This term’s Ancient History sub-faculty seminar will continue from a different perspective the theme explored in the last term’s Classical Archaeology seminar: we shall be looking at institutional, social and cultural changes in the Roman period Greek poleis, at the boundaries of what is ‘Greek’ in this period, and the impact and dynamics of their relationship with the imperial power. The seminar has been brought together in conjunction with the development of a new undergraduate paper on Greek City in the Roman World from Dio Chrysostom to John Chrysostom, now in its second year on the Oxford syllabus; we shall make available to the participants the resources related to this paper.

Wk. 1 (25 April)
Georgy Kantor (St John’s College, Oxford). Navigating Roman law and local privileges in Pliny’s and Dio’s Pontus-Bithynia

Wk. 2 (2 May)
Neil McLynn (Corpus Christi College, Oxford). Playground of Paideia: the fourth-century educational experience in Athens

Wk. 3 (9 May)
Christina Kuhn (Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford). City Councils and the Prosperity of the Post-Classical Polis

Wk. 4 (16 May)
Anna Heller (Université François-Rabelais, Tours). Kinship and elite representation in honorific inscriptions from Roman Asia Minor

Wk. 5 (23 May)
Benjamin Gray (University of Edinburgh). Debates about the Scope of Politics in the Greek City under Rome: Civic Rhetoric and Political Thought

Wk. 6 (30 May)
Lieve Van Hoof (Ghent University). Choose your City: Libanius between Athens, Constantinople and Antioch

Wk. 7 (6 June)
Ted Kaizer (University of Durham). Oasis-polis: Tadmor-Palmyra as a Greek city (or not) in five episodes

Wk. 8 (13 June)
Ine Jacobs (University College, Oxford). Prosperity after disaster? The effects of the Gothic invasion in Athens and Corinth