

WRITING THE EMBODIED EXPERIENCE IN IMPERIAL ECPHRASIS

4th - 5th September 2019

Faculty of Classics, University of Cambridge

How did the Imperial Greeks and Romans describe their experiences of spectacles? Were they concerned only with 'de-coding' these artefacts and performances to show off their cultural intellect or did they frame a more sensuous, embodied encounter with them? Were they as interested in form as in content, in the body as in the brain?

The aim of this two-day conference is to bring to bear 'the sensory turn' in Classics onto scholarship of Imperial ecphrasis to begin inquiry into these questions. It will provide a platform to discuss the ways in which the full range of the senses, agency, materiality and mediality, as well as the less explored concepts of embodiment, presence and affect are employed in both Greek and Latin Imperial texts.



PARTICIPANTS

Papers: Jonas Grethlein (Heidelberg), James I. Porter (Berkeley), Carole Newlands (Colorado Boulder), Anastasia-Erasmia Peponi (Stanford), Calum Maciver (Edinburgh), Karin Schlapbach (Fribourg), Basil Dufallo (Michigan), Edmund Thomas (Durham), Albert Bates (Cambridge), Anna Athanasopoulou (Cambridge).

Responses: Michael Squire (King's College London), Helen Lovatt (Nottingham), Ruth Webb (Lille), Caroline Vout (Cambridge), Robin Osborne (Cambridge), Richard Hunter (Cambridge), Emma Greensmith (Cambridge), Benedek Kruchió (Cambridge), Alexia Petsalis-Diomidis (St Andrews), Helen Slaney (Roehampton).

Final discussion moderator: Simon Goldhill (Cambridge).

Invited experts: Froma Zeitlin (Princeton), Nina Braginskaya (Moscow).

For more information and to register please visit the website or email one of the organisers: Anna Athanasopoulou (aa2006@cam.ac.uk), Albert Bates (atb43@cam.ac.uk) or Benedek Kruchió (bk390@cam.ac.uk).

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The Classical Association; SPHS.**