"The Song of Ismenias in the *Alexander Romance*: Imperial Prose Fiction Critiques the Canon"

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5:30 P.M.

R.I. Hall, Room 108  
60 George Street

The destruction of the city of Thebes by Alexander the Great in the Greek *Alexander Romance* is unlike any other account of the event in Imperial prose literature. In the fictional *Romance*, Alexander engages in a sophistic debate with the flute-player Ismenias on whether the Thebes of the tragic imagination should be preserved. In this presentation, Jacqueline Arthur-Montagne investigates how this debate reflects on the value and vitality of the Greek canon in Imperial reading communities, and why prose fiction becomes the genre in which this tragic legacy is contested.