A Tale of Many Cities: 
The Serapeion at Ephesus and Politics in the Roman Empire

a lecture by
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The so-called Serapeion is one of the best-preserved and most distinguished temples at Ephesus, the capital of the Roman province of Asia. Travelers of the 18th century discovered its remains and misleadingly identified it with a temple of the Roman Emperor Claudius. Ever since, the building has been given many names, but its actual purpose has never been convincingly explained. Recently, a multidisciplinary team re-studied the temple area, offering a promising new possibility of interpretation, which will be discussed in the light of Egyptian religion, economy, and global politics in the Roman Empire.

Tuesday November 7, 6:15 pm | 102 Jones Hall

Supported by the Terry K. Simmons Lecture Fund