

INTERNATIONALIZATION AS CHALLENGE AND OPPORTUNITY IN CLASSICS & ANCIENT STUDIES

**BerGSAS Workshop with
Emily Greenwood, Harvard University
Mariana Silva Porto and Alexander Veling,
BerGSAS Theory Network**

**December 12th, 2023
Freie Universität Berlin**

INTERNATIONALIZATION AS CHALLENGE AND OPPORTUNITY IN CLASSICS & ANCIENT STUDIES

This workshop will give participants an opportunity to explore the concepts of internationalization, globalization, cosmopolitanism, and transnationalism in relation to the practice of scholarship in Classics and Ancient Studies. Questions for discussion will include international networks in the history of classical scholarship; the extent to which scholarship still operates within the borders of nation states; the potential influence of border thinking and other postcolonial theories in transforming the intellectual landscape; and the influence of reception studies on the internationalization of classics and ancient studies.

In Classics & Ancient Studies we rightly debate the tendency of the field to operate in favor of Europe, the hegemony of Anglophone scholarship, and the bias towards what the anthropologist Michel Rolph Trouillot called “North Atlantic Universals”. As we both navigate and theorize the internationalization of Classics and Ancient Studies, what can we learn from the history of scholarship and other disciplines like Comparative Literature? These have long wrestled with the concepts of globalization, transnationalism, cosmopolitanism, and planetarity as a provocation to a more plural, decentered model of the discipline? As Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak has said of comparative literature, in spite of the commitment to “world literature” or the “global”, when comparing literatures, there is still a strong tendency for comparison to operate in favor of the European tradition.

WORKSHOP DECEMBER 12TH, 2023 9 AM – 7 PM

Freie Universität Berlin, Otto-von-Simson-Straße 7, 14195 Berlin

This workshop will be held exclusively in presence.

Participation is only possible after registration.

Preparation is required – cf. preparatory readings for each session.

Curriculum points will be awarded for active participation.

Registration until 15 November here: theory@berliner-antike-kolleg.org

Schedule

9:00–9:15 Welcome: Regina Attula
Introduction: Alexander Veling, Mariana Silva Porto, Emily Greenwood

9:15–10:45 **Session 1**
**Personal Experiences of International Mobility
in Academia**
Chair: Mariana Silva Porto

The readings assigned for this first session remind us of the history of international exile, migration, exchange, friendship, and correspondence in the modern discipline of ancient studies, from the Black American classicist William Sanders Scarborough writing to the English classicist W.E.A. Axon, who supplied him with a copy of Hermann Osthoff's *Das Verbum in der nominal composition im Deutschen, Griechischen, Slavischen, und Romanischen* (1878), to famous refugee scholars who fled fascism in Germany and Italy in the 1930s and 1940s and made their careers overseas, to contemporary international networks.

The session will start with a brief presentation on Greenwood's experience of Classics and Ancient Studies in three different continents, to frame interpretative questions about the intersection between biography / disciplinarity / and history of scholarship. There will be ample time in the discussion to share experiences of pursuing Classics in different national contexts and to consider the challenges and opportunities thereof.

Preparatory Reading:

25 pages + 15 minute video

- Oswyn Murray (2017) "Arnaldo Momigliano on Peace and Liberty (1940)", in Sally Crawford, Katharina Ulmschneider, and Jaś Elsner (eds), *Ark of Civilization: Refugee Scholars and Oxford University, 1930-1945*. Oxford University Press: 201-207.
- Jaś Elsner "Pfeiffer, Fraenkel, and Refugee Scholarship in Oxford during and after the Second World War", in Sally Crawford, Katharina Ulmschneider, and Jaś Elsner (eds), *Ark of Civilization: Refugee Scholars and Oxford University, 1930-1945*. Oxford University Press: 25-49.
- Jean-Pierre Vernant (2007) "Rencontre avec Froma", in *Visualizing the Tragic: Drama, Myth, and Ritual in Greek Art and Literature: essays in honour of Froma Zeitlin*, edited by Christina S. Kraus et al. Oxford University Press: 381-387. [French text and English translation].
- Pierre Vidal-Naquet "Présence de Froma Zeitlin", in *Visualizing the Tragic: Drama, Myth, and Ritual in Greek Art and Literature: essays in honour of Froma Zeitlin*, edited by Christina S. Kraus et al. Oxford University Press: 388-397. [French text and English translation].
- [Recorded Talk; 15 minutes] François Hartog – Retrospective: Le Miroir d'Hérodote, The Herodotus Helpline, October 20, 2021: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RX3j1ntT5DQ>

————— Tea & Coffee —————

11:00–12:30 Session 2 Challenges and Opportunities

Chair: Alexander Veling

In addition to language barriers and the privileging of just a few languages as mainstream languages of scholarship, national borders, visa issues, and the costs of travel pose very real, physical and material challenges and barriers to the internationalization of the discipline. At the same time, the location and distribution of research libraries and centers, museums, archives, and access to archaeological excavations have profound implications for the circulation of knowledge. In many instances, these (geo) political factors affecting scholarship mirror what Aníbal Quijano termed the coloniality of knowledge (la colonialidad del saber) and have consequences for the epistemologies that are brought to bear on and in Classics and Ancient Studies. In addition to discussing the negative threats (e.g. epistemologies of ignorance), we will also consider the potential positives of internationalization for scholarship, if we can uncouple internationalization from capitalist models of globalization.

Preparatory Reading:

87 pages

- Walter D. Mignolo (2012) "Border Thinking and the Colonial Difference", in *Mignolo Local histories/global designs: coloniality, subaltern knowledges, and border thinking (with a new preface by the author)*. Princeton University Press: 49-88. [First published in 2000.]
- Mira Seo (2019) "Classics for All: Future Antiquity from a Global Perspective", *AJP* 140/4: 699-715.
- Shadi Bartsch "Global Classics", *TAPA* 152/1 (Spring 2022): 33-42.
- Dan-el Padilla Peralta (2020) "Epistemicide: the Roman Case", *Classica - Revista Brasileira De Estudos Clássicos* 33/2: 151–186.
- Optional reading:
Emily Apter (2003) "Global translatio: The 'Invention' of comparative literature, Istanbul, 1933", *Critical Inquiry* 29/2: 253–281.

————— 12:30-13:30 Lunch break —————

13:30–15:00 **Session 3**

Academic Writing

Chair: Emily Greenwood

This session aims to discuss the interlocking challenges of (a) the bad norms of academic writing, as its own genre of strange writing, and (b) the Anglophone norm for many scholarly publications in the field. In relation to (a), we will consider opportunities for writing otherwise and the pitfalls of rigid norms of expository writing at a time when the Humanities and Social Sciences are considering practices like critical fabulation, as exemplified by Saidiya Hartman's scholarship. Why do we spend so much time as scholars discussing what we are writing about and not how we are writing about it (see the article by Angelika Bammer below)? Since we will be an international group, we will also be able to compare and contrast perspectives and debates about how academic writing is discussed in different cultural contexts.

In relation to (b), questions for discussion include the problematic intersections between internationalism and monolingualism. What different models of writing away from English in English might our field(s) experiment with? What are the specific challenges of writing in English as a second / third / fourth language? How might translation play a greater role and what are the politics of the direction of translation (a big topic in translation studies, as discussed by translation theorists including Lawrence Venuti and Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak)? What asymmetries are created by the idea of "major" languages of scholarship in the field (English, German, French, Italian)?

Preparatory Reading:

48 pages

- Angelika Bammer (2018) "Introduction to 'How We Write Now'", PMLA 133.1 (2018) 124-131.
- Rey Chow (2014) "Not Like a Native Speaker: The Postcolonial Scene of Languages and the Proximity of the Xenophone", in *Chow Not Like a Native Speaker: On Linguaging as a Postcolonial Experience*. Columbia University Press: 35-60.
- Saidiya Hartman (2008) "Venus in Two Acts", *Small Axe* 26 (June 2008): 1-14.

15:15–16:45 **Session 4**

General Discussion

Chair: Emily Greenwood, Mariana Silva Porto, Alexander Veling

Summary and Reflections on the earlier sessions (no preparatory readings).
Closing remarks

About

Theory Network

The Theory Network, previously the Theorie-Lesezirkel, is a platform established in 2009 that provides opportunities for young researchers interested in theory in Ancient Studies and related cultural, historical, and social disciplines. In over 150 meetings so far, researchers have engaged in reading, discussing, and analyzing various theoretical texts. The network aims to improve skills in understanding and writing about theoretical concepts while engaging with key theoretical discourses and their proponents. It is an inclusive space where all are welcome, and no specialized knowledge is necessary to participate.

The Theory Network is organized by Mariana Silva Porto and Alexander Veling, doctoral researchers in the Berlin Graduate School of Ancient Studies.

www.berliner-antike-kolleg.org/en/transfer/theory_network/index.html

Emily Greenwood

Emily Greenwood is Professor of Classics and Comparative Literature at Harvard University, with wide-ranging interests in ancient Greek literature and history, classical reception studies, translation studies, intellectual history, postcolonial studies, and black studies. She is passionate about exploring the plural histories of use in the classical tradition of ancient Greece and Rome, as well as the dialogues between modern classics and diverse histories of reception and their impact on societies. Emily Greenwood studied classics at the University of Cambridge and held positions at several prestigious institutions, including Yale University and Princeton University, before joining Harvard University in July 2022. In 2023, Greenwood was elected a corresponding member of the British Academy.

<https://scholar.harvard.edu/emilygreenwood>