

Tacitus for the Twenty-First Century: An Interdisciplinary Workshop

1st April 2019

10.30-17:00

Room 349: Institute of Classical Studies

Senate House: London

Conveners: Richard Alston/Siobhan Chomse/Henriette van der Blom

Recent years have seen an increasing diversity of approaches to the study of Tacitus. This day-workshop aims to build on that trend by bringing together people who are thinking about Tacitus from a range of disciplinary and methodological perspectives, including philology, political theory, political philosophy, and history, to consider how and why we are reading Tacitus in the twenty-first century. Tacitus has for centuries been a deeply controversial writer; his writings have been seen as having contemporary political resonances throughout the modern period. The workshop considers how those resonances work now, how Tacitus might influence our political and literary thought, and how we might understand, question and challenge Tacitus' writings.

Programme

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| 10: 30 – 10: 50: | Registration and Welcome. |
| 10: 50 - 11: 20: | Matt Myers: <i>Vision, Space, and Violence in the Histories</i> |
| 11: 20 – 11: 50: | Panayiotis Christoforou: <i>Vis Principatus: Tacitus' Conception of the Princeps' Power</i> |
| 11: 50 – 12: 20: | Aske Poulsen: <i>Arminius, Germanicus, and other 'side-shadowing' devices in the works of Tacitus</i> |
| 12: 20 – 12: 50: | Discussion |
| 12: 50 – 13: 35: | Lunch Break [Not provided] |
| 13: 35 – 14: 05: | James McNamara: <i>The fright of the mind: philosophy and its limits in the Agricola and Germania</i> |
| 14: 05 – 14: 35: | Katie Low: <i>Tacitus and Brexit</i> |
| 14: 35 – 15: 05: | Leen van Broeck: <i>Calgacus Polyvalens: Invoking Calgacus in the third millennium</i> |
| 15: 05 – 15: 35: | Discussion |
| 15: 55 – 16: 25: | Darrel Janzen (Skype): <i>Performing Solitude for Others through Literary Narrative in Tacitus</i> |
| 16: 25 – 16: 55: | Nicoletta Bruno: <i>Better not to say: some examples of reticentia and silence in Tacitus</i> |
| 16: 55 – 17: 15: | Discussion |
| 17: 15 – 17: 30: | Plenary |

Please book through: <https://ics.sas.ac.uk/events/event/19365>

For further information, please contact: r.alston@rhul.ac.uk