

Classical Archaeology Seminar

Hilary Term 2026

Theme: Claiming the Past of Anatolia: Archaeology and Practice

This graduate seminar explores how the past in Asia Minor has been claimed, interpreted, and reconstructed — from Ottoman-era excavations to cutting-edge archaeological research today. Sessions examine the historical and political dimensions of archaeology, including nationalism, heritage politics, and contested ownership of cultural artifacts, alongside presentations by researchers conducting current digs in Türkiye, highlighting innovative interdisciplinary methods.

Week 1

Monday Jan. 19th

Special Lecture: *Theoi Sebastoi Olympioi*: converting Roman emperors into Greek gods

Prof Bert Smith (Oxford and Bilkent)

Week 2

Monday Jan 26th

Whose Past? Power, Politics and the Making of Archaeology in Türkiye

Prof Tuna Şare Ağtürk (Oxford and Çanakkale)

Week 3

Monday Feb. 2nd

Reclaiming Rural Voices: Rediscovering the Forgotten Landscapes of Phoenix in the Carian Chersonese

Dr Asil Yaman (UPENN and Villanova)

Week 4

Monday Feb. 9th

Repatriation and Heritage Diplomacy in Türkiye

Dr Zeynep Boz (Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism)

Week 5

Monday Feb. 16th

Human-Environment Interaction in the Pergamon Microregion

Prof Felix Pirson (Deutsches Archäologisches Institut Istanbul)

Week 6

Monday Feb. 23rd

From Trm̃mili to Bloomsbury: The ‘Lycian Marbles’ in the British Museum

Dr Batuhan Özdemir (British Institute at Ankara)

Week 7

Monday Mar. 2nd

Recent Research at Zeugma

Prof Kutalmış Gökay (Ankara)

Week 8

Monday Mar. 9th

Achaemenids, Impact and Archaeological Science: from Art to the AnASci project

Prof Catherine Draycott (Durham)

Ioannou Centre for Classical and Byzantine Studies (66 St Giles’), Lecture Room,

Mondays 5.00 p.m. Drinks afterwards

Organiser: Tuna Şare Ağtürk

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