"The Freedman’s Story: a witchcraft narrative from early Imperial Italy"

Duncan MacRae
University of California, Berkeley

Monday, November 21, 5:30pm
Rhode Island Hall, Room 108

About 1600 years before Salem, in the town of Todi (Umbria), a Roman freedman set up a Latin inscription which makes a remarkable accusation: a public slave had made an attempted ritual attack on the town’s council. But just as in Salem, there is more to this story than meets the eye: why did the freedman make this accusation? What can his story tell us about the social anxieties of early imperial Italy?

Lecture sponsored by the Department of Classics, with support from the Grimshaw-Gudewicz Foundation and the C.A. Robinson, Jr. Lectureship Fund

Please contact the Classics Department at classics_department@brown.edu or 401.863.1267 with any questions.