



Parricide, the monstrous, and the enemy

Being cast “outside the law” in the ancient Roman world

Publication type: Journal article

Journal: [Considérant – Revue du droit imaginé](#)
[2022, n° 4. varia](#)

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Abstract: The penalty reserved for parricide in Roman antiquity is highly unusual. However, this punitive action does not lack meaning as it shows justice seeking to establish the extremity of the offence committed by the criminal, who has challenged the very foundation of social organization. The offender is thus expelled from the city, just like those individuals whom Rome viewed as monstrous. The procedure against parricide seems to herald contemporary understandings of enemy criminal law.

Pages: 17 to 65

Journal: [Journal of Imagined Law](#)

CLIL theme: 3260 -- DROIT -- Droit général

EAN: 9782406129066

ISBN: 978-2-406-12906-6

ISSN: 2729-2177

DOI: 10.48611/isbn.978-2-406-12906-6.p.0017

Publisher: Classiques Garnier

Online publication: 03-09-2022

Periodicity: Annual

Language: French

Keyword: antiquity, Rome, law, customs, parricide, social expulsion

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