

From Sumer to Rome

A Comparative Journey through Ancient Texts

L&L Sub-Faculty Seminar, Hilary Term
Fridays, 1:30-3:00pm | Mure Room, Merton College

The literatures of the Ancient Near East, and particularly Mesopotamian texts, are progressively making their way into the Classical curriculum. The relative novelty of the discipline of Assyriology, as well as the extraordinary antiquity of the texts, holds exciting promises for the future of the study of the ancient world.

This seminar aims to bring ANE texts into dialogue with traditional Classics. The purpose is not to demonstrate intertextuality or literary borrowing – instead, we will engage in pure comparison on a variety of topics, to explore how different civilisation dealt with analogous questions and faced the realities of human life.

WEEK 1: The State of Nature

Seneca *Phaedra* 446-558: Professor Tobias Reinhardt
Lugalbanda I: Elena Limongelli

WEEK 2: Katabaseis

Vergil *Aeneid* 6.236-893: Professor Stephen Harrison
Gilgamesh, Enkidu, and the Netherworld: Professor Jacob Dahl

WEEK 3: Narrativising Inter-city Conflict

Iliad: Professor Adrian Kelly
Enmerkar and En-suhgir-ana: Kieran Vernon

WEEK 4: Astronomy

Manilius *Astronomica* 1.255-561: Grace MacDonald
Babylonian astronomical diaries: TBC

WEEK 5: Humour

Lucian *True Story*: Dr Emma Greensmith
The Poor Man of Nippur: Dr George Heath-Whyte

WEEK 6: Civil unrest

Lucan VII: Matthew Wainwright
Naram Sin, the Great Revolt: Dr Parsa Daneshmand

WEEK 7: Cosmic battles

Hesiod *Theogony* 617-868: Professor Bruno Currie
Enuma Elish 4: Dr Frances Reynolds

WEEK 8: Divine marriages

Martianus Capella *De Nuptiis Philologiae et Mercurii*: Clara Bykvist
Inana and Dumuzi: Professor Christopher Metcalf

For any questions, please contact Elena Limongelli (elena.limongelli@classics.ox.ac.uk) or Christopher Metcalf (christopher.metcalf@classics.ox.ac.uk)