**Beyond Greece and Rome**  
**Monday, 10 am (Ioannou Centre, Outreach Room)**

Wk. 1 (Monday 24 April): *North Africa before Rome: influences, cultural contacts, and urban development* (Dr Niccolò Mugnai)

This lecture outlines the historical and archaeological features of Eastern and Western Maghreb before Rome, highlighting some critical aspects of these North African territories throughout their early history up to the moment when they became part of the Roman Empire. Through engagement with the most recent scholarship, a critical reassessment of issues of Greek and Phoenician-Punic colonization is presented, looking at the multifaceted discourse between “indigenous” and “external” cultural traditions. Particular attention is paid to the archaeology, urbanism, and art and architecture of Numidia, the Greek-influenced region of Cyrenaica, and the kingdom of the Garamantes in the desert of Fazzan.

Wk. 2 (Monday 1 May): *Black Sea between the Greek World and the Steppe* (Dr Georgy Kantor)

Greek colonisation between the seventh-fifth centuries BC ostensibly turned the Black Sea into another ‘Greek pond’. Bosporan grain was traded in Athens, and immense flow of Greek ceramics went to the Black Sea. These Greek settlements, however, existed precariously on the edge of an immense and complex steppe world, and cultural and political influence went both ways. Onomastics show a unique blend of Greek-, Thracian- and Iranian-speaking groups, and the Bosporan kingdom with its centre in Crimea developed a unique political symbiosis between polis and non-polis forms of political organisation well before Alexander. The lecture attempts to look at this region both from the steppe and from the Greek perspective, and address problems in its study introduced by modern imperialism and nationalism.

Wk. 3 (Monday 8 May). *At world’s end? Mauretania Tingitana and the Roman Empire* (Dr Niccolò Mugnai)

This lecture looks at the territory of Morocco (ancient Mauretania Tingitana) and its relationship with the rest of the Roman Empire. Traditional narratives have presented a picture of this province as a sort of ‘Far West’ of North Africa, pointing out its distance – if not isolation – from the Mediterranean world. However, thanks to recent archaeological research, a more dynamic image is starting to emerge where local idiosyncrasies and influences from Rome coexisted. By looking at the economy, urbanism, and artistic environment of Tingitana throughout the second and third centuries AD, this new narrative attempts to reconstruct a history of the region which is not tainted by prejudiced ideas or polarizing paradigms.

Wk. 4 (Monday 15 May): *Trans-Danubian world in the Roman period* (Dr Georgy Kantor)

From the establishment of the Roman province of Macedonia in 148 BC and the Mithridatic wars of the 80s-60s BC, Rome entered into contact with the complex world of the trans-Danubian peoples, extending all the way to the steppe peoples of the Northern Black Sea region. It is often viewed largely through the eyes of its Roman conquerors or would be conquerors (most notably on Trajan’s Column), and later, in the third and fourth centuries AD, as the source of menace and danger, often replacing Germany as Rome’s pre-eminent barbarian ‘Other’. A rich history of its own, in which Rome was often only peripheral, has been gradually uncovered by the archaeological study since the nineteenth century. The lecture addresses this emerging new narrative, and tensions between archaeological and textual evidence in its study.

Wk. 5 (Monday 22 May): *The ingredients of happiness: ancient South Arabia from the mukarribs to monsoon sailing, c. 8th century BC - 1st century AD* (Dr Justine Potts)

Known to the Hellenistic and Roman worlds as *Arabia Eudaimōn/Arabia Felix*, ancient South Arabia was more than just a fecund source of incense for insatiable imperial appetites. Several kingdoms flourished there, producing thousands of inscriptions, and monumental architecture which still stands among the sands of Yemen. Most enduring and culturally dominant was the kingdom of Saba’, which the Roman army tried, and failed spectacularly, to conquer in 26/25 BC. This lecture introduces the wider history of this land that defeated
the Romans, from the period of the early kings (mukarribs) to the first century AD, when the intensification of monsoon sailing and maritime trade in the Red Sea led to seismic political change. Epigraphic and archaeological evidence will allow us to examine the period through local perspectives, and to question the influence of the Mediterranean world on coinage, art and architecture.

Wk. 6 (Monday 29 May): The Ocean of the West: The Atlantic World from Hanno's Periplus to the Saxon Shore and the early medieval wic (Prof. Nicholas Purcell)

How different is an Oceanic world from a Mediterranean one? Carthaginians, Greeks and Romans had to make sense of both, and respond to their differences. The idea of Ocean itself suggested a further comparison and contrast - between the Atlantic world and the Outer Seas of the south-east, especially what we call the Indian Ocean. From north-west Africa, through Iberia to the Atlantic coasts of Gaul, the archipelago of Britain and Ireland, and the North Sea, Mediterranean-based peoples and polities encountered numerous ocean-facing cultures. The political, cultural and economic results were quite different from any other part of the extended Greco-Roman world, and offer striking perspectives on that world - and how it morphed into a post-classical one.

Wk. 7 (Monday 5 June): Lands of Rivers: North-west Europe from the Ebro to the Elbe (Prof. Nicholas Purcell)

Navigable rivers and their valleys made continental interiors accessible across wide swathes of north-western and northern Europe, and formed a key element in the consistency of the peoples archaeologically known under the label ‘La Tène’. Celtiberians, Gauls, and Germans, and their social, political and economic structures, were shaped by this interconnected landscape - as were their relations with Greek overseas settlements and Roman political and commercial interests, and their own agency in state-formation and energetically pursuing opportunities towards the Mediterranean worlds. This lecture surveys some of the historical consequences, from the age of the foundation of Massalia near the delta of the Rhône to the symbolic unification of Rhine and Danube by the canal-building of Charlemagne.

Wk. 8 (Monday 12 June): Unification, resistance and religious transformation: ancient South Arabia from the rise of Ḥimyar to the eve of Islam, c. 1st century BC – 6th century AD (Dr Justine Potts)

By the end of the third century AD, the polities of ancient South Arabia were unified by the kingdom of Ḥimyar. The Sabean kingdom regained independence from Ḥimyar in the early second century but ultimately succumbed to their neighbour’s power once more. Originally, Ḥimyarite religion was centred on the traditional South Arabian pantheon, but in the fourth century AD monotheism came to be practised and the epigraphic habit declined; no inscription later than AD 380 is explicitly ‘pagan’. This lecture will sketch the changing political landscape of this period, with its stories of conquest, independence, reconquest and political decline, but it will focus primarily on religious history and the rise of monotheism. Particularly for those who study Religions in the Greek and Roman World and related papers, this lecture will offer comparative material for consideration.