

## PhD Thesis Proposal Abstract

The aim of the proposed PhD thesis is to investigate the use of abbreviations and symbols on papyri, ostraca, and tablets from the Byzantine era (c. 330 CE) to 641 CE and during the early Arabic Era of Egypt, from the year 641 CE to the end of the eighth century CE.

The language of the texts is the ancient Greek, more specifically, Classical Greek, Koine Greek and Byzantine Greek.

The texts that will be examined in this thesis, derive from all the aspects of textual production. Literary texts, semi-literary texts and documents may contain symbols and abbreviations. While the scribes use the symbols and the abbreviations, they speed up the process of writing without any loss of meaning of the text, and there is also significant savings of writing materials, a sometimes-valuable product. The symbols and the abbreviations serve both the scribe and the reader of the text in numerous ways, and besides the partial loss of the visual representation of words, the given text is still fully understandable to both.

One of the main targets of the PhD thesis is to identify any patterns among symbols and abbreviations. The next step would include a description and a classification of them.

Next step in the proposed thesis will be the creation of an index of symbols and abbreviations and a thorough examination of them. More specifically, the techniques and the methods of shorthands on papyri, ostraca and tablets will be investigated and described and any changes of them between the above-mentioned eras will be marked and analyzed.