom rituals, illuminating the profound theological and cultural significance embedded in these ancient fabrics, as well as they will enrich the understanding of ancient rituals and their intricate socio-religious dynamics.