

Recontextualizing Occasion: Reperformance in Ancient Greece

Laurence Seminar, Faculty of Classics, University of Cambridge, 5-7 June 2014

In recent decades questions of performance have been at the forefront of the study of Greek literature in nearly all of its forms, but the very idea of 'performance context' or 'occasion' is far from straightforward and the positive identification of such categories in the ancient world poses significant challenges, both historical and conceptual. From Homer onward, ancient authors developed strategies to make their works available to multiple audiences in multiple contexts; moreover, works were taken up and redirected by subsequent poets, writers, and performers in ways that their original authors may not have anticipated (or even approved).

It is the purpose of this conference to examine the complexities and paradoxes that emerge when the idea of 'performance' is expanded beyond a single 'first performance'. How were these broader horizons explored and exploited by poets and prose writers? In what ways did later authors redefine the 'performance' of their predecessors' work? How does our conceptual geography and chronology shift when we look at performance culture as iterative, rather than occasional, in nature?

Confirmed speakers: Karen Bassi, Felix Budelmann, Bruno Currie, Giovan Battista D'Alessio, Denis Feeney, Renaud Gagné, Mary-Louise Gill, Johanna Hanink, Greta Hawes, Richard Hunter, Mario Telò, Anna Uhlig, Ruth Webb. A draft programme may be found below.

Organisers: Richard Hunter (rlh10@cam.ac.uk), Anna Uhlig (asuhlig@ucdavis.edu)

The conference is open to anyone interested.

There is a £30 registration fee to cover administration, tea and coffee and an opening reception, and dinner with the speakers is available on June 6 at a further cost of £30.

Further arrangements will be notified in a subsequent circular. The organisers regret that they are unable to provide accommodation in Cambridge, but will be happy to offer any advice they can.

Those wishing to register should do so by June 1 at the following link:

[http://onlinesales.admin.cam.ac.uk/browse/extra\\_info.asp?compid=1&modid=2&deptid=161&catid=607&prodid=924](http://onlinesales.admin.cam.ac.uk/browse/extra_info.asp?compid=1&modid=2&deptid=161&catid=607&prodid=924)

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THURSDAY, June 5

2:00 Welcome

2:15-3:15 Bruno Currie (Oriental College, Oxford):  
Pindar: intertextuality, deixis, and reperformance

3:15-4:15 Anna Uhlig (University of California,  
Davis): Models of reperformance in Bacchylides

4:15-4:45 Coffee

4:45-5:45 Felix Budelmann (Magdalen College,  
Oxford): New and old in reperformance

5:45-6:45 Renaud Gagne (Pembroke College, Cambridge): Symposium and chorus

Reception in Cast Gallery (all registered attendees)

FRIDAY, June 6

9:00-10:00 Karen Bassi (University of California,  
Santa Cruz): Re-animating the past: mortality,  
tragedy, and the ghost of Polydorus in Euripides'  
Hecuba

10:00-11:00 Mario Telò (University of California,  
Los Angeles): Fitting out Philocleon and  
stripping Strepsiades: Aristophanes reperforms  
failure

11:00-11:30 Coffee

11:30-12:30 Mary Louise Gill (Brown University):  
Logos and audience in Plato's Phaedrus

12:30-2:00 LUNCH

2:00-3:00 Giambattista D'Alessio (King's College,  
London): Performance, transmission and loss of  
Hellenistic lyric poetry

3:00-4:00 Johanna Hanink (Brown University):  
Archives, repertoires, bodies and bones: thoughts  
for classicists

4:00-4:30 Coffee

4:30-5:30 Greta Hawes (Australian National  
University): Thebes on stage and on site

5:30-6:30 Ruth Webb (Université Charles-de-Gaulle

Lille 3): Reperformance and embodied knowledge in  
pantomime

7:30 Conference Dinner (£30, must be booked in advance):

SATURDAY, June 7

10:00-11:00 Richard Hunter (Trinity College,  
Cambridge): Comedy and reperformance

11:00-11:30 Coffee

11:30-12:30 Denis Feeney (Princeton University):  
"Theatre outside Athens" in Rome: recentering  
reperformance

12:30-1:00 Closing Discussion.