

Institute of Classical Studies

Classical Archaeology/Ancient History Seminar Series

Terms 2 (Weds 5pm, online) and 3 (Thurs 4.30pm, in-person)

### **Disorienting the Classical**

Organised by Lindsay Allen (King's), Andrew Gardner (UCL), Eva Mol (UCL)

(Dis)orienting. The concept of orientation from Sara Ahmed's *Queer Phenomenology* allows us to rethink orientation through familiarity and otherness. This is not only about orientation of how we 'find our way', but how we come to 'feel at home'. It is about the familiarity of the world: I necessarily orient myself both in and from my being already alongside a world which is 'familiar' (from Heidegger 1973). Familiarity is what is, as it were, given, and which in being given 'gives' people the capacity to be orientated in this way or in that. Turning this to the study of Classics the series should then perhaps work from how we have become familiarised and oriented to particular topics, making the field a much narrower working space than we often realise. This includes topics, historiography, political and national agendas, publication, museums. This topic also includes the recent debates acknowledging the complicity of the Classical as a field in constructing and participating in elitist, racist and anti-black educational structures and attitudes. Then naturally, orientation working from familiarity should *de-familiarize* and re-orient, and the only way to do this constructively is to bring in subjects and fields that are historically marginalised from Classical studies. In this way, we will make an attempt to make people 'at home' with a different Classical World.

#### **Part 1: Orienting (historiography)**

- 1: 26 Jan: Limits of the Classical in space and time: Michael Squire (King's), Caroline Stark (Howard), Rachel Mairs (Reading).
- 2: 9 Feb: Locating the classical in the non-classical (two short case studies): Lindsay Allen (KCL) "La Persepolitana: narrating a Classical sculpture abroad" and Gunvor Lindström (DAI, Berlin) "Cut apart and put together: Greek Silenoi from Dinawar (Iran)"
- 3: 23 Feb: The 'Classical', the 'Nordic', and the far right: Andrew Gardner (UCL), Elisabeth Niklasson (Aberdeen).

#### **Part 2: Disorienting (current issues and evaluation)**

- 4: 9 March: Year of Decolonization: Zena Kamash (Royal Holloway).
- 5: 23 March: Student initiatives and discussion (led by Eva Mol, UCL).
- 6: 28 April: Archaeology, Nation, and Race: confronting the past, decolonizing the future in Greece and Israel: Yannis Hamilakis (Brown) and Rafi Greenberg (Tel Aviv).

#### **Part 3: Re-orienting (different entanglements)**

- 7: 5 May: Deconstructing the Silk Roads: Paul Wordsworth (UCL).
- 8: 12 May: On the influence of Classical sculpture on African American and Indigenous artists: Cora Gilroy-Ware (Oxford).
- 9: 19 May: Title tbc: Khodadad Rezakhani (Princeton).
- 10: 9 June: Views from the northern borders (tbc).
- 11: 16 June: Cross-cultural 'classics' (tbc).
- 12: 23 June: Disorienting the Classical Colloquium.

