My research interest is Latin as a Global Language, not only in the times of the Roman Imperium, but also in medieval and early modern times, since Latin was the most important language for international communication in Europa at least until the 17th century, may be even later. The focus of my research is not history in itself, but the comparison with the present development of English as Global Language of our times. Can we learn anything from the history of Latin for the future development of languages? I think yes. The first thing to be noted is, that the interaction between political power and the development of languages is very complex; political power is no guarantee for the acceptance of a language, and in history it has been one of the most significant features of all global languages that they survived the manifold changes of political constellations. So the history of the Latin language (and of other historical global languages) gives us hints to find out the driving forces which lay behind the long lasting dominance of some languages. Another important point is that global languages have their natural place in multilingual contexts. In this respect it is very interesting to analyze the different situation of the Latin language in different parts of the Imperium Romanum and to compare it with multilingual societies in the modern world.

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