

# ANTIQUITY REACHES SOCIETY

## I<sup>ST</sup> WORKSHOP ON OUTREACH FOR CLASSICISTS

Warsaw | Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> - Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2026 | Hybrid event

Faculty of History of UW | ul. Krakowskie Przedmieście 26/28



Attic red-figure kylix (ca. 490-485) by Douris. Berlin, Antikensammlung, Staatliche Museen 2285.

### Organised by:

- Mariana Franco San Román
- Marina Bastero Acha
- Janek Kucharski
- Paweł Nowakowski

### This workshop is supported by:

- Faculty of History, University of Warsaw
- Institute of Literary Studies, University of Silesia in Katowice

Online registration is necessary: [Day 1](#); [Day 2](#)

The world is currently undergoing a period of rapid and profound change. The rapid emergence of technological advances in everyday life has fostered the expectation of immediate, tangible (often economic) results in every aspect of our lives. This acceleration is further amplified by the rise of artificial intelligence, where access to knowledge seems to be only one click away. Nevertheless, this whole process has raised doubts regarding how knowledge is created and disseminated. While this trend affects society at large, it seems to be more evident among the younger generations. Yet reflection, communication skills, and the effort required to interpret and understand texts remain essential for living together in a democratic society.

Traditionally, these skills have been developed within the framework of the humanistic disciplines: history, philosophy, literature, etc., and among them, classical studies and the study of antiquity have traditionally occupied a prominent role, both in secondary education and at the university. However, over the last few decades, classical studies have been relegated to a small niche within higher education and are sometimes regarded by policymakers or even other academics as expendable, outdated, or elitist. This bias is also mirrored by society at large, which continues to view academics as isolated individuals working in an “ivory tower”. This lack of connection with society has been recognised by some academics who believe that including novel perspectives, such as gender studies or decolonial or postcolonial studies, is merely a timid attempt at updating the field (e.g., Umachandran & Ward, 2024). Therefore, the rapid technological advances and the socio-political changes the world has endured within the last thirty years have led academia to question what its function is to society.

Despite the many advantages and skills the Humanities and, particularly Classical Studies among them, offer to society, these fields end up losing support for their continued presence in university curricula (something that has been made explicit with the discontinuation of BA, MA, and PhD programmes in different universities around the world). As classicists, we are ultimately confronted with a Gordian knot that we cannot seem to unbind. Part of the solution, however, may lie in improving communication and fostering a more open engagement with society.

This workshop aims to address this challenge in a practical and hands-on way: combining specific training with the exchange of personal experiences in outreach across diverse social contexts. Its main objective is to offer classicists concrete tools for the improvement of the way they communicate their results beyond academia. This entails thinking of them as agents of change in both the social and academic spheres. Therefore, the proposed activities seek to foster a reflective non-hierarchical dialogue between all the participants, in which the interaction between the proposed tools and the specificity of classical studies is central.

The workshop will include three types of activities: plenary lectures by guest speakers; training courses offered by specialists focusing on communication between academics and policymakers, working with young children and teenagers, and plain language, as well as panels on shared experiences by the participants.

# Workshop Programme

Day 1, Thursday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>

09:00 – Opening Words

- Łukasz Niesiołowski-Spanò, Dean of the Faculty of History, University of Warsaw (Poland)
- Paweł Nowakowski, Assistant Professor, University of Warsaw (Poland)
- Janek Kucharski, Director of the Institute of Literary Studies, University of Silesia in Katowice (Poland)

09:15 – Lecture 1

Alice König (University of St Andrews, United Kingdom)

Classics as an Applied Subject

10:15 – Coffee Break

10:30 – Course 1

Jakub Dłubak (Silesian University of Medicine in Katowice, Poland)

When Science Leaves the University Walls: Plain Language in Practice

12:00 – Lunch Break

13:30 – Panel 1: Pedagogical Experiences

- Analía Sapere (University of Buenos Aires, Argentina)
- Outreach Courses: The "Letras Clásicas" Experience at the University of Buenos Aires
- Mariana Franco San Román (University of Silesia in Katowice, Poland)
- Outreach for Kids: Aristophanes' Assemblywomen for a Gender-Based Reflection
- Jonatan Pérez Mostazo (University of the Basque Country) & Marina Bastero Acha (University of the Basque Country, Spain / University of Warsaw, Poland)
- Ancient Romans Go to High School: Epigraphy as a Tool for Outreach in Secondary Education
- Marta Fernández Corral (University of the Basque Country, Spain)
- Bringing Antiquity to Older Adults: Teaching in the Experience Classrooms of the University of the Basque Country
- María Silvina Del Bueno (National University of the Centre, Argentina), Elsa Rodríguez Cidre (University of Buenos Aires, Argentina), and María del Pilar Fernández de Agustini (National University of La Plata, Argentina)
- The Problems of the Filicidal Women: A Humanizing Proposal Through the Greek Myth to Nowadays, from Medea to the XXI Century Women

14:45 – Discussion (15 min.)

15:00 – End of the Day

17:00 – Optional for In-Person Attendees: City Walk

## Workshop Programme

### Day 2 – Friday, July 3rd

09:00 – Course 2

Laura Torcal Romero (University of Murcia, Spain)

Reconnecting Students with the Humanities: Practical Strategies for Bringing Classical Disciplines into the Classroom

11:00 – Coffee Break

11:15 – Panel 2: Outreach Genres

- Łukasz Niesiołowski-Spanò (Dean, University of Warsaw, Poland)
- History and Classical Studies Online – A Personal Experience
- Fiona Radford & Peta Greenfield (The Partial Historians)
- Sounds Like History: Podcasting and Historiography
- Tomás Aguilera Durán (Autonomous University of Madrid, Spain)
- Café Antique: Bringing Classical Reception Studies to Bars and Cafés
- Darío Sánchez Vendramini (National University of Córdoba, Argentina)
- Teaching the Ancient World on YouTube: Can AI Help Create Visually Compelling Content Without Sacrificing Scholarly Rigor?

12:15 – Discussion (15 min.)

12:30 – Lunch Break

14:00 – Lecture 2

Edith Hall (Durham University, United Kingdom)

Antiquity and Confronting 21st-Century Problems

15:00 – Coffee Break

15:15 – Course 3

Diego Forte (University of Buenos Aires / National Service for Agri-Food Health and Quality, Argentina)

Uncomfortable Knowledges: Strategies to Reconfigure the Role of Social Sciences and Humanities in the 21st Century

17:15 – Closing Remarks

- Marina Bastero Acha
- Mariana Franco San Román

17:30 – End of the Day

## Short CVs

### Lecturers



**Edith Hall** is Professor of Classics at Durham University, Consultant Director of the Archive of Performances of Greek and Roman Drama at Oxford University and Fellow of the British Academy. She has published forty books on ancient culture and its reception in the modern world, campaigns to widen access to classical subjects in state schools and prisons and broadcasts frequently on the BBC.



**Alice König** graduated from King's College, Cambridge, with a BA (Hons) First Class in Classics in 1999. She then studied for an MPhil degree at King's College, Cambridge, and for a PhD at St John's College, Cambridge. She arrived in St Andrews to take up a temporary lectureship in Classics in 2003 and was successful in securing a permanent post as Lecturer in Latin in 2005.

## Courses' Instructors



**Jakub Dłubak** holds a BA in Journalism from the University of Wrocław and an MA in Social Communication from the University of Social Sciences in Poznań. He has completed numerous training programs in marketing communication. He is a content creator, journalist, digital communication practitioner, and enthusiast of linguistics and literature. He has more than a decade of experience at the intersection of marketing, new media, and social communication. In his daily work, he creates promotional video scripts and promotes communication through language that resonates with readers, whether addressing a broad audience or a highly specialised target group. Since 2018, he has been a member of the Silesian Marketing Society, and in 2026, he joined the American Center for Plain Language.



**Diego Forte** holds a BA in Literature and Linguistics from the University of Buenos Aires and a PhD in Multimodal Discourse Analysis from the Universidad del Salvador, Argentina. He currently holds a research position at the University of Buenos Aires, where he has taught undergraduate and postgraduate courses in multimodal discourse analysis and ecolinguistics. In addition, he teaches postgraduate courses in multimodality at the Universidad de La Serena (Chile) and serves as an academic analyst for the Ministry of Agriculture of Argentina.



**Laura Torcal Romero** is a researcher and educator with an interdisciplinary background combining musical performance, language education, and educational sciences. She holds a Higher degree in Violin Performance (Murcia) and a BA and MA in Music in Violin from the Conservatorium van Amsterdam and Fontys Hogescholen (The Netherlands). Since 2017, she has worked as a Secondary Education teacher specializing in Music, English as a Foreign Language, and Spanish Language and Literature. She also completed a Degree in Primary Education at the Universidad de Murcia. She is a PhD candidate in Education, focusing on verbal creativity and Artificial Intelligence in Secondary Education. She is an active member of the Interdisciplinary Research Group in Educational Psychology and the Didactics of Language, Literature and the Arts.

## Panel Speakers

**Tomás Aguilera Durán** holds a degree in History (University of Salamanca) and a PhD in Ancient World Studies (Autonomous University of Madrid). He has undertaken research stays at Oxford, Durham, Chicago, and Santiago, Chile. Since 2022, he has been an assistant professor at the Autonomous University of Madrid. His main research focus is the reception of Antiquity in the modern and contemporary periods, with particular attention to its ideological and identity-related dimensions. In this area, he is a member of the research group “Antiquity, Nationalism, and Identities in Western Historiography” (University of the Basque Country).

**Marina Bastero Acha** is a historian and epigraphist, currently a postdoctoral researcher at the University of the Basque Country and member of the ERC project Stone Masters. Her research combines epigraphic and archaeological evidence with digital methodologies to study the social and religious dynamics of the Roman world. Her academic interests also include gender history in antiquity and educational transfer and outreach in Roman history.

**María Silvina Del Bueno**, Professor of Literature, MA in Comparative Literature, and PhD in Literature from the National University of La Plata. She was a postdoctoral fellow in Literature at the University of Buenos Aires and at the National University of La Plata. Full Professor at the Faculty of Law, National University of the Centre, Argentina. She directs the university outreach project: “The issue of Filicidal Women: a Humanizing Approach from Greek Myth to Reality, from Medea to Women of the 21st century.” She is the director of the project PIC-FD 02/26 ‘Territorial violence in a reception of female generic marginality: The Murderess by Alexandros Papadiamantis’.

**Marta Fernández-Corral** is a researcher in Ancient History and professor at the University of the Basque Country (EHU). Her research focuses on Roman society and epigraphy, with particular emphasis on the funerary commemoration patterns of local societies from Hispania and their adaptation to the Roman Empire's power structures and culture. She is the author of the monograph *La epigrafía funeraria de época romana del área autrigona. Conmemoración, relaciones familiares y sociedad* (CSIC, 2020).

**María del Pilar Fernández de Agustini** holds a PhD in Classics. She is an Associate Professor of Ancient Greek at the National University of La Plata. Her research focuses on classical Greek tragedy, especially the plays of Aeschylus and, currently, tragic chorality. She currently directs the project “Songs that plot: occluded, unfolded, incipient, or finished choral performances in classical Greek literature and its tradition” (UNLP) and co-directs the outreach project “The problem of female infanticide: a humanizing proposal through Greek myth to reality: from Medea to women of the 21st century” (UNICEN).

**Mariana Franco San Román** holds a PhD in Classics (University of Buenos Aires). She is an Assistant Professor at the University of Silesia in Katowice. Her research focuses on the formation of ancient political vocabulary and its reception into modern languages. She has coauthored the translations of Lysias’ first speech and Lucian’s True Story for a non-specialist audience. She has actively participated in outreach activities with kids and offered outreach courses in the fields of Classics and Linguistics.

**Peta Greenfield** holds a PhD in Classics and Ancient History (The University of Sydney). She is the co-host of the ancient Roman history podcast The Partial Historians with Dr Fiona Radford. Together they’ve released over 200 podcast episodes, published books on the ancient Roman world, and presented together for the National Geographic series Gladiators: Warriors of the Ancient World.

**Łukasz Niesiołowski-Spanò** is Dean of the Faculty of History at the University of Warsaw and a renowned specialist in the history of the ancient Eastern Mediterranean, Palestine, and Biblical Israel. He earned his PhD and habilitation at the University of Warsaw. Between 2016 and 2020, he served as Director of the Institute of History at the University of Warsaw, before becoming Dean in 2020. He is the author and editor of numerous scholarly publications on ancient history, biblical studies, and the religions of the ancient Near East. Professor Niesiołowski-Spanò is also actively involved in several European and international academic associations dedicated to historical and biblical research.

**Jonatan Pérez Mostazo** has been an Assistant Professor in the Department of Classical Studies at the University of the Basque Country since 2023. His primary area of research is the reception of antiquity, particularly in relation to identity discourse from the nineteenth century to the present day. He also studies discourses of barbarian otherness in Latin literature from the High Imperial period. He worked as a secondary school teacher for two years.

**Fiona Radford** holds a PhD in Ancient History (Macquarie University). She is the co-host of the ancient Roman history podcast *The Partial Historians*, co-author of *Rex: The Seven Kings of Rome* and *Your Cheeky Guide to the Roman Empire*, and was recently a documentary presenter for the National Geographic series *Gladiators: Warriors of the Ancient World*. Fiona currently teaches Modern and Extension History at Pymble Ladies' College.

**Elsa Rodríguez Cidre** is an Associate Professor of “Greek Language and Culture (I–V)” at the University of Buenos Aires and in its Master’s Program in Classical Studies, as well as a member of its Doctoral Committee. She is also an Independent Researcher at CONICET (Argentina). She specializes in female discourse in Greek tragedy, particularly in Euripides. Her publications include *Cautivas Troyanas* (2010) and a translation of Euripides’ *Medea* (Losada). She has published numerous articles and book chapters and has co-edited several books in the field.

**Darío Sánchez Vendramini** holds a PhD in Ancient History from the University of Tübingen (Germany) and is an Independent Researcher at CONICET (Argentina's National Research Council) and Assistant Professor of Ancient History at the National University of Córdoba. His research focuses on the social and cultural history of the ancient world, with particular emphasis on literary culture and the history of reading and writing in the Roman world. He is the author of *Eliten und Kultur. Eine Geschichte der römischen Literaturszene* (Habelt, 2010) and a member of the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Ancient History* (De Gruyter). Since 2020, he has run a YouTube channel dedicated to bringing ancient history to general audiences, combining scholarly rigour with accessible and visually engaging content.

**Analía Sapere** is Professor of Ancient Greek in the Department of Classical Languages and Literatures, Faculty of Philosophy and Letters, University of Buenos Aires, and at the National Pedagogical University, as well as Associate Researcher at the National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET, Argentina). She has directed and participated in several research projects on Greek and Latin literature and is the author of numerous articles and book chapters in the field. She also has extensive experience in academic outreach and public engagement activities. Her research focuses on Plutarch, the Second Sophistic, and, more broadly, classical philology, writing, orality, and the construction of identity in the ancient world.

This event is made possible thanks to the support of the University of Warsaw and the University of Silesia in Katowice.