



LECTURES AND EVENTS: 2013-2014

CRAM SEMINAR

“Friends and Family”

- Saul Olyan, Brown University
- Tuesday, September 10, 2013, 12:00pm
- Rhode Island Hall, Room 008

LECTURE

“Aischrology in Old Comedy and the Question of ‘Ritual Obscenity’”

- Ralph Rosen, Professor of Classical Studies, University of Pennsylvania
- Thursday, September 19, 2013, 6:00 PM
- Rhode Island Hall, Room 108

CONFERENCE

“The Past in the Present: Interpreting Herodotus After Charles W. Fornara”

- Friday, September 20-22nd, 2013
- Columbia University
- Charles Fornara earned his B.A. at Columbia University in 1956. He went on to earn an M.A. at the University of Chicago (1958), as well as a Ph.D. from the University of California at Los Angeles (1961). He is now the David Benedict Professor of Classics and History (Emeritus) here at Brown University. *Fornara’s Herodotus: An Interpretative Essay of 1971* stands out in Herodotean scholarship, in particular for locating Herodotus in the context of the Atheno-Peloponnesian war and for its exploration of the Athens-Sparta conflict as a ‘red thread’ running through the Histories. This book also includes penetrating discussion of other issues: the relative unity of Herodotus’ work, the relationship between ethnographies and historical narrative; and the significance of ‘patterning’ within the Histories, the way (in Fornara’s words) in which ‘history became moral and Herodotus didactic’. Forty years on from the publication of *Herodotus: An Interpretative Essay*, this conference brings together a group of international scholars with varying approaches and interpretative skills into dialogue with one another, to look afresh at the themes of Fornara’s Essay in the light of the scholarship of the intervening years. If you would like to attend the conference, or if you have any queries, please contact the organizers, Tom Harrison (tehh@liv.ac.uk) or Liz Irwin (ei42@columbia.edu).

LECTURE

“Of Wounds and Words: Sophocles’ Philoctetes Today”

- Carolin Hahnemann, Professor of Classics, Kenyon College
- Friday, September 27, 2013, 12:00pm
- MacFarlane Seminar Room, 48 College Street

LECTURE

"Reflections on the Intellectual Tradition of Southeastern Europe"

- Paschalis Kitromilides, Modern Greek Studies, University of Athens
- Tuesday, October 1, 2013, 5:30pm
- Maddock Alumni Center, Brian Room

LECTURE

"Go Tell the Spartans... 'Representing War and the Warrior in Ancient Greece (ca. 800-450 BC)"

- Andrew Stewart, Professor of Ancient Mediterranean Art and Archaeology in the Departments of History of Art and Classics, Nicholas C. Petris, Professor of Greek Studies, and Curator of Mediterranean Archaeology at the Hearst Museum of Anthropology at the University of California at Berkeley
- Thursday, October 3, 2013, 6:30 pm
- Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World, Rhode Island Hall, Brown University
- For more information: <http://aianarragansett.org/2013/09/04/stewart/>

CRAM SEMINAR

"Real and Constructed Time in Babylonian Astral Medicine"

- John Steele, EAWAS, Brown University
- Tuesday, October 8, 2013, 12:00pm
- Rhode Island Hall, Room 008

BROWN/YALE LECTURE

"The Comic Symposium and the Paradox of 'Elite Comedy'"

- Stephen Kidd, Brown University with a response by Victor Bers, Yale University
- Tuesday, October 8, 2013, 5:30-9:30pm
- Yale University
- Open to invited guests

MEETING

Brown Hellenistic Worlds – Brainstorming Session

- Tuesday, October 15, 2013, 12:00pm
- Rhode Island Hall, Room 108
- A Brown community of researchers works on various aspects of the Hellenistic world. We cover a wide geographical expanse in our research interests and come at the Hellenistic world from different perspectives. Many of us operate in different Departments or Institutes. Religious Studies, Archaeology, Classics, Ancient History, History, Comparative Literature, History of Art and Architecture, Egyptology and Ancient Western Asian Studies, and Philosophy are all likely venues where we may be based. This meeting will gather interested people together to meet and shape potential developments, projects and workshops.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSION

“The Classics Job Market: How to Get the Most from the APA Placement Service”

- Adam Blistein, Executive Director of the APA
- Friday, October 18, 2013, 3:00pm
- MacFarlane Lounge, 48 College Street

LECTURE

“Crisis in the European Periphery”

- Kostas Vergopoulos, Modern Greek Studies, University of Paris, VIII
- Thursday, October 23, 2013, 5:30pm

WORKSHOP

“The Emotional Bond: Deepening Relations Between Animals, Humans, Nature”

- Featuring Karl Taube, University of California, Riverside; Sue Curry, Brown University; Erica Fudge, University of Strathclyde; Kari Weil, Wesleyan College; and Eduardo Kohn, McGill University
- Saturday, October 26, 2013, 9:30am - 4:00pm
- Rhode Island Hall, Room 108
- This all-day workshop will explore human-animal relationships in cognitive and emotional terms. For the full schedule and presentation abstracts, visit: http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Early_Cultures/animals/bond.html

MELLON GRADUATE WORKSHOP

“Late Antiquity: Whether We Like it or Not”

- Christian Wildberg, Princeton University
- Wednesday, October 30, 2013, 5:30pm
- Rhode Island Hall, Room 108
- A Graduate International Colloquium sponsored by the Office of International Affairs, the Departments of Comparative Literature, Philosophy, Classics, Religious Studies, and the Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World

CONFERENCE

“Late Literature in the Sixth Century, East and West”

- Thursday, October 31, 2013 – Saturday, November 2, 2013
- Brown University
- International Society for late antique literary studies, organized by David Bright, Scott McGill, and Joseph Pucci

LECTURE

“How a Translation Might Approximate Everything”

- Edward McCrorie, Professor Emeritus of English, Providence College
- Wednesday, November 6, 2013, 5:30pm
- Rhode Island Hall, Room 108
- McCrorie follows up on his successful translations of *The Aeneid* and *The Odyssey*, aims at both meaning and music in the *Iliad*

CRAM SEMINAR

"Xenophon's *Cynegeticus* and its Defense of Liberal Education"

- Stephen Kidd, Classics, Brown University
- Tuesday, November 12, 2013, 12:00pm
- Rhode Island Hall, Room 008

FILM SCREENING

"Smyrna: The Destruction of a Cosmopolitan City: 1900-1922"

- Maria Iliou, Modern Greek Studies
- Wednesday, November 13, 2013, 6:00pm
- Smith Buonanno Hall, Room 106
- A documentary film introduced by the director, Maria Iliou

LECTURE

"The Companions of Muhammad and the Articulation of 'Orthodoxies' in Medieval Islam"

- Nancy Khalek
- Thursday, November 14, 2013, 5:30pm
- AnnMary Brown Memorial
- The Rhode Island Medieval Circle Lectures

LECTURE

"Masters, Slaves, Animals and Freedom: A Mytilenean Perspective"

- Ewen Bowie, Oxford University
- Wednesday, November 20, 2013, 5:30pm
- Rhode Island Hall, Room 108

LATIN CAROL CELEBRATION

- Monday, December 9, 2013, 8:00pm
- First Baptist Meeting House, 75 North Main Street, Providence, RI
- Featuring seasonal readings by Brown Classics Department Faculty. Carols for all with musical prelude and accompaniment by University Organist Mark Steinbach, plus the Chattertocks' rendition of the XII days of Christmas and a special appearance by the Brown Madrigal Singers. Admission is free; all are welcome.

CRAM SEMINAR

"Self-talk: The rhetoric and the spaces of representing the self from the mid-Republic to the early Empire"

- Zsuzsanna Varhelyi, Classics, Boston University
- Tuesday, December 10, 2013, 12:00pm
- Rhode Island Hall, Room 008

LECTURE

“Euripides, Pindar and Others: What Makes Poetry Poetic?”

- Michael Silk, King’s College London
- Thursday, February 6, 2014, 5:30pm
- Smith-Buonanno, Room 106
- What makes poetry poetic? After an analysis of contrasting passages from Euripides and Pindar, the question, and a series of possible answers to the question, is considered in the context of the Western poetic traditions overall, from ancient Greece to the English-speaking world of today. A wide range of theoretical positions is taken into account, from Aristotle to Bakhtin, from Baumgarten to Valéry. Poetic elevation, poetic heightening, poetic ‘truth’, and the valorizing of poetry and the poetic are singled out as the crucial elements in an as yet unresolved problematic. (Sponsored jointly with Yale University.)

CRAM SEMINAR

“Total Recall? Lycurgus, Biography, and Civic Honor in Athens”

- Graham Oliver, Classics, Brown University
- Tuesday, February 11, 2014, 12:00pm
- Rhode Island Hall, Room 008

SYMPOSIUM

“Christians and Muslims: Early Encounters”

- Sunday, February 23, 2014, 2:00-6:00pm
- Rhode Island Hall, Room 108
- A symposium at Brown University. Featuring keynote speakers, Sidney H. Griffith, Catholic University of America and Michael Penn, Mt. Holyoke College. Prof. Griffith will give a lecture titled, "Bible and Qur'an: Memory, Engagement and Difference", followed by Prof. Penn's lecture "Beyond Clashing Civilizations: Rethinking Early Christian-Muslim Relations." The symposium will conclude with a roundtable discussion "New Questions in the study of early Muslim-Christian Relations" with Jonathan Conant, Brown University; Steven Judd, Southern-Connecticut State University; Sandra Toenies Keating, Providence College; Charles Stang, Harvard Divinity School; and Anthony Watson, Brown University. For more information and the full schedule of events please visit the Religious Studies Department website.

LECTURE

“‘I Make New a Song Born of Old’: On the New Translation of the Rgveda”

- Stephanie Jamison, UCLA
- Thursday, February 27, 2014, 5:30pm
- Smith-Buonanno, Room 106
- Lecture on Oxford’s publication of a new, complete English translation of the Rig Veda. Sponsored by the Brown-India Initiative; Hosted by the Department of Classics

LECTURE

“Tragedy and Revolution: Hannah Arendt and Karl Marx”

- Miriam Leonard, University College London
- Monday, March 3, 2014, 5:30pm
- Rhode Island Hall, Room 108
- The advent of Greek tragedy is frequently associated by scholars with the intellectual and political revolutions of the fifth century BCE. The modern understanding of tragedy, however, has been strongly associated with a different revolution – the French Revolution. Raymond Williams argues that “Since the time of the French Revolution, the idea of tragedy can be seen as in different ways a response to a culture in conscious change and movement. The action of tragedy and the action of history have been consciously connected, and in the connection have been seen in new ways”. If Raymond Williams is correct to say that the French revolution inaugurates a new “structure of feeling”, can one understand the turn to tragedy within modernity as a way of making sense of this new affective structure? This paper looks at the discussion of tragedy in Hannah Arendt’s *On Revolution* and Karl Marx’s *Eighteenth Brumaire* to explore the relationship between tragic drama and revolutionary action.

LECTURE

“Alexander the Great in Babylon: Reality and Myth”

- Krzysztof Nawotka, Wroclaw University, Poland
- Thursday, March 6, 2014, 6:00pm
- List Art, Room 110

LECTURE

“Editors and Texts: Texts and Editors”

- Gareth Schmeling, University of Florida
- Monday, March 10, 2014, 5:30pm
- Smith-Buonanno Hall, Room 106
- Readers assume that the author named on the title page of the book before them actually wrote the book. In most cases the author credited with writing is the co-author with one or more editors. The Bible is a fine example of this, as are most ancient texts.

CRAM SEMINAR

“Ownership or Essence? The Holiness of Objects among Jews in Late Antique Palestine”

- Michael Satlow, Judaic Studies, Brown University
- Tuesday, March 11, 2013, 12:00pm
- Rhode Island Hall, Room 008

LECTURE

“The Prison Memoir of a Roman Christian Martyr: Perpetua’s Story”

- Thomas Heffernan, University of Tennessee
- Thursday, March 20, 2014, 5:30pm
- Rhode Island Hall, Room 108
- The Passion of Perpetua and Felicity is one of the most remarkable early Christian documents to survive from the Principate. It purports to be an eyewitness account – written in the first person by an elite Roman matron – of a pogrom that took place in the city of Carthage during the reign of Septimius Severus. The narrative is suffused with rare insight into the protagonist's life providing an uncommon, and, it should be said, an historically irregular depiction of familial relationships, particularly between father and daughter. I will address some basic questions – the reliability of the ancient editor; does the narrative reflect an accurate depiction of the social and political situation at the time and can the narrative’s claim to be a first person account be sustained?

CRAM SEMINAR

“On the Origins of Apotheosis in Ancient Egypt...”

- Julia Troche, PhD Candidate, Egyptology and Ancient Western Asian Studies , Brown University
- Tuesday, April 1, 2014, 12:00pm
- Rhode Island Hall, Room 008

THE 48TH ANNUAL CHARLES ALEXANDER ROBINSON, JR. MEMORIAL LECTURE

“The Musical Origins of Species in Ancient Greece: Humans, Animals, Gods”

- Mark Griffith, University of California, Berkeley
- Monday, April 17, 2014, 5:30pm
- Smith-Buonanno Hall, Room 106
- In this lecture Prof. Griffith will discuss ancient Greek views about human musicality -- why are human beings so musical? what does music do to/for people? -- in relation to their views about the music-making and -listening of animals, and also the large role of music in the imagined life of the gods. He will also compare some of these Classical Greek notions with the findings of modern evolutionary biology and cognitive science concerning the ways in which human and animal brains and bodies are programmed to generate and respond to music of various kinds.

LECTURE

“Regional Environmental Economics: Timber and Fuel for Roman Lazio and Campania”

- Robyn Veal, McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, University of Cambridge
- Tuesday, April 8, 2014, 5:30pm
- Rhode Island Hall, Room 108
- Fuel is a little considered part of the ancient economy, and yet it was required every day to cook food, heat buildings and baths, process metals, and make ceramics, to name the most common uses. It constituted perhaps 20%, or more, of the value of the economy. The provision of fuel is both complementary to, and in competition with, the provision of timber. Both wood and ‘non-wood fuels’ were used in Roman Italy, and the historic sources on both wood and fuel provide an interesting framework with which to compare the archaeological data. Using charcoal data from several sites in Rome, and Pompeii and surrounds, this paper will examine the fuel economy quantitatively and qualitatively, from the third century BC to the Imperial period.

THE 5TH ANNUAL GRIMSHAW-GUDEWICZ LECTURE

“Hysterical Seizures in Ancient Greek Women: Perspectives from Modern Psychology”

- Susan Mattern, University of Georgia
- Thursday, April 17, 2014, 6:30pm
- Rhode Island Hall, Room 108

LECTURE

“The Body of the Pantomime Dancer: Between Presence and Representation”

- Ruth Webb, Universite Lille 3
- Thursday, May 1, 2014, 5:30pm
- BERT 015
- Organized by the “Cultures of Performance in the Post-Classical Mediterranean,” a Mellon Graduate Student Workshop sponsored by the Cogut Center for the Humanities. Sponsored by the Departments of Religious Studies and Classics.

LECTURE

“Money and Athenian Tragedy”

- Richard Seaford, University of Exeter
- Friday, May 2, 2013, 5:30pm
- List Art, Room 110
- The monetisation of the polis was in various ways crucial to the Greek cultural revolution of the sixth century BCE. A fundamentally important fact about Athenian tragedy, never so much as noted in the vast scholarship, is that it came into being shortly after the introduction into Athens of coined money. In this talk Professor Seaford will illustrate this importance with particular reference to Sophocles' Oedipus Tyrannus and his Antigone.

LECTURE

“New Attic Inscriptions”

- Angelos Matthaiou, Greek Epigraphic Society, American School of Classical Studies at Athens, Editor of *Horos*
- Monday, May 5, 2014, 5:30pm
- Rhode Island Hall, Room 108

CRAM SEMINAR

“Guiding Grief: Liturgical Poetry and Ritual Lamentation in Early Byzantium”

- Susan Harvey, Religious Studies, Brown University
- Tuesday, May 6, 2014, 12:00pm
- Rhode Island Hall, Room 008

SEMINAR

"Ancient 'Nonsense'"

- Sara Chiarini, University of Exeter, Brown Global Forums
- Wednesday, May 7, 2014, 2:00pm
- MacFarlane House, Room 102

LECTURE

"The Corpus of 'Nonsense' Inscriptions of Ancient Greek Vase Painting"

- Sara Chiarini, University of Exeter
- Thursday, May 8, 2014, 5:30pm
- Rhode Island Hall, Room 108
- Dr. Chiarini's current research project consists in the first systematic investigation of the phenomenon of nonsense inscriptions in ancient Greek vase painting, which has been almost ignored by classical scholarship so far. The assembled database of over 1400 pieces has been sorted according to manifold criteria, like the length of the inscriptions, their position on the depicted surface, their spatial relationship with the figurative subject, the frequency of each letter and of some combinations of letters. This has made possible to notice the non-homogeneity of the collection and the urgency to put order in this array of epigraphic evidence, too superficially labelled as 'nonsense'.

One of the theoretical approaches that proved most fruitful is the linguistic one. Indeed, these inscriptions cover a wide linguistic spectrum, ranging from apparently chaotic strings of letters to repetitions of particular combinations, up to variations around Greek roots. In the last two cases, the phonetic dimension of such inscriptions needs to be considered as much as the visual one. This remark leads on the one hand to a discussion about the distribution of literacy within the Greek society and, on the other hand, to a comparison with other phenomena of nonsense writing in ancient Greece.