

## CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

### **Between, beyond, bygone, behind: Queer time in the ancient Mediterranean**

organizer-refereed panel, SCS January 2025, Philadelphia

by Cassandra Tran and T. H. M. Gellar-Goad

The Greek letter lambda, both upper- and lowercase, mounts a challenge to default ideas about straight, heteronormative linearity. The skywards slant of progress on the left end of capital  $\Lambda$  is interrupted, reflected, regressed; the small-letter  $\lambda$  adds an alluring, dangerous, playful curve, suggesting that where there's less, there just might be more. Even the spelling of the letter is queer, an M-sound that phases in and out, a sensual articulation that asks you to use your teeth and lips and nose all at the same time, in service of a letter that itself denotes a liquid, the least straight of the consonants. Through these characteristics and more, it is no wonder that lambda has become a symbol for LGBTQIA2+ groups in and outside Classics.

Like queer lambda, queer time doesn't move straight. Queer or non-heteronormative time is delayed, deferred, prolonged, foreshortened, retrojected, transitioning, bifurcated, ambivalent. It disrupts normative and expected temporalities by acknowledging time outside socially-constructed rules of responsibility and causality. It can be recursive and cyclical without seeking reproduction. Queer time passes differently. It can depart from, intersect with, or wholly reject socio-cultural expectations or conventional linear processes. It can also be retrospective: for some people, it can be about making sense of the beforetimes only after you've figured, and come, out. And, especially in connection with this last point, queer time is a powerful theoretical tool for making new sense of pasts including and transcending the personal — and for bringing the personal into the impersonality and the abstract of concepts of time and history.

Building on the theoretical work of Halberstam, Stockton, Keene, Stovall, Dinshaw et al., Freeman, Edelman, King, Tyler, Jaffe, Johnson, Keeling, and others — and joining the vanguard of applications of queer time theory to the Classics (Andújar, Baldwin, Freccero, Gardner, Orrells) — this panel will gather together papers that explore queer or nonlinear time in ancient Mediterranean cultures and literatures.

Please send abstracts for a 15-20 minute paper by February 16, 2024

at [info@classicalstudies.org](mailto:info@classicalstudies.org) with the subject heading “abstract\_queertimeSCS2025.”

Abstracts should be 500 words or fewer (excluding bibliography) and should follow the guidelines for individual abstracts (see the SCS Guidelines for Authors of Abstracts). The abstracts will be judged anonymously and so should not reveal the author's name, but the email should provide name, abstract title, and affiliation. Decisions will be communicated to the abstracts' authors by the end of March, with enough time that those whose abstracts are not chosen can participate in the individual abstract submission process for the upcoming SCS meeting.

Questions can be directed to Professor Cassandra Tran ([tranc@wfu.edu](mailto:tranc@wfu.edu)) or Professor T. H. M. Gellar-Goad ([thmagg@wfu.edu](mailto:thmagg@wfu.edu)).

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Cassandra Tran, PhD (she/her)

Assistant Professor, Department of Classics

Affiliate Assistant Professor, Department of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies

Wake Forest University

C308 Tribble Hall  
Winston-Salem, NC, 27109  
[tranc@wfu.edu](mailto:tranc@wfu.edu)