

**Yasmine Amory: "Because a word coming from his mouth must not be disobeyed."
Languages of power and persuasion in the letters of Papas' archive.**

The letters in Papas' archive show an extended net of relationships, both private and official. Papas receives letters in Greek and Coptic from superiors, colleagues, family members, and individuals. Through different levels of rhetoric of power and persuasion, senders make a request or an order, praise or blame him, pray for his soul or threaten his life.

While the documentary type of the letter is traditionally filled with conventional politeness, this paper aims to move beyond it and to retrace the strategic politeness used by the senders to fulfill their needs. The linguistic strategies will be compared to other papyrological archives from the same period and will eventually be combined with the analysis of the material and paleographical aspects of the texts, in order to shape and define a more comprehensive approach to politeness.