

Menander: *Aspis*, *Sikyonioi*, *Georgos*

Hilary Term

Seminar Room, Corpus Christi College, Wednesday 5.00-6.30pm.

In this seminar, we will explore three of Menander's less well-known plays: *Aspis*, *Sikyonioi*, and *Georgos*. The aim is to illuminate the diversity of the comedian's dramaturgy. For over a millennium, Menander existed as little more than a simulacrum, fashioned in the image of his Roman adapters. But the publication of rediscovered papyri, from the beginning of the twentieth century, has challenged many assumptions about the character of his theatre. In places, the new plays closely resemble the comedies of Terence (e.g. rape and recognition plots, sympathetic characterisation); in others, not so much (e.g. sacrifice, spectacle, or lack thereof). With the *fabula palliata* now represented on the Mods syllabus, the time seems ripe to revisit its Greek precursor. For the attendees, as for the presenters, there is no expectation that you will have read Menander before. Instead, the hope is that critics with backgrounds in different fields will be able to cast fresh light on the texts.

We can confirm that **Dr Antonis Petrides**, Associate Professor of Greek Culture at the Open University of Cyprus will be coming to speak to us in the first week of term. He will be giving a paper titled '**Structuring New Comedy plays: Lessons from the *Dyskolos***'. Dr Petrides has published widely on Menander and New Comedy and his 2014 monograph *Menander, New Comedy and the Visual* opened up new avenues for understanding and appreciating the craft of these plays. He is currently working on a new edition and commentary of Menander's *Dyskolos* which will be published with OUP.

Schedule and Presenters

Wk. 1: **Antonis Petrides**: Structuring New Comedy plays: Lessons from the *Dyskolos*

Wk. 2: *Aspis*, 1–148 (ed. Kassel-Schröder) (**Kai Chen**)

Wk. 3: *Aspis*, 149–298 (**Sam Troy**)

Wk. 4: *Aspis*, 299–523 (**Megan Bowler**)

Wk. 5: *Sikyonioi*, 1–149 (**Ludovica Mancinelli**)

Wk. 6: *Sikyonioi*, 150–279 (**Maximilian Allanby-Bassett**)

Wk. 7: *Sikyonioi*, 280f. (**Flavia Collyer-Powell**)

Wk. 8: *Georgos* (**Marina Paschalidou**)

The Greek text we will be using is that of the new volume (VI.1) in the series *Poetae Comici Graeci* (Kassel, R. and Schröder, S. [2022], *Menander. Dyscolus et fabulae quarum fragmenta in papyris membranisque servata sunt* [Berlin]). The best available translation is the Arnott Loeb (Arnott, W. G. [1979–2000], *Menander* [3 vols., Cambridge, MA]).

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Georgos

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