Modern approaches to the ancient world
Michaelmas Term 2023 – Hilary Term 2024

This new series of lectures aims to offer students in ancient history a comprehensive perspective on key trends in the modern historiography of the ancient world. Focusing on a selection of scholars and approaches, the lectures will outline the development of modern historical research from the Enlightenment to Romanticism, continuing on to Historical Positivism and Historicism between the late nineteenth century and the early twentieth, then opening up to the social sciences especially after the Second World War. The lectures in week 1 of Michemals Term and in week 1 of Hilary term will be delivered by Oswyn Murray; the lecture in week 5 of Hilary term will be delivered by Georgy Kantor.

Plan of the lectures

MT 2023 – Tuesdays, 2-3:30, Ioannou Centre, Lecture theater
1st week: Oswyn Murray, Enlightenment Greece
3rd week: Johann-Gustav Droysen and the making of an age
5th week: Georgy Kantor, Theodor Mommsen: legal history, the Roman provinces and the documentary corpora
7th week: Karl-Julius Beloch and historical positivism

HT 2024 – venue and schedule tbc
1st week: Oswyn Murray, Jakob Burckhardt and cultural history
2nd week: Ancient history and modern scholarship: Arnaldo Momigliano and the historicist tradition
3rd week: Ancient history meets sociology: Moses Finley and Max Weber
4th week: Ancient history meets anthropology: the Paris School

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