



OIKOS DAY AND DISCIPLINARY MEETINGS

Leusden, 26 May 2023

Programme Overview

09:45-10:30 Coffee, tea and registration

10:30-10:35 Opening remarks and welcome

10:35-10:50 Update on vakvernieuwing in secondary schools by Lidewij van Gils

	Hellenists	Ancient Historians	Latinists
11:00-11:30	Arjan Nijk <i>The Sound of Sophocles</i>	Shiyanthi Thavapalan <i>Towards an Anthropology of Minerals: Links between Pharmacology, Painting and Dyeing in Mesopotamia</i>	Felix Budelmann <i>Imperatives and the Lyric Present in Horace and Beyond</i>
11:30-12:00	Glyn Muijtens <i>Can't Touch This? Haptic Bodily Exploration in Three Greek Vignettes</i>	Alexis Daveloose <i>The Etruscan Metronymic: from Matriarchy to Maternal Prestige</i>	Diederik Burgersdijk <i>Rhetoric, Biography and Panegyric in Valerius' Facta et dicta memorabilia</i>
12:00-12:30	Nienke Vos <i>Prayer in the Ancient World: The Deathbed Prayer of Saint Macrina</i>	Marleen Termeer <i>Money in Mid Republican Rome</i>	Roald Dijkstra <i>Laughing Children (and Their Parents). On the Late Antique Reception of the Laughing Puer in Vergil's Fourth Eclogue</i>

12:30-14:00 Lunch

	Hellenists	Ancient Historians	Latinists
14:00-14:30	Floris Overduin <i>The New Homer</i>	Gavin Blasdel <i>Honorific titles in Roman Athens</i>	Klazina Staat <i>Egeria's Views from the Mountain: Female Agency and Biblical Stylisation</i>
14:30-15:00	Wim Nijs <i>Hunter and Copycat: Plutarch on the Modus Operandi of the Flatterer</i>	Konstantin Klein <i>St Helena and the Holy Cross – New Considerations</i>	Nina Van Der Sype <i>The Elegy Reinvented: Old and New in the late Latin Elegiae of Maximianus (6th c. CE)</i>

15:00-15:15 Coffee and tea break

	Hellenists	Ancient Historians	Latinists
15:15-15:45	Jacqueline Klooster <i>Best-selling Muses: The Female Perspective in Current Retellings of Classical Myths</i>	Mark Depauw <i>Bridging the Gap between Ancient Sources and Modern Secondary Literature</i>	Thomas Kluitenburg <i>Double or Nothing? Overlooking Comic Elements in the Fragments of Pacuvius' Dulorestes</i>
15:45-16:15	Theofanis Tsiampokalos, Grigory Vorobyev	Erika Wanders <i>Waalpaintings: (Ancient) History and Street Art</i>	Koen Vacano <i>The Decline and Fall of Galactic Empires: Edward Gibbon as Science Fiction Paradigm</i>

	<i>Teaching and Learning Greek in Byzantium: Tools, Methods, and Research Challenges</i>		
--	--	--	--

16:15-16:30 **Update on SUMMIT Grant application by Ineke Sluiter and André Lardinois**

16:30-17:00 **Award Ceremony OIKOS Publieksprijs and closing remarks**

17:00-18:00 **Borrel**

Abstracts: Hellenists

Arjan Nijk, Amsterdam (UvA)

The Sound of Sophocles

Does Sophocles modulate the sound and meter of his verses to reflect their tone or content? For example, do agitated speakers allow themselves more metrical licenses than others? And can we determine whether the co-occurrence of nine t-sounds in OR 371 (ἐπεὶ | τυφλὸς τὰ τ' ὤτα τὸν τε νοῦν τὰ τ' ὄμματ' εἶ) expresses anger and contempt or is merely the result of chance? In this talk I explore computational and quantitative approaches to the ethos of prosody and phonology in Sophocles.

Glyn Muijtens, Leiden

Can't Touch This? Haptic Bodily Exploration in Three Greek Vignettes

Touching other people is subject to specific social rules: this was as true for the ancient Greeks as it is for us now. It should come as no surprise, then, that instances of bodily probing among humans are rare in Greek literary texts, making this type of interaction particularly salient. In this paper, I will analyse three recognition scenes based on physical contact: the famous identification of Odysseus through a scar by his nurse Euryclea (*Od.* 19.376-475); the Persian noblewoman Phaedyme unmasking the man pretending to be her husband by feeling for his ears (*Hdt.* 3.69); and the courtesan Gnathaena revealing one of her clients to be a criminal by embracing his beaten back (*Machon* 285-294). Each of these three vignettes includes a strong focus on the haptic sense, but handles it slightly differently: taken together, these scenes help us grasp some of the specifics of touch in ancient Greek storytelling.

Nienke Vos, Amsterdam (VU)

Prayer in the Ancient World: The Deathbed Prayer of Saint Macrina

This year, the first volume of a new and innovative handbook will be published by Brill/Leiden: *Prayer in the Ancient World (PAW)* – about prayer in the ancient Near East and Mediterranean. From the field of early Christianity an item on Macrina's deathbed prayer will be included. My paper will discuss the concrete wording of the prayer but also address the broader context in terms of both the historical, liturgical setting and the PAW project.

Floris Overduin, Nijmegen

The New Homer

In a first-century inscription, a certain Gaius Julius Nicanor is praised as 'the new Homer'. He is not the only one: quite a few authors in antiquity are qualified according to a similar trope ('the Jewish Homer', 'the prose Homer'). How often does this trope occur? What (anchoring) patterns do we see in this formula? And what does this trope actually mean to speaker and hearer?

Wim Nijs, Leuven

Hunter and Copycat: Plutarch on the Modus Operandi of the Flatterer

In *De adulatore et amico* Plutarch characterizes the flatterer as a crafty predator who will opportunistically adapt his behaviour and lifestyle to match those of the people on whom he preys. The present paper aims to analyse Plutarch's description of the flatterer's chameleonic 'hunting techniques' against the background of ancient thought on the changeable nature of flatterers and in light of Plutarch's views on the dynamics of proper and fake friendship.

Jacqueline Klooster, Groningen

Best-selling Muses: The Female Perspective in Current Retellings of Classical Myths

Retellings of classical myth from a female perspective have become an unprecedentedly popular phenomenon in the last few years. In this paper, I outline the research project that I will be working on with the funding of the Lira foundation, in which I aim to investigate the ideological backgrounds, narrative choices and popular reception of these novels.

Theofanis Tsiampokalos, Grigory Vorobyev, Ghent

Teaching and Learning Greek in Byzantium: Tools, Methods, and Research Challenges

Writing in a high register of a given language is not an easy task – but here is where manuals of style, grammar books, dictionaries, and the like may be of help. The present paper brings Byzantine textbooks of Greek to the fore, by focusing on specific case studies, which in turn elucidate (1) the teaching methods involved, (2) the sophistication of these textbooks in terms of knowledge organization, and (3) their materiality within the educational context.

Abstracts: Ancient Historians

Shiyanthi Thavapalan, Amsterdam (VU)

Towards an Anthropology of Minerals: Links between Pharmacology, Painting and Dyeing in Mesopotamia

In classical antiquity, paints were manufactured with many of the same ingredients used for medical therapies, for phylacteries and as recreational intoxicants. In fact, the Greek word *pharmakon* referred to drugs, poisons, antidotes and amulets but also to cosmetic applications and painter's pigments. The present contribution inquires if similar close links between art and medicine existed in Mesopotamia (c. 2000-500 BCE). It pays special attention to how raw materials were exploited, to manufacturing techniques and to shared practices. Finally, this paper will reflect on connections between Mesopotamian notions of health and beauty.

Alexis Daveloose, Ghent

The Etruscan Metronymic: from Matriarchy to Maternal Prestige

The metronymic has played a major role in the conceptualisation of Etruscan women, even used as an argument in favour of matriarchies. Now rightly nuanced, we run the risk of underestimating the significance of the metronymic. This paper argues that this onomastic element is more than a simple means to identify the deceased and constituted in most cases an ambiguous reference to both the mother as an individual and the maternal family.

Marleen Termeer, Nijmegen

Money in Mid Republican Rome

What was the significance and impact of money and coinage in the formative centuries of the Roman Republic (4th–2th c. BCE)? This paper presents the main questions and debates surrounding this topic, which arose from a recently held workshop.

Gavin Blasdel, Groningen

Honorific titles in Roman Athens

In this paper, I demonstrate that, in contrast to elsewhere in the Greek world, Athens was very reluctant to award official honorific titles to its own citizens during the Roman period (ca. 86 BCE–267 CE). Through an analysis of the handful of titles bestowed upon a half dozen individuals, I argue that this avoidance is reflective of an Athenian honorific culture that broadly resisted openly acknowledging a formal relationship of dependence between civic community and honorand.

Konstantin Klein, Amsterdam (UvA)

St Helena and the Holy Cross – New Considerations

According to pious and already late antique tradition, Helena, the mother of Constantine the Great, discovered the True Cross during her stay in Jerusalem in the late 320s. However, while the contemporary account by Eusebius makes it clear, that during Helena's stay in the holy city the Tomb of Christ was found, the *inventio crucis* tradition only starts later. This paper will try to reconstruct the emergence of the veneration of the True Cross especially in the light of the letter of bishop Cyril of Jerusalem to Constantius II (351 CE).

Mark Depauw, Leuven

Bridging the Gap between Ancient Sources and Modern Secondary Literature

This paper presents a project using AI to detect, interpret, collect and annotate references to ancient sources in secondary academic secondary literature.

Erika Wanders, Nijmegen

Waalpaintings: (Ancient) History and Street Art

Based on a presentation of the *Waalpaintings* project, which makes the hidden history of the city of Nijmegen visible again, I would like to show a possible way in which (ancient) history can be made accessible to a broad audience. In what way can academic knowledge about the past be brought outside the walls of the university? How do we create historical awareness?

Abstracts: Latinists

Felix Budelmann, Groningen

Imperatives and the Lyric Present in Horace and Beyond

Using two Horatian odes as its main examples, this paper explores how imperatives (in the broadest sense) affect the quality of the lyric present and of lyric consciousness. In particular I am interested in the forward-leaning quality of this kind of present 'on the move'.

Diederik Burgersdijk, Utrecht

Rhetoric, Biography and Panegyric in Valerius' Facta et dicta memorabilia

The paper will discuss new avenues of research in Valerius Maximus' works, as explored in recent decades. In contrast with earlier views on Valerius Maximus as a collector of anecdotes used for rhetorical education, recent scholarship tends to consider *FDM* as refined literary work apt for moral instruction of any reader. Far more than an instrument of rhetorical schooling, Valerius Maximus intended the work to be an original creation in which literary genres such as biography and philosophical writing (in Cicero's wake) went hand in hand in order to form a handbook of *exempla*, or an encyclopedia for moral instruction. In this contribution, I will assess Valerius Maximus' self-comments on the nature and goals of his work, and place it in the biographical and rhetorical tradition of Latin literature. I will finish with an exposition on recent scholarship on the theme as ventured in Cape Town (SA), Fribourg (CH), Exeter (UK) and Utrecht University.

Roald Dijkstra, Nijmegen

Laughing Children (and Their Parents). On the Late Antique Reception of the Laughing Puer in Vergil's Fourth Eclogue

Vergil's fourth *Eclogue* had a remarkable success among early Christian readers, who identified the child of the poem as Christ himself. The widely attested Christian objections to laughter make the much discussed passage of the child's laughter (vv. 60-63) even more interesting. In this paper, the interpretation of this laughter in Constantine's *Oration to the saints* and the laughter of other children in early Christianity are investigated in order to contribute to our understanding of (late) antique readings of the passage.

Klazina Staat, Amsterdam (VU)

Egeria's Views from the Mountain: Female Agency and Biblical Stylisation

Mountaineering and the reading and writing of Latin have one thing in common: they are historically strongly gendered practices, mostly performed by men. In both fields, the late antique pilgrim Egeria is a real exception. She climbs at least six mountains during her journey to the Holy Land (c. 381-384) and reports extensively on her experiences in her personal travelogue on the pilgrimage, the *Itinerarium Egeriae*. Where does she get her agency to act as a female mountaineer, spectator from the summit, and writer? Based on a narratological analysis of Egeria's descriptions of the views from the mounts Sinai and Nebo, I argue that her main source of inspiration is the Bible, which presents examples of earlier mountaineers, functions as a lens through which to view and interpret the landscape, and provides Egeria the language to tell about her mountain experiences.

Nina Van Der Sype, Ghent

The Elegy Reinvented: Old and New in the late Latin Elegiae of Maximianus (6th c. CE)

The late Latin poet Maximianus is generally regarded as the last true elegiac writer in Latin literary history, since it is in his corpus – consisting of six poems and a total of 686 verses – that we can find the only ever return to the genre of the classical Roman erotic elegy as it was written in the 1st c. BCE by authors such as Tibullus, Propertius and Ovid. However, as is typical of the literature in late Antiquity, Maximianus does more than purely imitate the poetry of his predecessors: he actively

transforms the elegy by introducing the subject of old age within its existing boundaries. In this presentation, I will firstly further elaborate on the ways in which Maximianus innovates the genre of elegiac writing, before discussing a selection of Latin passages that illustrate how the dynamic between 'the old' and 'the new' is represented. These excerpts will be taken from the opening elegy of the corpus, because especially in Maximianus' *Elegia prima*, it is demonstrated how notions of temporality and the body are intertwined to arrive at a narrative in which the tension between past and present is absolutely central.

Thomas Kluitenburg, Leiden

The scholarly receptions of Roman Republican tragedy offer an extreme example of how biases affect scholarship. Roman Republican tragedy has survived exclusively in fragments (Goldberg 2005). As a consequence, modern scholars, driven by the desire to reconstruct the missing 'whole' (Steiner 1984; Tronzo 2009), aimed to reconstruct these tragedies. They started from – and simultaneously supported – their 'philhellenic' idea that Roman tragedies were mere 'translations' of Greek models. As scholarly prejudices have had a lasting impact on the ways of presenting and contextualising the fragmentary remains of Republican tragedies, the question arises of how to account for such biases and simultaneously keep an open mind about the transmitted textual evidence.

By focusing on a case-study, Pacuvius' *Dulorestes* frg. 94 (ed. Schierl 2006), I shall demonstrate how scholars' 'philhellenic' bias resulted in making (unnecessary) conjectures. As I shall argue, these conjectures at the same time helped editors (a) to support their assumption that Pacuvius' innovativeness was limited to reworking the *content* of Greek tragedies and (b) to remove Pacuvius' generic fluidity (Petaccia 2000), and (c) to provide further evidence for the biased reading of the fragments. My case-study aims to open up a discussion on how we can get aware of biases when (re-)assessing the fragmentary remains of Roman tragedy and how we can deal with the fragmentary in general. Only by being first mindful of their own 'fragmented' perspective can scholars begin to 'fill in the gaps'.

Koen Vacano, Amsterdam (UvA)

The Decline and Fall of Galactic Empires: Edward Gibbon as Science Fiction Paradigm

Edward Gibbon's *History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* has not just influenced our conception of the ancient past, but of the distant future as well. Looking at scenes and passages from *Foundation* (Asimov), *Dune* (Herbert), and *Star Wars* (Lucas), we consider how each of these popular science fiction franchises has directly or indirectly applied Gibbon's vision of the Roman past to a fictional future, stimulating readers and audiences to contemplate it as a critical mirror for political crises in the present.