**The Gods in Literature**

**Myth, Theology, and Belief in Ancient Near Eastern and Greek Poetry**

The Martin School, University of Oxford, 21-22 June 2023

**Day 1: 21 June**

*09.00–09.30: Welcome and coffee*

09.30–10.10: Bill Allan (Oxford) – ‘Believing in Dionysus’

10.10–10.50: Henry Spelman (Cambridge) – ‘What’s Funny About the Gods in Old Comedy?’

*10.50–11.05: Coffee/Tea*

11.05–11.45: Ilaria Calini (Paris) – ‘Shaping the World Through Stories: Narrative and Poetic Dialectics of Knowledge in Mesopotamia’

11.45–12.25: Bernardo Ballesteros (Oxford) – ‘Huwawa and the Cyclops: Religious Thought and Poetic Justice in the Gilgamesh and Homeric Traditions’

*12:25–13:30: Lunch*

13.30–14.10: Christian Zgoll (Göttingen) – ‘The Hittite *Song of Going Forth* (CTH 344) and Hesiod’s *Theogony*: Discovery of a New Parallel’

14.10–14.50: Annette Zgoll (Göttingen) – ‘Succession Myth in Babylon: A “Horror of Incest and Murder”?’

*14.50–15.05: Coffee/Tea*

15.05–15.45: Gina Konstantopoulos (UCLA) – ‘Clad in Terror, Drenched in Blood: Constructing Reverence and Awe in Mesopotamian Literary and Ritual Texts’

15.45–16.25: Selena Wisnom (Leicester) – ‘In the Beginning There Was Rage: Anger and Lament in *Enūma eliš*’

*16.25–16.40:* *Coffee/Tea*

16.40–17.20: Renaud Gagné (Cambridge) ‘Theograms and Charaktêres: Between Cult, Magic and Theurgy’

17.20–18.00: Sarah Iles Johnston (Ohio State) [online] – ‘Here Lies Hecate: Poetry and Immortality in 2nd Century Mesembria’

*18.30: Reception at University College*

*19.30: Dinner*

**Day 2: 22 June**

09.30–10.10: Sol Tor (King’s College, London) – ‘Buying Off The Literary Gods in Plato’s *Laws* 10’

10.10–10.50: Alex Johnston (Oxford) ‘Divine Wisdom and Poetry in Early Greece and the Ancient Near East’

*10.50–11.05: Coffee/Tea*

11.05–11.45: Christopher Metcalf (Oxford) – ‘The Goddess and the Herdsman: A Myth of Kingship from Sumer to Rome’

11.45–12.25: Carolina López Ruiz (Chicago) – ‘Unheroic Gods and Ascended Mortals? The Origins of Euhemerism between Greek and Near Eastern Cultures’

*12.25–13.25: Lunch*

13.25–14.05: Johannes Haubold (Princeton) ‘Divine Speech in Cosmogonic Narrative: Command, Advice, Persuasion’

14.05–14.45: Frances Reynolds (Oxford) – ‘The God Qingu in and beyond *Enūma Eliš*’

*14.45–15.00: Coffee/Tea*

15.00–15.40: Karolina Sekita (Tel Aviv) – ‘God, Hero, or Shade? Double or Triple Herakles in the Underworld of *Odyssey* 11, Panyassis’ *Herakleia*, and Greek (?) Cult’

15.40–16.20: Gösta Gabriel (Freie Universität Berlin) – ‘The Immortal Who Became Mortal: The Making of the Great Hero Gilgamesh in the Third Millennium BCE’

*16.20–16.35: Coffee/Tea*

16.35–17.15: Ian Rutherford (Reading) – ‘Pindar’s Ammon’