

The Weight of Antiquity: Early-Modern Classicisms

An Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference

Saturday, 23rd February 2019

CALL FOR PAPERS

"A person who does not know the history of the last 3,000 years wanders in the darkness of ignorance, unable to make sense of the reality around him." - Goethe

Humanity has always had a complex relationship with its past. From the Renaissance to the late 18th century, nations of early-modern Europe culturally came into their own by negotiating the legacy bequeathed it by their former Roman colonizers, wrestling with antiquity's heritage in order to cultivate their own national identities through literary, artistic, philosophical, and other means. Antiquity was simultaneously seen a source of inspiration, a canon to imitate, a model to surpass, contest or reject. The quarrel of the Ancients and Moderns is but one exemplary cultural phenomenon of this tension. France, England, Italy, and Germany all grappled with the implications of this quarrel during the 17th and 18th centuries.

The word "classical," however, has various acceptations. Shifting from the Latin notion of *classicus*, originally referring to the highest tax-payer category but evolving through metonymy to designate the most praised authors of antiquity; it gained a canonical and aesthetic connotation in 18th century Europe. The concept of "classical," meaning a use of a past aesthetic or standard to redefine or legitimize the present, is concurrent in many civilizations across the globe. This conference is meant to explore the different acceptations of the notion of the classical in all its pluralities. In the European context, we prefer an early-modern emphasis, but we welcome proposals from different interpretations of global classicisms as well as from other areas of focus, addressing, but not limited to, the following topics:

- Comparative Classicisms in a global perspective
- Early-modern adaptations of classical literary works
- Early modern reflections on Antiquity's heritage
- Classicizing aspects of visual arts, architecture, and material culture
- Philosophical engagement with and deviation from Antiquity
- Quarrel of Ancients and Moderns
- Gender Studies
- Political theory
- History
- Early-modern historiography of Antiquity
- Aesthetics
- National identities vis-à-vis antiquity

Please submit an abstract of no more than 300 words for a 20 minutes presentation along with a résumé including name, institutional affiliation, degree level, email address, and phone number to early.modern.classicisms@gmail.com. Abstracts are due **November 30, 2018**.

Please direct questions to O

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