

## **Blogging and its potential**

There are many excellent blogs about the ancient Greek and Roman worlds their legacies, some of which are currently listed on the [ICS website](#). In this short note I'd like to share a little bit about my own blogging project, *Confabulations*, with some suggestions as to how it might offer a useful model for other projects.

*Confabulations* is a series of 24 posts, each around 700 words, and each researched and written to speak to a single theme: the reimagining of the Latin language and its history 'from below'. It is simultaneously a piece of research, a public engagement project, and a pedagogical tool, and my hope is that it helps to critique the current orthodoxy in the Humanities, which assigns a disproportionate value to research at the expense of public engagement and pedagogy. It draws on the work of many scholars, cited at the end of each post, as well as my own work; in particular it takes inspiration from the work of J. N. Adams and others on 'informal' Latin, which is to say (largely) non-canonical texts, socially, geographically, and temporally diverse in origin. As a blog freely accessible to anyone with an internet connection, it is meant to act as a conduit for that scholarship to reach a wider, non-academic audience, and to paint Latin in more democratic terms. Inspired by my own teaching experience, it is now part of the elementary, extramural, and elective Latin curricula in my department, helping (hopefully), amidst the flurry of vocabulary and grammar, to get students thinking about the history and politics of this curious language which they have chosen to study.

Now *Confabulations* is imperfect in lots of ways, but I'd like to suggest that this kind of blogging – more politicizing intervention than casual reflection – could help contribute to the work of social justice which is ongoing in the field of Classics (I was heartened to learn of the good work being done in this regard by fellow contributors to the workshop). A set number of posts organized around a particular theme, and with definite goals in mind. A work of public scholarship, however small, available online for communities across a wide variety of schools, universities, and beyond. A research project that would be seen, not as a side project to one's 'main work' of more traditional forms of research, but as an important and useful end in itself. An opportunity to give an official platform to younger scholars and teachers from diverse backgrounds who have something to say, supported, as I have been, by their Department(s) or their School(s). A means of helping to bring the work of social justice from the margins of Classics into the heart of the canon and its reception. And a means of helping to foster a more progressive pedagogy, one which believes that the Humanities have the capacity to speak, not

only to matters of style and beauty, form and influence, but to what it means to be human at this particular historical moment, amid the brutalities of late capitalism, structural racism, and climate crisis.

That is, perhaps, an ambitious set of things to list, but I've learnt so much from writing the blog. It has turned my idea of Latin upside down in very productive ways, and given me a host of new ideas for teaching and research. In the often lonely world of research, it's been a thrill to have readers, both those I know and those I don't, get something from the posts and communicate that back to me. Maybe others reading this note could get similar inspiration from projects of their own, and benefit the Classics community while doing so. If you'd like to read *Confabulations*, you can do so [here](#).

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