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## Classics Colloquium

### Overview

A 3-day classics colloquium exploring the theme of “War and Trauma: Ancient and Modern Dialogues”.

### Date/Location

12-15 December 2023, University of Bologna  
Institute for Advanced Study, Palazzo Marchesini, Via Marsala 26  
(<https://site.unibo.it/isa/en/contacts>)

### University of Bologna

Professor Francesco Citti:

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### Europaem

Dr Miles Pattenden

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Dr Hartmut Mayer

[executivechair@europaeum.org](mailto:executivechair@europaeum.org)

This colloquium aims to see how modern preoccupations illuminate hidden aspects to ancient texts and how ancient texts can provide a fresh resource for thinking about, and surviving, modern warfare.

The devastating wars of the 20<sup>th</sup> century led us to say “Never Again” – yet for millions of people conflict, and its ghosts, are a fact of daily life. In Europe, we once more live in the shadow of struggles which, directly or indirectly, have implications for us all. We (re)turn to the classical world to understand warfare in the ancient imagination – to ask *how can we make sense of war? How can we learn to live with the trauma it causes?*

We all know that war had place of pride in Spartan culture but not all in Antiquity were so bellicose. Orators sometimes commended their populations to warfare but at others dissuaded them from it. Contemporary ideas about trauma can also be relevant to Antiquity: we can use them as prompts to ask how classical poets and playwrights grappled with the complex range of emotions that warfare stimulated, and how they explored its effects for soldiers and civilians alike.



## Programme

### 12<sup>th</sup> December (arrivals day)

21h00 Welcome drink at the [Bounty Pub, Via delle Moline 6a](#)

### 13<sup>th</sup> December

10h00 Cultural Programme – Guided tour of the Museo archeologico civico. Meet outside main entrance in the Via dell'Archiginnasio. Afterwards, explore the city. The Europaeum will reimburse lunch on this day up to €20 on production of receipts.

16h00 Registration in Palazzo Marchesini (colloquium venue)

16h30 Formal welcome from Prof. Citti (Bologna), Dr Mayer (Europaeum), and Dr Pattenden (Europaeum)

17h00 **Keynote Lecture**

**Sergio Casali** (Università di Roma Tor Vergata): *The trauma of the Trojan War in Virgil's Aeneid* (Chair: Francesco Citti)

20h00 Dinner at Ristorante pizzeria Casa Altabella, via Altabella 12/a  
<https://casaltabella.it/>

### 14<sup>th</sup> December

10h00 **Keynote Lecture**

**Rory Cox** (University of St Andrews): *Confronting trauma: ancient military ethics and modern wars*

11h00 Coffee Break in Palazzo Marchesini

11h30 **Student Panel 1: “Trauma and Dilemmas in Epistemology.”**  
Chair: Mattia De Poli (UniBO)

- Marianna Leszczyk: *When Trauma Becomes History: Rethinking Thucydides in the Age of Testimony*
- Pablo A. Sanchez-Rodriguez: *Power Transition Theory or Thucydides Trap? Recognising Ancient Trauma in Modern War Studies*



- Siim Sokkal: *War and Trauma in Ancient Rome*
- Respondents: Florence Felsheim, Michele Castaldo

13h00 Lunch at La Scuderia, Piazza Verdi 2

14h30 **Student Panel 2: “Trauma and Affect: Understanding our Emotional Responses to Trauma Through Literary Tropes.”**  
Chair: Matteo Zaccarini (UniBO)

- Florence Felsheim (F.R): *War and Trauma in Roman Comedy*
- Alesia Zhuk: *Jus ad Bellum: The Evolution of the Just War Concept Over Time*
- Respondents: Sally Mubarak, Alessia Borriello

16h00 Coffee break in Palazzo Marchesini followed by free time

20h00 Dinner at Cantina Bentivoglio, via Mascarella 4/b  
<https://www.cantinabentivoglio.it/?>

## 15<sup>th</sup> December

10h00 **Expert Panel: Ancient-Modern Dialogue**

**Antonio Ziosi** (UniBO): *Fragments of songs and fragments of landscape in Verg. Ecl. 9: when poetry clashes with the traumas of history*

**Diana Gonçalves** (UCP): *Winter Is Coming: the war against climate change and the traumatic imagination of the collapse to come*

11h00 Coffee Break in Palazzo Marchesini

11h30 **Student Panel 3: “The Movements, Geography, and Lived Environments of Trauma.”** Chair: Bruna Pieri (UniBO)

- Sally Mubarak (F.R.): *City Boundaries and Military Trauma in Livy’s Early Rome*
- Nikolas Keckhut: *Forced Migration: A Comparative Study of Ancient Greek Societies and the Practice of Asylum in Europe*
- Emilia Herok (F.R): *Only an empty pedestal has remained. Antiquity and war trauma in Zbigniew Herbert’s “String of Light.”*
- Respondents: Pablo A. Sánchez- Rodríguez, Alessandro Roncaglia, Marianna Leszczyk



- 13h00 Lunch at La Scuderia, Piazza Verdi 2
- 14h30 **Student Panel 4: “Trauma and Historical Distance.”** Chair: Tommaso Ricchieri (UniBO)
- Anna Coopey: *“Subjunctive History”*: A Case for Renewed Empathy in Our Engagement with Ancient Warfare
  - Maria Koulouri: *Logic, Ethos, Pathos: From Antigone to the Temporality and Topography of War Trauma*
  - Respondents: Claudia Nuovo, Giuseppe Izzo
- 16h00 Final discussion (Dr Mayer, Dr Pattenden, Prof. Citti, and the students)
- 17h00 End of Colloquium/Departures

### List of Participants

Anna Coopey	Oxford	Classics
Florence Felsheim	St Andrews	Classics
Emilia Herok	Jagiellonian	Philology
Nikolas Keckhut	Jagiellonian	Classics
Maria Koulouri	St Andrews	Social Anthropology
Marianna Leszczyk	Oxford	Classics
Sally Mubarak	St Andrews	Ancient History
Pablo Sánchez Rodríguez	Complutense	Political Science/IR
Siim Sõkkal	Tartu	Ancient History
Alesia Zhuk	Pompeu Fabra	Law

**Sergio Casali** is a classical philologist and Latinist who is Professor of Classics at Roma 2 Tor Vergata University. His books include studies of Vergil and Ovid.

**Rory Cox** is Senior Lecturer in Medieval History at the University of St Andrews and author of *Origins of the Just War: Military Ethics and Culture in the Ancient Near East* (Princeton, 2024).

**Diana Gonçalves** is Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Human Sciences at the Catholic University of Portugal. Her publications include the book *9/11: Culture, Catastrophe, and the Critique of Singularity* (De Gruyter, 2016).

**Antonio Ziosi** is Associate Professor of Latin Literature at the University of Bologna. His books include *Didone. La tragedia dell'abbandono. Variazioni sul mito* (Virgilio, Ovidio, Boccaccio, Marlowe, Metastasio, Ungaretti, Brodskij) (Marsilio, 2017).

