



# EuGeStA

## Gender Studies and Classical Scholarship

### BEYOND THE PROTAGONIST: SUPPORTING CHARACTERS IN BIG SCREEN GREECE AND ROME

April 24-25, 2026 (USA, UK, and EU) – April 25-26, 2026 (Australasia)  
Organized by Konstantinos P. Nikoloutsos (Saint Joseph's University, USA)

Virtual Conference : [Zoom Link](#)



Conference attendance is free, but requires registration. To register, please fill out the [form](#).

### PROGRAM

All of the dates and times listed below are in Eastern Daylight Time (EDT).

#### FRIDAY, APRIL 24

##### Welcome and Introduction

10:00 – 11:00 a.m. (EDT); 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. (France)

Opening Remarks – Jacqueline Fabre-Serris (Université de Lille, France / EuGeStA)

Introduction: Why Focus on Supporting Characters – and How Do We Define Them?  
Konstantinos P. Nikoloutsos (Saint Joseph's University, USA)

##### Session 1

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (EDT); 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (CDT); 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. (Athens)

##### The Woman behind (the) Caesar: Wives, Mothers, and the Limits of Female Power

**Chair:** Sophia Papaioannou (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece)

“How Foolish Do Your Fears Seem Now, Calpurnia!?”: Depicting and Dismissing Caesar’s Wife on Screen  
Christopher McDonough (The University of the South, USA)

“Sempre la Mamma”: Tacitus’ Agrippina and Gloria Swanson’s Big Screen Legacy in *Mio Figlio Nerone* (1956)  
Christos Argyropoulos (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece)

**Break: 30 minutes**

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## FRIDAY, APRIL 24

### Session 2

2:00 – 4:00 p.m. (EDT); 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. (Belo Horizonte); 9:00 – 11:00 p.m. (Athens); 6:00 – 8:00 a.m. (Saturday, Auckland)

#### Gigolos, Cuckolds, Bullies: Supporting Male Characters in Big Screen Adaptations of Greek Tragedy

**Chair:** Maria Cecilia de Miranda N. Coelho (Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil)

Absent on Stage, Present on Screen: Reimagining Aegisthus in Cacoyannis' *Electra*  
Kaiti Diamantakou (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece)

Creon and Toxic Masculinity in Auteur Cinema: Pasolini, von Trier, Ripstein  
Patricia Salzman-Mitchell (Montclair State University, USA)

Caught between Ambition and Vulnerability: Menelaus in Cacoyannis' *The Trojan Women* and *Iphigenia*  
Anastasia Bakogianni (Massey University, New Zealand)

**Break: 60 minutes**

### Session 3

5:00 – 6:30 p.m. (EDT); 10:00 – 11:30 p.m. (Lisbon); 7:00 – 8:30 a.m. (Saturday, Melbourne)

#### The Hero's Brother-in-Arms: Male Bonding in Cinematic Retellings of Greek Epic

**Chair:** Walter D. Penrose, Jr. (San Diego State University, USA)

Screening *Patroclus*  
Nuno Simões Rodrigues (University of Lisbon, Portugal)

Homosocial Pathos: Hercules and Hylas in the Late Post-War Hollywood Epic *Jason and the Argonauts* (1963)  
Djoymi Baker (Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Australia)

## SATURDAY, APRIL 25

### Session 4

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (EDT); 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. (CDT)

#### Figures in Between: Mediating Power and Identity in Cinematic Antiquity

**Chair:** Georgia Tsouvalas (Illinois State University, USA)

The Queen's Insolent Maid: From Mute Servant in the *Odyssey* to Embodiment of 1920s Flapper Femininity  
in *The Private Life of Helen of Troy*  
Konstantinos P. Nikoloutsos (Saint Joseph's University, USA)

Social Space and Seeking Redemption in William Wyler's *Ben-Hur* (1959)  
Jennifer Rea (University of Florida, USA)

Modeling Middle Management in Hollywood Sword-and-Sandal Films of 1950s and 1960s  
Lee L. Brice (Western Illinois University, USA)

**Break: 60 minutes**

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## SATURDAY, APRIL 25

### Session 5

Time: 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. (EDT); 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. (CDT); 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. (UK)

#### Depicting the “Other”: Outsiders in Celluloid Rome

**Chair:** Tommaso Gazzarri (Union College, USA)

Cinema's Ur-Black Gladiator: Glycon and His Legacy  
Kirsten Day (Augustana College, USA)

The Woman and the Gladiator Revisited: Women and/as Gladiators on Screen 2024-2026  
Amanda Potter (The Open University, UK)

Occidentalism and the She-Wolf: Self, Other, and the Western Turn in *Centurion* (2010)  
Jesse Weiner (Hamilton College, USA)

### RESPONDENT

Monica S. Cyrino (University of New Mexico, USA)  
3:00 – 3:30 p.m. (EDT); 2:00 – 2:30 p.m. (MDT)