

Saturday 25 May, 2019

9.30 – 11.00

Chair: **Therese Fuhrer**

- L. Cordes (Berlin), ... *ut Catonem, non me loqui existimem* – Ambiguity and Gradual Convergence in First Person Discourse
- B. van der Velden (Leiden), The Latin Commentary Tradition on ‘Inclusive’ Intended Ambiguity
- M. Formisano (Gent), *Legens*. Ambiguity, Syllepsis and Allegory in Claudian’s *de raptu Proserpinae*

11.00 – 11.30

Coffee Break

11.30 – 13.00

Chair: **Theodore D. Papanghelis**

- R. Kirstein (Tübingen), Ambiguity as Provocation for Literary Studies. The Case of Ovid’s *Metamorphoses*
- S. Alekou (Nicosia), The Ambiguity of *simulatio* in Ovidian *ecphrasis*
- J. Fabre-Serris (Lille), Double Entendre, Unconscious Desire and Auctorial Intentionality in Some Ovidian Speeches (*Met.* 3.279-292; 7.810-823; 10.364-366, 440-441)

13.00 – 15.00

Lunch Break

15.00 – 16.30

Chair: **Stephen Harrison**

- R. F. Thomas (Cambridge, MA), Catullan Ambiguity
- A. Wessels (Leiden), ‘*Liber esto*’ – Wordplay and Ambiguity in Petronius’ *Satyricon*
- S. Frangoulidis (Thessaloniki), Friend or Foe? Ambiguity in Apuleius’ Tale of Aris-tomenes (*Met.* 1.2-20)

16.30 – 17.00

Coffee Break

17.00 – 18.30

**Guided Tour of the Archeological Museum**

20.00

**Conference Dinner**

Sunday 26 May, 2019

9.00 – 13.00

**Guided Tour: Thessaloniki through the ages**

With the kind support of

STAVROS NIARCHOS FOUNDATION

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS WELFARE FOUNDATION (KIKPE)

GERMAN CONSULATE GENERAL IN THESSALONIKI

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13<sup>th</sup> Trends in Classics International Conference

**Intended Ambiguity**

**Thessaloniki**  
**23-26 May, 2019**

[https://www.lit.auth.gr/13th\\_trends](https://www.lit.auth.gr/13th_trends)

**Auditorium**  
**‘Stefanos Dragoumis’**

**Museum of Byzantine Culture**  
**2, Stratou Avenue**  
**www.mbp.gr**

Organizing Committee

**Therese Fuhrer**

(Ludwig-Maximilians University of Munich)

**Martin Vöhler**

(Aristotle University of Thessaloniki)

**Stavros Frangoulidis**

(Aristotle University of Thessaloniki)

**Antonios Rengakos**

(Aristotle University of Thessaloniki)

# Program

Ambiguity in the sense of two or more possible meanings is considered to be a distinctive feature of modern art and literature. It characterizes the “open artwork” (Eco) and is generated by “disruptive tactics” (Wellershoff) and strategies to engender uncertainty. While ambiguity is seen as a “paradigm of modernity” (Bode), there is scepticism regarding its use in the pre-modern era. Older studies were dominated by the conviction that there was a lack of ambiguity in pre-modernity because, according to the rules of the “old rhetoric”, ambiguity was seen as an avoidable error (*vitium*) and a violation of the dictate of clarity (*perspicuitas*).

The aim of the conference is to re-examine the putative “absence of ambiguity” in the pre-modern era. Is it not possible to find in antiquity clear examples of deliberately employed (intended) ambiguity? Are the oracles and riddles, the *Palinode* of Stesichoros and Socrates (*Phaedrus*), the *dissoi logoi* of rhetoric, the ambiguities of the tragedies all exceptions or do they not indicate a distinct interest in the artistic use of ambiguity? The presentations of the conference, which will include scholars from various philologies, will combine a recourse to theoretical concepts of intended ambiguity (in rhetoric, philosophy and aesthetics) with exemplary analyses from the field of pre-modern art and literature.

## Thursday 23 May, 2019

15.15 – 15.45  
**Registration**

15.45 – 16.00  
**Welcome Speeches**

Walter Stechel  
German Consul General in Thessaloniki

Therese Fuhrer  
Organizing Committee

Franco Montanari, Antonios Rengakos  
General Editors of *Trends in Classics*

16.00 – 17.00  
**Opening Speech**

**Chair: Irmgard Männlein-Robert**

J. Knappe (Tübingen), Seven Perspectives of Ambiguity

17.00 – 17.30  
**Coffee Break**

### Modern and Pre-Modern Ambiguity

17.30 – 19.00

**Chair: John Hamilton**

M. Vöhler (Thessaloniki), Introductory Remarks to Modern and Ancient Concepts of Ambiguity

M. Lüthy (Weimar), The Modern Perspective: Ambiguity, Artistic Self Reflection and the Autonomy of Art

M. Chrysanthopoulos (Thessaloniki), Multipliers of Ambiguity: The Use of Quotations in Cavafy's Poems Concerning Emperor Julian

19.00 – 20.00

**Chair: Michael Lüthy**

F. Mehlretter (Munich), Ambivalent Allegories: Giambattista Marino's *Adone* (1623) between Censorship and Hermeneutic Freedom

S. Reichlin (Munich), The Ambiguity of the Unambiguous. Figures of Death in Late Medieval Literature

20.00 – 22.00  
**Reception**

## Friday 24 May, 2019

### Greek Concepts of Ambiguity

9.30 – 10.30

**Chair: Evina Sistikou**

J. Strauss Clay (Charlottesville, VA), Traversing No-Man's Land: *Outis* in the *Odyssey*

J. Hamilton (Cambridge, MA), The Ambiguity of Wisdom: *Mētis* in the *Odyssey*

10.30 – 11.30

**Chair: Panagiotis Thanassas**

C. Balla (Crete), Intended Ambiguity in Plato's Representation of Socrates in the *Phaedo*

P. Golitsis (Thessaloniki), Aristotle on Ambiguity and Ambiguity in Aristotle

11.30 – 12.00

**Coffee Break**

12.00 – 13.30

**Chair: Antje Wessels**

E. Sistikou (Thessaloniki), Postmodernism in Alexandria? Modes of Ambiguity in Hellenistic Poetry

I. Männlein-Robert (Tübingen), Between Conversion and Madness: Sophisticated Ambiguity in Lucian's *Nigrinus*

A. Lamari (Thessaloniki), Symptotic Sexuality: The Ambiguity of Seafood in Middle Comedy

13.30 – 15.30

**Lunch Break**

### Roman Concepts of Ambiguity

15.30 – 17.00

**Chair: Richard F. Thomas**

T. Fuhrer (Munich), Unsettling Effects and Disconcertment – Strategies of Enacting Interpretations in Roman Historiography

S. Harrison (Oxford), Prophecy, Poetry and Politics in Vergil's *Eclogue* 4

J. Soldo (Swansea), '*Vitae aut vocis ambigua*': Seneca the Younger and Ambiguity

17.00 – 18.30

**Guided Tour of the Byzantine Museum**