

## ICS Ancient History Seminar - Summer Term 2023/24

Thursdays from 4.30 pm APART FROM 2 MAY WHEN WE START AT 3PM, G35, Senate House, University of London

### Sexual(ised) Violence in Antiquity – New Approaches

The 1990s saw the beginnings of an interest in investigating rape and sexual violence in Antiquity with a particular concern with classifying specific acts and on whether or not to define an act as one of 'rape' while (often leaving 'sexual violence' un-marked). Recent years have seen a turn towards (i.) broader explorations of acts of power and control expressed in a sexual way and (ii.) a deeper understanding of how socialisation processes perpetuate power imbalances. As a result, ancient historians and classicists are starting to explore the contexts in which violence was *sexualised* in Antiquity. This new research is challenging the assumptions that guided earlier studies which - seeming pioneering at the time - were, it appears, often projecting 1990s concepts onto ancient evidence. The summer term's seminar - which will fall thirty years after a 1994 symposium on rape in Antiquity in Cardiff - will contribute to conversations about current directions in research and seek to map out new avenues of inquiry.

**Convenors: Susan Deacy ([susan.deacy@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:susan.deacy@bristol.ac.uk)) and Paola Ceccarelli ([p.ceccarelli@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:p.ceccarelli@ucl.ac.uk))**

Thursday 25 April\*

- Tom Booth (Francis Crick Institute) – ‘**Can ancient DNA provide insights into ancient sexualised violence? Bronze Age migrations, sex-biased admixture and the spread of Indo-European languages**’
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- Florence Felsheim (School of Classics, University of St Andrews) – ‘**Ancient sexualised violence and cognitive sciences: understanding coping mechanisms, survival strategies and trauma in primary sources**’

Thursday 2 May\*

- Carrie Etter (Department of English, University of Bristol) – ‘**Exit *Kassandra*: writing the Classics and redressing sexual violence**’
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- Suzanne Lynch (School of Classics, University College Dublin) – ‘**Sexual violence against war-captives in ancient Greece**’

*Please note that this week's seminar will start earlier than usual, at 3pm. That evening sees the London launch of Carrie Etter's Grief's Alphabet at Burley Fisher Books, 400 Kingland Road E8 4AA (6.30-9pm). Information, including on how to book, is available at <https://burleyfisherbooks.com/products/launch-griefs-alphabet-by-carrie-etter>*

Thursday 9 May

- Joana Salvador Costa (CH-ULisbon, Centre for History of the University of Lisbon) – ‘**The House of Atreus: a family of aggressors?**’

Thursday 23 May

- Bartłomiej Bednarek (Fakultät für Sprach- und Literaturwissenschaften, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich) – **‘Male intruders in Dionysiac female *thiasoi*?’**

Thursday 30 May\*

- Caroline Bristow (School of Education, University of Cambridge) – **‘How to talk about sexualised violence in myth in a classroom: reducing harm and promoting healthy messages’**
- Aimee Hinds Scott (School of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Roehampton) – **‘Persephone, childhood, and sexualised violence in ancient texts and modern receptions’**

All welcome! For queries or further information, please contact Susan Deacy ([susan.deacy@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:susan.deacy@bristol.ac.uk)) or Paola Ceccarelli ([p.ceccarelli@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:p.ceccarelli@ucl.ac.uk)).