



The Australasian Society for Classical Studies

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UNIVERSITY REPORTS

Australian Catholic University

Staff changes

ACU has recently been through a change management process and staff in ancient history are among those affected. We appreciate the outpouring of support from our colleagues across the university sector throughout this process, including letters of support from ASCS. Affected staff are currently awaiting information on how the process will be concluded and at this stage we are unsure what the impact will be on the offerings of ancient history units at ACU.

Significant activity by staff and postgraduates

PhD Candidate Thomas Pietsch participated in the Byzantine Greek Summer Session at the Gennadius Library of the American School of Classical Studies in Athens.

Senior Research Fellow Kylie Crabbe held a short-term fellowship at the Beyond Canon Project Centre at the University of Regensburg in Sept 2023, as part of a multi-year Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)-funded collaborative project.

New and expanded courses

ACU has developed an expanded sequence of Hebrew language units, including undergraduate units at the intermediate and advanced level and a new undergraduate unit on the Dead Sea Scrolls. These units will be taught nationally from 2024. Inquiries about cross-institutional study are most welcome, and should be directed to Gareth Wearne (Gareth.Wearne@acu.edu.au) or Natalie Mylonas (Natalie.Mylonas@acu.edu.au).

Major research grant successes

Stephen Carlson and Jonathan Zecher successfully applied for grant funding (\$206,444) through the Templeton Religion Trust for an exciting new project, *Scholia Seeking Understanding: Reading Competence and Reader Experience*, a subgrant of *Paratexts Seeking Understanding*.

Conferences (recent and forthcoming)

In September 26-28 this year, ACU hosted the *Fellowship of Biblical Studies* national conference. Keynote lectures were delivered by Professor Emerita Alanna Nobbs and Professor

Emerita Suzanne Rutland on the histories of Christian and Jewish studies at Macquarie University and the University of Sydney, respectively.

ACU will be hosting ASCS 45 in February 2024. For details, including draft program and registration, see <https://asc2024.com>

ACU will also be hosting the *Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas* (SNTS) General Meeting from 23rd to 26th July at the Melbourne (St Patrick's) Campus. The event includes a presidential address by Prof. Angela Standhartinger (Marburg).

New Books

Several ACU staff members working in ancient world studies have had books come out this year. Natalie Mylonas saw the publication of her book: *Jerusalem as Contested Space in Ezekiel: Exilic Encounters with Emotion, Space, and Identity Politics* (Bloomsbury, 2023). And Chris Matthew's new book on Eratosthenes is out: *Eratosthenes and the Measurement of the Earth's Circumference (c.230BC)* (Oxford University Press, 2023). Jonathan Zecher had an edited collection come out, co-edited with Susan R. Holman and Chris L. de Wet: *Disability, Medicine, and Healing Discourse in Early Christianity: New Conversations for Health Humanities* (Routledge, 2023). The massive volume from the *Modes of Knowing* research project has been published too, co-edited by Lewis Ayres, Michael Champion and Matthew Crawford: *The Intellectual World of Late Antique Christianity: Reshaping Classical Traditions* (Cambridge University Press, 2023).

Sarah Gador-Whyte

Australian National University

Staffing Profile

We warmly congratulate Dr Tom Geue on his well-deserved promotion to Senior Lecturer effective January 1, 2024.

The selection process for a 4-year, fixed-term Level B Lecturer in Classics is currently underway. This appointment has been made possible by the award of an ARC Future Fellowship to Dr Tom Geue.

Dr Georgia Pike-Rowney's 0.5 FTE position as The Friends' Lecturer in Classics and Curator of the ANU Classics Museum has been renewed for a further two years until July 2026. The post is entirely supported by philanthropic funding from the Friends of the Classics Museum, the Classics Endowment, and a number of other very generous donations.

Grant Successes

Hearty congratulations to Dr Tom Geue for his ARC Future Fellowship, 'The Elephant in the Study: Working Latin Literature for the Enslaved', worth \$836,000 across four years, beginning in July 2024. The project aims to transform our understanding of Roman literature by showing that it was actually written in collaboration with enslaved workers, generating new insights into the creative processes that shaped the Classical literary canon.

November brought the wonderful news that Dr Estelle Strazdins and her colleagues Prof. Bronwen Neil (MQ), Dr Amelia Brown (UQ) and Dr Ryan Strickler (Newcastle) have been awarded \$230,000 for a Discovery Project on 'Images of Power in the Roman Empire: Mass

Media and the Cult of Emperors.’ This project aims to illuminate the role that mass media and images played in securing and sustaining imperial power during the Later Roman empire from the Flavians to the Theodosians (69-450 CE).

Staff Conference Papers

Dr Tatiana Bur addressed the annual meeting of the Australian Academy of the Humanities in Melbourne on Thursday, November 16, 2023 as part of the *Automating Life and Death* panel. In her talk, ‘Humans, gods & machines in Greco-Roman antiquity’, she discussed how Classical Studies can inform modern debates about AI and automation.

Dr Tatiana Bur will be giving a paper at the conference *Slavery and Technology in Greco-Roman Worlds* (January 26–27, 2024) at the University of California, Davis.

Dr Tom Geue gave a talk to the *Classical Association of NSW* on 10 November, 2023, on the topic of ‘Cash for Verse: Simonides in Rome’.

Dr Tom Geue addressed the Institute of Classical Studies (UK) seminar *The Cost of Living* on 27 November, 2023, on the topic of ‘The Poverty of Poetry or the Mercenary Muse: Simonides in Rome’.

Dr Meaghan McEvoy ran an international conference, *Christian Political Cultures in Late Antiquity*, at the University of Liverpool from June 21-22, 2023, together with Professor Richard Flower (Exeter) and Dr Robin Whelan (Liverpool).

Emeritus Professor Elizabeth Minchin gave a paper at the *Digital Approaches to Epic Speech* conference at Mount Allison University (New Brunswick, Canada) (31 May-2 June 2023). She spoke on ‘Evaluating workplace relationships in the Homeric *Iliad*: bringing together digital approaches and social and cognitive theory’.

Emeritus Professor Elizabeth Minchin spoke at Bristol University’s webinar series *Orality and Early Greek Epic: Where Are We Now?* on 1 November 2023. Her paper was on the topic: ‘From Parry and Lord to the present: observing the development of oral theory’.

Dr Georgia Pike-Rowney gave three papers at the *University Museums and Collections Conference* (UMAC) at the University of Sydney from Tuesday 29-Thursday 31 August, 2023. She spoke on ‘Acquisition to Activation; Evolution of Community and Philanthropic Support of the ANU Classics Museum’, ‘Restitution: The Beginning of a New Chapter for Objects, for Institutions, and for Communities’ (with Colonel Mario Argenio of the Italian Embassy, Claire Sheridan, and Maggie Otto), and ‘To See the World in a Marble Toe: The new Graeme Clarke Hands-On Teaching Collection’.

Dr Estelle Strazdins delivered a paper on ‘Greek cities thinking about the future’ at the A.G. Leventis Conference, *The Fabric of Hellenism. Hellenic culture and civic identity in the Imperial Greek world*, at the University of Edinburgh from November 16-19, 2023.

Dr Estelle Strazdins will be speaking at the *Material Culture(s) and the Second Sophistic Workshop* at the University of Graz on January 18-19, 2024. Her topic is ‘The Problems with Honorific Statues and How to Solve Them’.

Courses and Curriculum

Dr Tom Geue and Dr Estelle Strazdins ran a new third-year course, CLAS3100: *Remembering and Forgetting in the Roman Empire*, in Semester 2, 2023. Across thirteen weeks of lectures and

team-taught seminars, students engaged with the cultural politics of memory in Greece and Rome from 50 BCE - 275 CE.

Our Ancient History major has been reconceptualised as a Classical Studies major to integrate literature and material culture more thoroughly into the curriculum. In addition to CLAS3100, mentioned above, we have designed a new suite of courses which will debut across 2024-2025, including:

- CLAS2013: *The Muse and the Machine: The Arts, Technology, and Society in Graeco-Roman Antiquity* (Dr Tatiana Bur/Dr Georgia Pike-Rowney)
- CLAS2014: *Democrats, Tyrants, and Emperors: The Art of Government in the Ancient Mediterranean* (A/Prof. Caillan Davenport)
- CLAS2015: *Alexander the Great and the Hellenistic World: An Age of Transformation and Discovery* (Dr Tatiana Bur/Dr Estelle Strazdins)
- HIST2070: *Emperors, Pilgrims, and Crusaders: The World of Byzantium* (Dr Meaghan McEvoy)
- CLAS3001: *Rome: The Eternal City from Antiquity to the Early Middle Ages* (A/Prof. Caillan Davenport/Dr Meaghan McEvoy)
- CLAS3002: *Life, Love, and Loss in Ancient Greece and Rome* (Dr Georgia Pike-Rowney/New Level B)
- CLAS3003: *Faith and Belief in Ancient Greece and Rome* (Dr Tatiana Bur/A/Prof. Caillan Davenport/Dr Meaghan McEvoy)

We also have a new team-taught Honours programme in Classical Studies, masterminded by Dr Estelle Strazdins. This includes CLAS4022: *Classics Now!*, in which students will grapple with contemporary debates about Classical Antiquity, and CLAS4088: *Topics in Classics*, a research-focused course which connects to staff interests. Both these courses are also available at 8000-level in ANU's Master of History (a coursework degree with an optional thesis).

We remain committed to maintaining full majors in Ancient Greek and Latin, which we teach from beginner to advanced level. Dr Estelle Strazdins taught an Advanced Greek module this year on poetry from the Archaic period to the 5th century CE, Dr Tom Geue an Advanced Latin course on Neronian literature focusing on the *Apocolocyntosis* and *Octavia*, and A/Prof. Caillan Davenport an Advanced Latin module examining Early Christianity and Late Antiquity, with a special focus on female voices (Perpetua, Constantina, Egeria).

Recent Events at ANU

On Saturday, 5 August 2023, the Centre for Classical Studies and the Friends of the Classics Museum hosted *Jebel Khalid on the Euphrates: An Afternoon in Honour of Graeme Clarke, AO*. This featured talks by Emeritus Professor Elizabeth Minchin, Mr Tom Clarke, Dr John Tidmarsh, Mr Martin Rowney, Dr Heather Jackson, and Dr Georgia Pike-Rowney. This was a memorable and moving event and a fitting tribute to a wonderful scholar. Attendees were also treated to a viewing of our new Object-Based Learning Lab which holds the Graeme Clarke Teaching Collection.

We were delighted to welcome Dr Maria Gerolemou (Johns Hopkins University) as a Research School of the Humanities and Arts Visiting Fellow from 26 September-October 20, 2023. Dr Gerolemou worked with Dr Tatiana Bur on an edited volume entitled *Technological Animation in Classical Antiquity* due out next year with Oxford University Press.

In conjunction with Dr Gerolemou's visit, on October 6, 2023, Dr Tatiana Bur organised a one-day conference entitled *Enacting Innovation* together with Dr Anna-Sophie Jürgens, from the Australian National Centre for the Public Awareness of Science. The event examined technological objects in performance from Ancient Greece and Rome to the present day, and featured visiting speakers Mr Robin Kreutel (Cambridge), Dr Ben Nickl (Sydney), Dr Bob Cowan (Sydney) and a keynote by Dr Emma Cole (UQ).

Dr Meaghan McEvoy and her colleagues in the ANU Late Antique and Medieval Group organised the colloquium *Women, Gender, and Authority in Late Antiquity, Byzantium, and the Medieval World* on November 17, 2023. The event featured keynote speakers Associate Professor Lisa Bailey (Auckland) and Professor Clare Monagle (Macquarie), as well as papers given by ANU experts in Classics and History. The colloquium was supported by the School of History Research Fund and concluded with a reception in the ANU Classics Museum sponsored by Australasian Women in Ancient World Studies.

The Centre staged an evening panel discussion on November 23, 2023, on the topic *Her Infinite Variety: Cleopatra from Antiquity to the Present*. This was part of the *Wellspring: Enquiry and Exchange* collaboration between the Canberra Street Theatre and the School of Literature, Languages, and Linguistics. The event featured panellists Dr Georgia Pike-Rowney, Dr Tom Geue and A/Prof. Caillan Davenport alongside our colleagues Dr Kate Flaherty (English and Drama) and Dr Katharina Bonzel (Screen Studies) and live performances from Shakespeare with actor Ben Etherington.

Forthcoming Events at ANU

We will welcome Dr Lucy Jackson as the inaugural Humanities Research Centre / Centre for Classical Studies Visiting Fellow in February-March 2024 (postponed from 2023). She will be delivering a Distinguished Lecture on the evening of Wednesday, March 6, followed by a reception.

Media

Dr Tatiana Bur wrote a piece on the Antikythera mechanism in the newest Indiana Jones film for *The Conversation*:

<https://theconversation.com/what-indiana-jones-and-the-dial-of-destiny-gets-right-and-very-wrong-about-the-historical-antikythera-mechanism-209968>

A/Prof. Caillan Davenport was interviewed on the ABC about the TikTok trend 'Why men are obsessed with the Roman Empire':

<https://www.tiktok.com/@abcnewsaus/video/7282643464565558546>

Dr Tom Geue appeared on ABC Radio to talk about his podcast *Diaspora Italia*, which focuses on the Italian experience overseas:

<https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/nightlife/italian-diaspora/102750460>

New Book

A/Prof. Caillan Davenport and Dr Meaghan McEvoy have published a new edited collection with Oxford University Press, entitled *The Roman Imperial Court in the Principate and Late Antiquity*. The cover features the famous painting of the emperor Honorius in the Art Gallery of South Australia:

<https://global.oup.com/academic/product/the-roman-imperial-court-in-the-principate-and-late-antiquity-9780192865236>

The ANU Classics Museum

The ANU has reached a landmark repatriation agreement with the government of Italy to restore to Italian ownership two objects from the Classics Museum, an Attic black-figure amphora and an Apulian red-figure fish-plate, after they were found to have been illegally exported. Under the terms of the agreement, Italy will loan the two objects to ANU for a four-year period, with the possibility of a four-year extension. The ANU's own provenance research identified a third problematic item, a marble portrait head, which has been identified as originating in a Vatican collection. The Italian government will act on ANU's behalf to repatriate this item as part of the ongoing negotiations. The restitution process has been led by Dr Georgia Pike-Rowney, the Friends' Lecturer in Classics and Curator of the Classics Museum, Claire Sheridan, ANU Senior Collections Advisor, and Maggie Otto, RSHA Collections Officer. The story and Georgia's commentary on the negotiations have been widely featured in local, national, and international media, including *The Canberra Times*, *The Guardian*, *The Australian*, and *The Smithsonian Magazine*, and the ABC's *7.30 Report*.

Our schools engagement programme has inspired students of Ancient History, Humanities, and Social Studies across Canberra and regional New South Wales. We've had groups travel from Tumut to learn about Pompeii, keen Year 7 Latin students from Mary McKillop College Canberra practicing their skills with inscriptions, and Dickson College bringing several classes to learn about everything from women on ancient coins to the city of Rome. Dr Georgia Pike-Rowney has delivered bespoke tours focusing on Greek social history, life and death in the Ancient World, and repatriation and the ethics of museum collecting, among numerous other topics. Guest lectures from academic staff have included Dr Tom Geue on slavery, Dr Estelle Strazdins on the symposium, Dr Tatiana Bur on Homer, Dr Meaghan McEvoy on women and the fall of Rome, and A/Prof. Caillan Davenport on Roman Republican coins and Latin inscriptions.

Caillan Davenport

Massey University

Staffing

As is the case with other universities in New Zealand, Massey's financial position is not good. The University's management is looking to address the problem with significant redundancies. The current proposal for the College of Humanities and Social Sciences is to reduce staff in Classical Studies from four to three positions and to move the programme entirely online, so that there will be no further face-to-face teaching on either the Auckland or Palmerston North campuses.

Dr Anastasia Bakogianni has been appointed as the President of the *Australasian Women in Ancient World Studies* (AWAWS). Anastasia has served on the executive committee in various capacities since 2019 and began her term as president after this year's AGM (21 June 2023).

50th Anniversary of Classical Studies at Massey

The Classical Studies Programme has continued its 50th anniversary celebrations.

A number of further articles on the Greek and Roman origins of commonly used English words have been published in the local Palmerston North newspaper, *The Manawatu Standard*:

- Panic: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/manawatu-standard/news/300857095/the-odyssey-of-english-how-a-mischievous-god-sparked-panic>
- Triumph: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/manawatu-standard/news/300869781/the-odyssey-of-english-origin-of-triumph-forged-in-victorious-battles>
- Pharmacy: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/manawatu-standard/lifestyle/300884421/the-odyssey-of-english-the-both-healing-and-harmful-origin-of-pharmacy>
- Placenta: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/manawatu-standard/news/300893658/the-odyssey-of-english-origins-of-placenta-take-the-cake>
- Pontiff: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/manawatu-standard/news/300907035/the-odyssey-of-english-how-the-pontiff-can-predate-christianity>
- Melancholy: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/manawatu-standard/news/300917971/the-odyssey-of-english-finding-a-brighter-side-of-melancholy>
- Charity: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/manawatu-standard/300927768/the-odyssey-of-english-charity-an-affection-deep-and-selfless>
- Magic: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/manawatu-standard/300938224/the-odyssey-of-english-exploring-the-source-of-all-magic>
- Hysteria: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/manawatu-standard/news/300948644/the-odyssey-of-english-hysteria-and-its-tradition-of-detriment-to-women>
- Rude/rudimentary: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/manawatu-standard/news/300957453/the-odyssey-of-english-how-we-became-so-rude-and-rudimentary>
- Elections and suffrage: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/manawatu-standard/news/300967204/the-odyssey-of-english-how-we-came-to-have-elections-and-suffrage>
- Athletics: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/manawatu-standard/news/300976251/the-odyssey-of-english-the-serious-sport-of-athletics-in-ancient-greece>
- Hygiene: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/manawatu-standard/news/300984521/the-odyssey-of-english-the-origins-of-hygiene-and-why-snakes-symbolise-health>
- Economy: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/manawatu-standard/news/300997686/the-odyssey-of-english-economy-begins-at-home>
- Orchestra: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/manawatu-standard/news/301007548/the-odyssey-of-english-orchestra-rooted-in-ancient-greek-theatre>

More articles are due to appear before the end of the year.

A series of events took place in Palmerston North during August:

1. We started with an Ancient Greek Banquet. The menu, designed by a young Greek chef, used ingredients that were only available in ancient times (no Greek salad was to be seen!). In a buzzing atmosphere, 68 diners were treated to an abundance of delicious food, recitations of ancient poetry about banquets, and interesting insights into the dietary habits of the ancients. It was a memorable event.



2. ‘Classics Week’ at the Palmerston North City Library saw a range of Classics-themed fun activities for both families and adults. Children played games from ancient times, including the tabletop game Pente Grammai; participated in a treasure hunt based on ancient coding methods and in a fun quiz; drew classical motifs on rocks; and dressed up in ancient garments. Gina taught adults some ancient and modern Greek dances, and demonstrated her cooking skills again using only ingredients from ancient times.

3. A Massey-wide Classics quiz was held with three classically themed prizes.

4. Our closing event was a captivating solo performance of Apuleius’ *The Golden Ass* by renowned New Zealand actor and director Michael Hurst, who is a former Massey Classics student. Michael kindly gave us permission to live-stream the event for our students. Here are a few photos of his performance:



An ASCS grant for small departments funded the prizes, expenses for the cooking demonstration, and the theatrical performance. We are grateful to the Society for its support of our celebration, which promoted the profile of our programme and discipline during these difficult times.

Conferences

Together with Dr Connie Skibinski (The University of Newcastle, Australia), Anastasia Bakogianni organised the international conference *Challenging the Patriarchy: Reframing*

Graeco-Roman Women and their Reception (30 June-1 July). Hosted by the University of Newcastle in Australia, this hybrid conference brought together scholars at various stages of their academic careers, but sought in particular to promote the work of a new generation of researchers with ten out of the sixteen presenters being postgraduate students and early career scholars. Over the course of the two days, participants discussed the role of women within the restrictive cultural expectations and societal norms of ancient Greece and Rome, and how their receptions renegotiated questions of gender across time, from antiquity to the present. There was also a pedagogical workshop that focused on the question of how best to teach about ancient women at both school and university level. The conference was generously sponsored by the *Australasian Women in Ancient World Studies* (AWAWS).

Anastasia Bakogianni organised a workshop for teachers of Classical Studies in New Zealand schools titled: *Aotearoa, Greece, and Rome: Planning for the Future of Classical Studies in New Zealand Schools* (4 August 2023). This was a hybrid event on Massey's Auckland campus and on Zoom, set up in consultation with Kay Brown (Westlake Girls High School) and Anneka Rene (Saint Kentigern College). The workshop involved presentations from schoolteachers, as well as by Massey staff (Anastasia, Gina Salapata and Jonathan Tracy) and a general discussion of best practice and the challenges currently faced by the subject in school curricula. For more information:

<https://www.massey.ac.nz/about/news/massey-organises-workshop-for-classical-studies-teachers/>

Classics Day

This year we held two Classics Days in August, first in Palmerston North and then in Auckland. Both days went extremely well, with ten secondary schools attending in Auckland with about 400 students and teachers, and nine schools with about 100 students and teachers attending in Palmerston North. We offered lectures, workshops, fun activities (like Greek dancing), and a quiz (with 16 teams competing in Auckland, a record number). The students were engaged, very attentive, and seemed to have lots of fun (their teachers, too).



Left: Auckland students gathered for the welcome-to-the-day session.

Right: Greek dancing workshop with about 90 students—they did extremely well!

James Richardson

Monash University

Monash staff and students were busy this semester with the usual bustle of teaching, research, and public engagement.

Significant activity

Monash staff and affiliates presented at the 10th International Conference of the Dakhleh Oasis Project (The Land Where the Sun Goes Down—Archaeology of Egypt’s Western Desert), held in September at the British Museum. Gill Bowen shared a paper on the dating of triconch churches in Egypt; Gill, Colin Hope, and Iain Gardner gave a paper on the abandonment of Kellis; and Carlo Rindi Nuzzolo spoke on relinking unprovenanced mummy masks to the Western Desert via 3D laser scanning and photogrammetry. In addition, Colin Hope delivered the British Museum’s Annual Distinguished Lecture in Egyptology on the subject “Mut al-Kharab: 3,000 years of activity at a cult centre in Dakhleh Oasis.”

Books

Carlo Rindi Nuzzolo (Adjunct Research Fellow) published *The Excavations at Ismant al-Kharab: Roman-Period Cartonnage from the Kellis 1 Cemetery* (Oxbow Books), representing his continued work at Kellis (continuing from his excellent PhD).

Visitors

Julia Hamilton (Macquarie) visited Monash, delivering a wonderful seminar talk for staff and students on the role of archives and photographs in the study of colonial practices in archaeology, and participating in the Egyptology Society of Victoria Study Day 2023 (more on that below).

HDR completions

Alexander Potocnik completed a PhD, with the title “War Remembrance and Battlefield Preservation: Remembering WWI and Preserving its Soča/Isonzo Battlefield on both sides of the Italo-Slovenian Border” (primary supervisor, Al Thomson).

Benjamin Crawley completed an MA, with the title “Transformed Landscapes, Transformed Peoples: Exploring the Environmental Impacts of Classical Greek Siege Warfare” (primary supervisor, Andrew Connor).

Tracy Lakin completed an MA, with the title “The New Kingdom Cemeteries at Gurob: Towards an Archaeology of Group Belonging in Ancient Egypt” (primary supervisor, Anna Stevens).

Additional news

The Egyptology Society of Victoria hosted its 2023 Study Day this October, on the theme of “Writing and Power in Ancient Egypt,” with talks by Julia Hamilton (Macquarie), Erin Casey, Andrew Connor, and Saskia Moorrees (all Monash). This was attended by a good number of students, staff, and community members, and, as it does each year, served as a culmination of the ESV’s program of public talks and events.

Andrew Connor

University of Adelaide

General News

The merger between the University of Adelaide and University of South Australia is moving forward. The State Government is currently evaluating the legal implications of the merger, which is to lead to a new university, *Adelaide University*. If approved (an outcome which is becoming increasingly likely), the merge will come into effect in January 2026.

Now that Classics has been merged with History into the Department of Historical and Classical Studies, integration of the course program is also evolving. In 2024 we will develop one part of the Honours program as a course shared by History and Classics students (unsurprisingly called the “Common Course”). There is also an impending appointment for a historian specialising in Frontier Violence (interviews taking place late October).

Significant activities of staff members

Dr Margaret O’Hea spent July in Greece for field work at Kallpodi, finalising the glass materials for the German Archaeological Institute at Athens (DAI). She also gave a well-attended Zoom talk on Egyptian glass in the current NEAF Saturday seminar series (Sydney) in anticipation of the Ramses II exhibition in November in Sydney.

In May Professor Han Baltussen participated in an international, invitation-only workshop in Geneva on the new edition and commentary of Theophrastus’ *De sensibus* (in preparation) by Katerina Ierodiakonou and Börje Bydén. During this very short visit (May 10-16), he shared his expertise on the text —on which he wrote a monograph and 8 papers between 2000 and 2019— with several colleagues from France, Germany, Mexico, Austria, Greece, and Sweden. The workshop took place at the famous research centre in Geneva, the *Fondation Hardt*. A stimulating visit.

On September 19, Han Baltussen gave a lecture on Neoplatonism to the Philosophy Section of the University of the Third Age. And on November 15 he will give the 10th Constantinos Moraïtis Annual Hellenic Lecture (sponsored by the Galatis Fund, including prizes for academic achievements), which will again be held as an in-person event (it has been on hold due to COVID since 2020). The lecture will explore the significance of the allusions to Homer found in the late fourth c. work of Eunapius of Sardis, *Lives of Philosophers and Sophists*.

Prof Richard Green was in Paphos in April-May working on finds from our excavations. Particular concerns were a figurine of Athena from northern Italy of the later second century that was found in a context of ca 700 from an explicitly Christian house; the plainware; fragments of so-called ‘mensae’, tablets in fine marble for use in Christian basilicas; special seating (‘royal boxes’) in the theatre cavea of which there are two (as at Pergamon but very rarely elsewhere).

We congratulate Associate Professor Peter Davis on the publication of his new book *Ovid’s Amores Book 3* which will appear with the Oxford University Press in hardcopy on November 9, but is already available online in limited numbers. Other publications in June-July were *Pain Narratives in the Greco-Roman World*, edited by Jacqueline R. Clarke, Daniel King (Exeter) and H. Baltussen, as well as the new Loeb for *Philostratus. Lives of Sophists*. (ed. by G. Miles) & *Eunapius. Lives of Philosophers and Sophists* (ed. by H. Baltussen), New Introduction, translation and notes, LCL 134 Harvard University Press, 2023).

Guest speakers

Professor Reinhard Senff, the AAIA visiting professor, gave a well-attended and interesting public lecture on Olympia on September 8. His exposition and slides were clear and full of revelations on new finds at the site. On November 7 we will welcome a delegation from Nottingham University and Prof. Will Bowden is to present on “From *domus* to cemetery: changing life in late antique Butrint”, an archaeological site in South Albania.

Conference papers/talks

David Rafferty co-organised a joint conference at the University of Melbourne from 4-6 July with Prof. Frederik Vervaeet and Dr Christopher Dart entitled “How republics die: creeping authoritarianism from the ancient to the modern world”, as part of his DECRA project of the same name. The conference attracted considerable public interest and attendance and also received a favourable review in the *Weekend Australian*. The organisers are preparing an edited collection from the conference papers.

Adelaide Classics alumni: career news

We congratulate two of our alumni on being offered jobs at the Universities of Oxford and Glasgow. Dr. Lewis Webb (MPhil in Classics, Adelaide 2014; PhD Gothenburg 2019) has accepted a 3-year Departmental Lectureship in Roman History at Merton College, University of Oxford (the college of famous authors like J.R.R. Tolkien and T.S. Elliot, and Roman historian Eric Gruen). During 2022-2023 Lewis was Departmental Lecturer in Classical Sexuality and Gender Studies and Fulford Junior Research Fellow and Stipendiary Lecturer in Classics at Somerville College. Lewis was also awarded a new Swedish Research Council grant for a research project on “Crisis rituals: Civic religion and crisis management in Republican Rome” (3,537,000 SEK/approx. \$498,000 AUD, 2023-2025). Dr. Alex Antoniou (MPhil in Classics, Adelaide 2018; DPhil, Oxford 2022) has accepted a 3-year position as Lecturer in Ancient History at the University of Glasgow. Over the past year Alex was temporary Lecturer in Ancient History at Lincoln and Oriel Colleges, and more recently Learning Development and Support Tutor at St Hugh’s College, Oxford.

Postgraduate news

Chelsea Schwartz and Shona Edwards presented a paper at the Amphorae Conference in Auckland (Sept. 4-8), reporting on their MPhil theses. Chelsea works on the integration of Greek physicians in Rome and spoke about Cato the Elder’s attitude to Greeks and Greek doctors, while Shona spoke on her thesis topic, Ovid’s *Heroides* 7 (‘Dido to Aeneas’) which is getting close to the finish line. Greg Macpherson attended the Australia & New Zealand Society of the History of Medicine conference in Adelaide 12-15 July (with support from the School of Humanities), to present his paper “Traditional drug use and empirical processes in Greco-Roman medicine”.

Other items of interest

In July we were pleased to learn that the Adelaide Department of Classics entered the top-100 in the QS ranking “by Subject”, for the first time in the University’s 150 year history.

Han Baltussen

University of Auckland

Staff changes

Our new lecturer, Dr Alex McAuley, arrived for the start of semester 2. Christina Robertson and Saskia Herren will be taking up PTF positions in S1 2023.

Significant activity by staff

Associate Professor Jeremy Armstrong has been on Research and Study Leave in semester 2.

New courses or major modifications to existing courses

Dr Alex McAuley has this semester taught a new course Hellenistic Society as a special topic. We hope to convert this into a permanent course offering.

Postgraduate completions

Simon Underwood (PhD): *Considering Coopetition in Ancient Egypt* (supervised by Jen Hellum)

Morgan Brooks (MA): *Rock Art at the Dawning of a New Age: An Ontological Approach for the Study of Alpine Rock Art* (supervised by Jeremy Armstrong and Joshua Emmitt)

Francesca Taylor (MA): *How to Kill a City (and Make Sure it Stays Dead): The Case of Carthage* (supervised by Jeremy Armstrong)

Elizabeth Leaning (MA): *Religion and Superstition in Ancient Egypt as seen through Horoscopes* (supervised by Jen Hellum)

Conferences

The University of Auckland hosted the AMPHORAE conference from 4th-8th September 2023.

New books

Jeremy Armstrong and Aaron Rhodes-Schroder, eds., *Adoption, Adaption, and Innovation in Pre-Roman Italy: Paradigms for Cultural Change* (Turnhout: Brepols, 2023).

Alex McAuley and Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones, eds., *Sister-Queens in the High Hellenistic Period: Kleopatra Thea and Kleopatra III* (New York: Routledge, 2023).

Lisa Bailey

University of Canterbury

We are all well at Canterbury and feeling the full force of “swings and roundabouts”. After an incredibly challenging period from 2011-2019, we feel we can say that we have recovered from quakes, covid, and other disasters and setbacks. However, we are mindful that our colleagues at other New Zealand universities are not faring as well and we are keen to work more collaboratively.

We were delighted to welcome Professor Greg Woolf for the talk “The Eagle in Winter, Seasonality and Power in the Roman World” in June. Members of the department have connected with the Christchurch community for a number of talks for the Heritage festival, University of the Third Age, and the Teece Museum’s monthly “Classics and Coffee” series.

Teece curators Terri Elder and Emily Rosevear branched out and curated an exhibition to mark the 150th anniversary of the university. Classics department staff were delighted and a little amused to “loan” an imperial typewriter with Greek font to the exhibit.

Patrick O’Sullivan is on sabbatical until January 2024, and Alison Griffith remains HoD.

Patrick O’Sullivan has given the following conference and seminar papers:

- ‘Nomos, Phusis and the Poet in Pindar’s Epinikians’, 7th Open International Conference of the Network for the Study of Archaic and Classical Greek Song: What’s in a Poet? The Figure of the Poet in Archaic and Classical Greece, Universitat de Barcelona, Spain, July 3-5.
- ‘Death and its Afterlives in Ancient Greek Imaginings’, Perspectives on Death; The Axel and Margaret Ax:son Johnson Foundation for Public Benefit, Engelsberg, Sweden; October 13; by invitation.
- ‘Homer, the Sophists and Human Agency in Pindar’s Epinikian Odes’, University College & Classics Faculty Research Seminar, Oxford University, UK; October 26; by invitation.

Alison Griffith and Patrick O’Sullivan

University of Melbourne

The University of Melbourne will provide an update in the next issue of the newsletter.

University of New England

Significant activity by staff

Taylor, T. was invited speaker at the *Oddities of Violence* conference hosted at the University of Calgary, Canada in June 2023. Paper title: ‘City Destruction and Religious Persecution in Ancient Rome: Existential Anxieties and the Genesis of Genocide’.

Taylor, T. also convened a panel with T. M. Lemos of Western University, Canada a panel *Recovery and Healing from Genocidal Violence: Past and Present* at the International Association of Genocide Scholars conference, hosted by the University of Barcelona, Spain in July 2023. Paper Title: ‘In the Shadow of Power: Memorializing and Healing by Victims and Perpetrators of Ancient Mediterranean Urbicide’. This conference also served as a launch for the recently published three volume *Cambridge World History of Genocide*, for which Tristan co-edited volume one on the ancient, medieval and premodern worlds with Ben Kiernan of Yale University and Tracy Lemos of Western University.

Visitors

Professor Reinhard Senff, former Director of the German excavations at Olympia and the Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens Visiting Professor, presented a well-attended

public lecture on the current state of the German excavations at Olympia, and one on the goddess Aphrodite in the ancient Greek city of Miletus, also well-attended.

New books

Kiernan, B., T. M. Lemos and T. S. Taylor (eds.), *Cambridge World History of Genocide. Volume 1: Genocide in the Ancient, Medieval and Premodern Worlds* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2023).

Alina Kozlovski

University of Newcastle

New Courses

In Semester 2 2023, Dr. Tanika Koosmen delivered a new course titled “Pompeii: Rediscovering the Past”, with significant fanfare. Dr. Ryan Strickler offered a revised version of our first year Roman Republic Survey ending with Julius Caesar, rather than the Gracchi as has been Newcastle’s custom. In addition, Dr. Strickler offered a third-year Roman imperial history seminar from Octavian to Alexander Severus. All three units were well received by students.

Significant Activity

Emeritus Professor Harold Tarrant delivered the following presentation:

- 21 April 2023: “Unmarried Male Platonists on Mourning Children: Crantor’s *Peri Penthous*” at the Ancient Philosophy Society Conference at Gonzaga University, Spokane WA

Dr. Ryan Strickler delivered the following presentations:

- 8-10 June 2023, “The Return of Melchizadek: The Clerical Ambitions of the Heraclian Dynasty” at the Brides of Christ: Keeping Order in Early Christian Churches (300-900 CE) workshop at Royal Holloway University London.
- 10 November 2023, “Sophronius of Jerusalem: Apocalyptic Responses to Earliest Islam”, guest seminar, Western Michigan University.

Dr. Ryan Strickler, along with Prof Bronwen Neil (Macquarie), Dr. Estelle Strazdins (ANU), and Dr. Amelia Brown (UQ), were successful in their application for the 2024 ARC Discovery Project: DP240100112 – Images of Power in the Roman Empire: Mass Media and the Cult of Emperors to be hosted by Macquarie University.

UoN has relaunched its Friends of the Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens branch around the Gale Visiting Professor Reinhard Senff. The first meeting was a rousing success and we hope for greater things to come.

Postgraduate Completions

Dr. Connie Skibinski was awarded her PhD (Classics) for the thesis, “The Amazon Queen Penthesilea from antiquity to modernity: a classical reception study.”

Ryan Strickler

University of Otago

Gwynnaeth McIntyre has been promoted to Associate Professor (effective February 2024).

Dan Osland has been awarded a University of Otago Research Grant (NZ\$40,000) to run an excavation/field school in Spain in 2024, entitled “Looking for life in the Augustan Roman colony”.

Arlene Allan is on research and study leave (RSL) for second semester, and has spent three weeks in Ontario, Canada during which she spent some time at Trent University.

The Classics programme was allowed to hire an Ancient History person, Dr. Eric Driscoll, who will be joining us for second semester 2024.

MA completions:

- Rhys Maurer, “Agis III: Relegations and Revelations”.
- Andy MacManus “Roman Glass Vessels in the Otago Museum”.

In first semester 2024, Otago will offer a new paper, CLAS 247/347 – The Roman Republic: from the kings to Julius Caesar.

Arlene Allan

University of Queensland

Significant activity by staff

On 4–6 July, David Pritchard and Ian Worthington (Macquarie) convened a conference on ‘Fourth-Century Athens at War: After Claude Mossé’ at the Nantes Institute for Advanced Study. Speakers from UQ were Annabel Florence, Mischa Piekosz, and David Pritchard.

In November, Kit Morrell delivered three papers as part of her ARC DECRA project:

- ‘Constructive criticism? Diodorus Siculus (and his sources) on imperial governance in the late Roman republic’, Imperialism in Roman Historical Writing (startup seminar for a Danish Independent Research Fund project on ‘Responses to Imperialism in Roman Historical Writing’), University of Southern Denmark, Odense
- ‘Reform in Rome?’, University of Gothenburg
- ‘Law, innovation, and commemoration in the Roman republic’, University of Tübingen

New courses or major modifications to existing courses

- In semester 2, Kit Morrell redesigned and taught the first year introductory course ANCH1250: The Rise of Ancient Rome.
- Annabel Florence and Kit Morrell are developing a brand new course on ‘Crime and the Courts in Ancient Greece and Rome’ for Semester 1, 2023 (ANCH3560).
- Annabel Florence successfully applied for a Digital Learning Uplift initiative to design new learning resources for GREK1110: Introductory Greek in 2024.

Visitors

- Monday 26 June: Assoc. Prof. Amy Russell (Brown), ‘Recovering alternative voices’ (as part of workshop ‘Reform in the Roman Republic II’)

- Thursday 3 August: Dr. Ashley Bacchi (UC Berkeley): ‘Hellenistic Goddesses, Warrior Queens, and Confident Prophetesses: Lifting Up What Was & Asking What’s Next’
- Friday 1 September: Prof. Reinhard Senff (Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens Visiting Professor, German Archaeological Institute at Athens), ‘Aphrodite, Protectress of the Sea: Travel in Archaic Miletus. Results of the excavations in her sanctuary in the Ionian Metropolis’
- Sunday 3 September: Prof. Reinhard Senff (Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens Visiting Professor, German Archaeological Institute at Athens), ‘Olympia: Competing and Feasting in the Sanctuary of Zeus. Recent excavations and research of the German Archaeological Institute’

RD Milns Antiquities Museum

Report by Amelia Brown (Museum Director) and James Donaldson (Museum Manager)

The RD Milns Antiquities Museum continues to support UQ classes with access to its collection. Six courses used the Museum collection in Semester 2, representing over 33 hours of course content and some 750 total student-interactions with the Museum collection.

The Museum ran two student events in Semester 2, with good attendance and feedback at both. An Ancient Games Night allowed students to try their hands at Tali, Iactus, Hounds and Jackals, and Terni Lapili, while a masterclass on Roman Republican Coins with Dr Kit Morrell gave students practical skills on handling, identifying, and using ancient Roman coins. Visits from high school students are also increasing after a significant drop-off during 2020-2022.

A new exhibition on ancient gems has just opened at the Museum gallery, curated by Josephine Carroll-Walden and Brianna Sands, *Intaglios: Imprints of Identity*. A new display of ancient lamps curated by a student volunteer, Matilda Martin, has also just opened. The Museum is working with the Greek community in Brisbane on an exhibition exploring the Ionian Islands, due to open in late 2024.

The Museum is also running a series of student research projects in winter and summer breaks for the next five years exploring the early acquisitions in our collection. Winter Research Scholar Georgia Lyell worked at the Museum for a 4-week period over the mid-year break to update research on artefacts acquired in 1963 (2 vases and about 10 coins), including generating new data for collecting histories and references lists; she also assisted in overhauling the way we deal with attached multimedia (images, correspondence, invoices, etc).

The Wondrous Machines and Greece, Rome, Byzantium: Empires of the Sea exhibits continue through 2024. The Museum is open from 9.30-4.30 weekdays for public visits.

Major research grant successes

Amelia Brown has been awarded a 2024-2027 Australian Research Council joint *Discovery Project* with three Australian colleagues on the topic: *Images of Power in the Roman Empire: Mass Media & the Cult of Emperors, 79-450 CE*. Her colleagues on this project, which will include an exhibit at the RD Milns Antiquities Museum for 2026-2028, are Prof. Bronwen Neil (Macquarie, where the project is based), Dr. Ryan Strickler (Newcastle) and Dr. Estelle Strazdins (ANU).

Postgraduate completions (all graduating in December)

- Kyla Duffy, *Cosmetics, Status, and Personal Identity: Examining Appearance in the Roman Imperial Period* (MPhil), Advisor: Janette McWilliam.
- Mark Mather, *Caesar's Supply Methods in Gaul* (MPhil), Advisor: Tom Stevenson.
- Aidan Ready, *Caesar's Egypt: The Alexandrian War and the Coming of Empire* (MPhil), Advisor: Tom Stevenson.
- Stephanie Golding, *Livy's Portrayal of Scipio Africanus as a Complex Exemplum* (PhD), Advisor: Tom Stevenson.

Conferences at UQ

In June, Kit Morrell convened a one-day workshop 'Reform in the Roman Republic II' as part of her DECRA project, with speakers from UQ, the University of Sydney, and Brown University.

Other items of interest to ASCS members

In October, Tyla Cascaes organised a Student Experience Day for high school students on 'Reforming the Roman Republic', in collaboration with Kit Morrell and Oskar Fletcher and supported by Kit's DECRA.

In June-July of 2024, Amelia Brown will be teaching a summer semester on-site course in Greece as the Gertrude Smith professor at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, alongside Prof. Amy Smith of Reading.

Tom Stevenson and Kit Morrell

University of Sydney

Staff promotions

Ben Brown and Tamara Neal were promoted to Senior Lecturer (Level C).

Significant activity by staff, postgraduates, honoraries, and retired staff

Eleanor Cowan has been on study leave in 2023 undertaking a project in collaboration with Professor Tim Parkin (UMelb) on Domestic Violence and Vulnerability in the Roman World. There is every reason to believe that domestic abuse (including coercive control) was endemic in the Roman world, as it is in our own. This project seeks to draw together and examine evidence for domestic abuse in the ancient Roman world.

Eric Csapo was a Visiting Fellow of Clare Hall, Cambridge University.

Julia Kindt gave a lecture on the Political Bee at the Greek Festival of Sydney 2023. She also very much enjoyed visiting her new colleagues in Canberra and to present her research and on ARC strategies.

Kathryn Welch travelled to Denmark (Odense) to participate in the inaugural meeting of the Responses to Ancient Imperialism in Ancient Historical Writing project, an international network hosted by the University of Southern Denmark and funded by the Danish equivalent of the ARC. She presented a paper entitled 'Mommsen's Roman History and the Modern Historiography of Ancient Imperialism'.

Sam Wessels gave a paper at the inaugural conference for The Septuagint within the History of Greek Network at Cambridge. The title of the conference was Language and Cultural Identity in Postclassical Greek, and the title of the paper was The Pluperfect in Old Greek Kingdoms.

Peter Wilson presented at a conference in Cambridge in honour of Richard Hunter, December 2023.

Visitors

Our first Cambridge-Sydney William Ritchie Visiting Fellow was Marcus Ellis, who came to work with Peter Wilson (and others) on Euripides. Our second fellow, in the same scheme, was Robin Kreutel. Marcus gave a paper at the departmental seminar entitled ‘An Assault on Tragedy? The End of Euripides’ Orestes’, and Robin spoke on ‘The conception of space in Plautus’ comedies.’

Christopher Fear (University of Hull) gave a lecture entitled, ‘ J. Enoch Powell, Nietzsche, and the Greeks.’

Professor Richard Hunter (University of Cambridge) gave a lecture entitled ‘Beyond busy’: Pindar and the opening of Plato’s *Phaedrus*.’

Professor Glenn Most (Scuola Normale di Pisa/University of Chicago) gave the William Ritchie memorial lecture, entitled “From Athens to China and Back: A Western Student of Ancient Greece Looks at the Chinese Classical Tradition”. He also spoke to the departmental seminar on “Weeping Heraclitus and Laughing Democritus,” and freely participated in several classes.

David Pritchard (University of Queensland/IEA Nantes), “The Funeral Oration after Nicole Loraux.”

Assoc. Professor Charles Stocking (University of Texas) (Critical Antiquities Workshop), on “Homer and the Problem of Force: An Interview with Ben Brown.”

We were also fortunate that Professor Emerita Elizabeth Minchin (ANU) participated, via Zoom, in several Greek Epic (advanced Greek language) classes. Her presence and insight were greatly appreciated by all.

Looking ahead to 2024, Professor Alison Keith (University of Toronto) will deliver the 24th Todd Memorial Lecture in the first half of May 2024 (exact date TBC).

Major research grant successes

Julia Kindt was awarded Nicholas Anthony Aroney Research funding (jointly with Anik Waldow, Philosophy) to investigate Monsters, Monstrosity, and Dehumanization in ancient Greece and the Early Modern World.

Postgraduate completions and news

Philip Dupesovski was awarded the inaugural William Ritchie Sydney-Cambridge Scholarship to undertake work on his PhD at Cambridge University.

Ben Ferris was awarded the Nicholas Anthony Aroney Research Fund. This enabled a trip to the Cinémathèque française in Paris to access the archives of filmmakers Alain Resnais and Alain Robbe-Grillet, to better understand their working dynamic during the production of their film *Last Year at Marienbad* (1962). Ben is writing a case-study that sets *Last Year at Marienbad* alongside Homer’s *Odyssey* in a PhD entitled *Deleuze’s “crystal images” in Homer’s*

Odyssey. Ben also presented at the conference Memory, Space and Mindscapes in ancient Greece at the University of Trento; the title of the paper was ‘Apocalypse then and now: the Homeric “Underworld” as Memory of the World’.

Alexandra Pinkham won a FASS Postgraduate Teaching Fellowship. This is equivalent to a .3 position for the duration of 2024 and will enable her to develop and contribute to teaching in the department of Classics and Ancient history here at USyd.

Michael Taurian commenced an MPhil in Classics at Cambridge University, having secured a Ramsay Foundation Postgraduate Scholarship (<https://www.ramsaycentre.org/scholarships-courses/postgraduate-scholarships/2023-ramsay-postgraduate-scholars/>).

Conferences

Ben Brown and Tristan Bradshaw (Wollongong) continue their amazing work with the *Critical Antiquities Network Workshop*. If you missed any of the Critical Antiquities talks and interview, you can find them here <https://www.youtube.com/@criticalantiquitiesworksho8564>

New books

Andrew Hartwig published, *FrC 22.2 Nikostratos II – Theaitetos* (Vandenhoeck Ruprecht 2022) This is published in the *Fragmenta Comica* series which provides commentaries and translations to all the surviving fragments and testimonia of the comic poets of ancient Greece. <https://www.vandenhoeck-ruprecht-verlage.com/detail/index/sArticle/57385>

Julia Kindt’s most recent book, an edited anthology, together with Hans Beck (Montreal) has been published, *The Local Horizon of Ancient Greek Religion* (Cambridge 2023). <https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/local-horizon-of-ancient-greek-religion/5BD9D47079639722009BA5449C8CC6F4>

Other items of interest to ASCS members

The Classical Association of NSW is rebranding and revitalising. Activities hosted by CANSW include: lectures by Professor Marguerite Johnson (Newcastle) on ‘Classical Reception Studies and Colonial Australian History: Vital Conversations’; Frances Muecke (Sydney) on ‘Adventures in Underground Rome’ (both at CCANESA); Tom Geue (ANU) on ‘Cash for Verse: Simonides in Rome’; the Latin and Greek Reading Competition, co-hosted by Classics and Ancient History and the CLTA. The CANSW also sponsored the Ritchie Memorial lecture.

The 30th Latin Summer School will be held, in person, at the University of Sydney, 15th - 19th January 2024.

The new Vere Gordon Childe Centre will launch formally in early 2024 and work is currently focused on organising its governance structures, constitution, and terms of reference. It builds on the foundations of the Centre for Classical and Near Eastern Studies of Australia (CCANESA) that it now replaces, including existing partnerships with the Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens (AAIA) and the Near Eastern Archaeology Foundation (NEAF). It will run under the Directorship of Professor Kirsten McKenzie (History) and the Deputy Directorship Dr Joseph Lehner (Archaeology), who will hold those roles for an initial term of three years.

The VGC is an interdisciplinary initiative devoted to the study of humanity through time. Its aim is to connect scholars within the University of Sydney and beyond, to promote and empower research to come to new understandings of the human past, its importance in the

present, and its lessons for the future. The centre takes its name from University of Sydney graduate Vere Gordon Childe, an exceptionally influential archaeologist and an important figure in left-wing thought in Australia in the early decades of the twentieth century. (There is a link to Terry Irving's biography of Childe here: <https://publishing.monash.edu/product/the-fatal-lure-of-politics/>)

Museum news

The Chau Chak Wing Museum experienced record visitors in 2023, and for many visitors viewing the antiquities of the Nicholson collection has been a highlight of the visit.

The Museum has been heavily engaged with communities of descent, particularly from Egypt and Greece, as part of an initiative to re-think notions around dispersed heritage, particularly in terms of what stories are told and by whom, and to activate the collections as an extension of modern, living communities. In May, we held a Greek cultural weekend at the Museum, courtesy of a partnership with the Hellenic Lyceum Club and generously supported by the Aroney Trust. The Museum also held an Egyptian Cultural Day on Sunday 5 November co-organised with the Australian Egyptian Forum Council, and several Egyptian themed 'Pop-Up' Museums in parts of Western Sydney where Arabic is popularly spoken.

Underpinning the engagement with the Egyptian diaspora in Australia, is ongoing research being undertaken by Nicholson curators with Egyptian communities locally, and elsewhere, via focus groups, surveys and conversation pieces. The aim of this work is to incorporate more Egyptian perspectives, narratives and voices in the Museum's displays to show that there are multiple histories to be understood about Egypt's past, and to foster a sense of belonging, ownership and pride for Egyptian-Australians in their heritage.

Another major project underway at the Museum concerns different public attitudes and responses to the display of international human remains, interrogating what do we mean by ethical and respectful care of human remains? With an initial specific focus on ancient Egyptian mummified human remains, the project involves the application of rigorous methodologies and close consultation with museum communities.

The CCWM has hosted a range of talks and events on the ancient world in 2023, including talks on Cypriot cultural repatriation delivered by Director of the Department of Antiquities, Dr Marina Solomidou-Ieronymidou; a Kytherian film screening by film-maker Dr. Giorgos Didymiotis and a panel discussion as part of the 2023 ICOMOS: General Assembly held in Sydney. In November, the Museum welcomes Dr Mostafa Waziry, Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities of Egypt for an exclusive lecture, and 2023 Sir Charles Nicholson lecturer Dr Anastasia Christophilopoulou from the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge with her research into ancient island identities.

The Chau Chak Wing Museum's Object Based Learning (OBL) program led by Dr Eve Guerry and Jane Thogersen has had a successful year, and in August was awarded the 2023 UMAC Award, the first time the international award has been won by an Australian institution. The Nicholson Collections remain core to OBL, not only to archaeology and ancient historical undergraduate and postgraduate studies, but to thousands of students from disciplines spanning all aspects of the University of Sydney's teaching. The 'Knowledgeable Object' symposium on 16 November brought together educators and OBL specialists. This year has also seen a large return of school students predominantly studying the NSW Stage 6 Ancient History course, as part of our object-focused school outreach program. The Chau Chak Wing

Museum has also partnered with the NSW Department of Education to produce a digital educational resource for the ancient history curriculum titled 'Museums, History and Future Careers' which now sits on the Department's website.

The Museum's Object Matters podcast featured a number of discussions around collection items including Professor Alastair Blanshard on Campanian fishplates, Dr Lesley Beaumont on the Nicholson Hermes, Dr Natali Pearson on a Greco-Italic transport amphora and Dr Heba Abd el-Gawad on rethinking Egyptian antiquities collections in museums.

Publications

Melanie Pitkin, *Egypt in the First Intermediate Period: The History and Chronology of its False Doors and Stelae* (Golden House Publishing, London, 2023).

Melanie Pitkin (ed.) *The Overseer of Works in Upper and Lower Egypt. Studies in Honour of Nigel Strudwick* (Abercromby Press, Liverpool, 2023).

Candace Richards and Michelle F. Whitford, 'Displaying the Fragmented: Damaged and Mutilated ancient Egyptian figures from Sir Charles Nicholson's Collection' in G. Miniaci (ed.), *Breaking Images: Damage and Mutilation of Ancient Figurines* (London, 2023), pp. 259-289.

Excavations

The Paphos Theatre Archaeological Project is currently planning for its 2024 field season, with a focus on medieval occupation and further understanding of the Roman urban layout of the Cypriot city. Publication of volume one of the excavation report nears completion, and an exhibition featuring works created by Australian artists working on the project in conjunction with the excavators will take place in Nicosia in 2024.

Conferences

From the 29-31 August the University of Sydney hosted more than 200 international delegates to the 2023 International Council of Museums Committee for University Museums and Collections (UMAC) Conference. Held at the Chau Chak Wing Museum, UMAC2023 explored the theme of 'Truth-Telling Through University Museums and Collections', and featured a number of papers examining the way university collections engage with Mediterranean archaeological collections as well as broader themes of collection care, community engagement, repatriation and educational engagement.

Tamara Neal

University of Western Australia

Staff changes

Professor Yasmin Haskell is leaving UWA after almost twenty years of service at the institution to take up the UNESCO Chair of in Inter-Cultural and Inter-Religious Relations at Monash University. UWA Classics and Ancient History wishes Yasmin all the best in her new role.

Significant activity by staff

Dr Kirk Essary was on sabbatical in Semester 1 2023. Professor Yasmin Haskell was a Fellow at the Institute of Advanced Study (Princeton) in Semester 1 2023. A/Prof. Chris Mallan was a symposiast at the Spring Symposium for Byzantine Studies at Dumbarton Oaks (Washington DC).

Visitors

In Semester 1 UWA Classics and Ancient History welcomed Em/Prof. Gary Reger to UWA. Gary was on a Fulbright Fellowship and was a popular contributor to our research seminar series.

Postgraduate completions (doctoral and masters), including thesis title and principal supervisor

- Dr Julie Weekes (PhD 2022), *Man's Best Friend? The Human Canine Bond in Antiquity*. Dr Lara O'Sullivan.
- Mr Karl Robinson (MPhil 2023), *A Historical and Historiographical Commentary on the Scythica Vindobonensia*. A/Prof. Chris Mallan.
- Mr Doug Whyte (MPhil 2023), *Cross Cultural Interactions in the Frontier Zone of the Roman Empire: Comparing East and West in the 2nd and 3rd Centuries CE*. A/Prof. Chris Mallan.

New books

- Melville-Jones, J.R. *Testimonia Numaria Romana* (Spink 2023).
- Kennedy, D. *Well Met! Friends and Travelling Companions of Rev. Thomas Bowles Journals of Travels in Egypt, Petra and the Near East, 1854* (Archaeopress 2023)

Other items of interest to ASCS members

From mid-2023 Dr Kirk Essary has taken over as head of Classics from A/Prof. Chris Mallan after three and a half years in the role.

Chris Mallan

Victoria University of Wellington

We are very sad that James Kierstead will be leaving us next year, after a brutal restructure at VUW. James has been at VUW for a decade and is a great colleague, teacher and researcher, who will be very much missed. Despite of all this, James delivered four papers internationally in recent months: 'Athenian Democracies in the Early Hellenistic Period' at the Democracy After Athens conference at Durham University (via Zoom), 'The Evolution of Athenian Democracy after 404 BC,' Fourth-Century Athens at the War conference at the Institute for Advanced Study at Nantes (via Zoom), 'Mixed Blessings: Mixed Constitutions, Citizen Sovereignty, and Ancient Sparta' at the International Sparta Studies Forum at Sparta (via Zoom) and 'The Foundations of Democracy: A Neo-Protagorean Approach,' Democracy Past and Future: A Symposium in Honor of Josiah Ober at Stanford University.

Diana Burton spoke about “Ungentle, unyielding, most hated”: Hades and his peers’ at the University of Newcastle/The Lit & Phil and on ‘How to decorate a Greek vase’ at the *Greek & Roman Antiquities Handling Workshop: Recording, illustrating, 3D modelling* at the Institute of Classical Studies, both in May. Babette Puetz gave a paper “Forgetting and Power in Greek Tragedy” at the Forgetting and Power in ancient Greek and Latin Literature Conference at Katholische Universität Eichstätt (Germany) in July. Jeff Tatum delivered ‘Plutarch and the Performance of Belatedness in *Nicias 1*’ to the London Ancient Literature Seminar (in January) and published a book: *A Noble Ruin: Mark Antony, Civil War, and the Collapse of the Roman Republic* (Oxford University Press). A third printing came out of Burton, Perris, Tatum, *Athens to Aotearoa: Greece and Rome in New Zealand Literature and Society*.

In June, Greg Woolf from UCLA gave a very well received Syme lecture ‘Rome Unbound! How the Republican elite won the world and lost control of their culture’ and research seminar ‘Moving People. Moving Things. The Ebbs and Flows of the Roman World System’.

The VUW Classics Museum has made a small acquisition including several Roman coins, a gaming token, a bronze ring, and – most exciting – a small terracotta head of Alexander the Great.

We had two MA completions: Sofia Letteri, ‘Studies in the *Galeomyomachia*: Reconstructing the War of the Weasel and Mice’ (supervised by Simon Perris) and Brittany Jacobsen, ‘Sisters of Sparta: An Intersectional Approach to Depictions of Helen and Clytemnestra in Fifth-Century BCE Athens’ (supervised by Babette Puetz).

Babette Puetz



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