

PETER VAN ALFEN

Problems in the political economy of archaic Greek coinage

This paper considers shortcomings in current methodologies applied to the study of archaic Greek coinage.

Recognizing a need for methodologies and frameworks that shift analytical focus to the dense decision processes that initiated and administered the production (rather than distribution and consumption) of early coinage, the author suggests significantly different, synthetic approaches.

Close study of the coinage (bottom up), derived from traditional numismatic methodologies, like die studies, and appropriate theoretical applications (top down), derived from the fields of political science and institutional economics, may help to frame and model these decision processes.