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The Past and Present Society



The Classical Association



The British Society for the History of Philosophy



The Mind Association

Ἐμφαίνει καὶ τὸ σείστρον, ὅτι σείεσθαι δεῖ τὰ ὄντα καὶ μηδέποτε παύεσθαι φορᾶς, ἀλλ' οἶον ἐξεγείρεσθαι καὶ κλονεῖσθαι καταδαρθάνοντα καὶ μαραινόμενα. Τὸν γὰρ Τυφῶνά φασι τοῖς σείστροις ἀποτρέπειν καὶ ἀποκρούεσθαι, δηλοῦντες: ὅτι τῆς φθορᾶς συνδεούσης καὶ ἰστάσης, αὐθις ἀναλύει τὴν φύσιν καὶ ἀνίστησι διὰ τῆς κινήσεως ἢ γένεσις. (Plut. *De Is. et Os.* 376C-D)

DURHAM UNIVERSITY

**DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND
ANCIENT HISTORY**

International conference

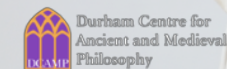
**Ancient Revelation
Divination, Prophecy and Epiphany**

25 – 27 June 2019

Birley Room, Hatfield College
North Bailey, Durham DH1 3

Organiser: Elsa G Simonetti
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dcamp.uk/events/revelation



The objective of this conference is to explore the reasons for the paramount success that the concept of ‘revelation’ enjoys during the first Imperial era. Its chronological focus is placed on the I-IV centuries AD, an age in which the notion of ‘revealed truth’ is appropriated by different religious, ethnic, and cultural groups (such as Jews, Christians and pagans), who employ it to define their respective identities and traditions, to articulate their reciprocal (and not always peaceful) interactions, and more broadly to construct their own worldview — a far-reaching endeavour, whose effects are still visible today.

The main questions that the workshop will address include the following: what made the notions of ‘revelation’ and ‘revealed truth’ so suitable to define the battlefield and the very terms of the momentous confrontation between diverse religious, philosophical and cultural strands in this age? How does this dynamic relate to the complete ‘paradigm shift’ to which ancient forms of prophecy and divination undergo in the II-III centuries AD? How were the crucial parameters of ‘authority’ and ‘authenticity’ defined in this context, as applied to charismatic individuals as well as divinely inspired texts? Which conceptual systems were developed to frame the interplay between rational investigation and inspired ways knowledge acquisition? And, more broadly, is the modern dichotomy, and hierarchical relationship, between ‘rationality’ and ‘irrationality’ really effective when it comes to our study of the philosophical-religious beliefs of the ancient world?

Tuesday 25th June

16:30 - Welcome reception

17:00–18:30: Panel 1

- ❖ Andrei Timotin (Romanian Academy (ISEES) - Institute of Philosophy ‘Al. Dragomir’, Bucharest): *The Neoplatonic Background of a Text on Prophecy Attributed to John Chrysostom*
- ❖ Ilaria Ramelli (Graduate School of Theology, SHMS, Angelicum, Detroit): *‘Revelation’ for Christians and Pagans and its Philosophical Allegoresis: Intersections within Imperial Platonism*

19:00 - Dinner
Zen, Court Ln, Durham DH1 3JS

Wednesday 26th June

09:15–10:45 - Panel 2

- ❖ Jane Heath (Durham): *Revelation and the Muses from the Classical to the Imperial Age*
- ❖ Claire Hall (Oxford): *Prophecy in Origen’s Work*

10:45 - Coffee break

11:15–12:45 - Panel 3

- ❖ Georgia Petridou (Liverpool): *Epiphany and Divination Reconsidered: the Curious Case of Aelius Aristides*
- ❖ Crystal Addey (St Andrews): *Divination and Dialogue in Porphyry and Iamblichus*

12:45 - Buffet lunch

14:30–16:00 - Panel 4

- ❖ Robert Parker (Oxford): *Oracles, Diviners and Consultants*
- ❖ Aude Busine (ULB, Bruxelles): *‘The bubbling water has been quenched.’ Emperor Julian and the End of Oracles*

16:00 - Coffee break

16:30–18:45 - Panel 5

- ❖ Hanna Tervanotko (McMaster): *Gender and Divinatory Techniques in Jewish Texts of the Greco-Roman Era*
- ❖ Federico Santangelo (Newcastle): *Revelation and Roman Augury*
- ❖ Elsa G Simonetti (Durham): *Divination in Late Stoicism*

19:00 - Reception: SCR, St Chad’s College
18 N Bailey, Durham DH1 3RH

Thursday 27th June

09:15–10:45 - Panel 6

- ❖ Marco Zambon (Padova): *Pseudo-Clement and the True Prophet*
- ❖ Katharina Waldner (Erfurt): *The Proof from Martyrdom: Early Christian Martyrdom Narratives as Performances of True Prophecy*

10:45 - Coffee break

11:15–12:45 - Panel 7

- ❖ Ilinca Tanaseanu-Döbler (Göttingen): *Epiphany in Iamblichus and Proclus*
- ❖ Peter Struck (UPenn): *Comparative Perspectives on Greek Divination and Christian Prophecy*

12:45–13:30 - Final discussion