

CLAWS: the Cambridge Lab for Ancient World Studies
Seminars and events across the University
Easter Term 2026

April

30 April, 2026, 3.15pm in the Classics Faculty, room 1.04, Tea from 3pm.

Demetra Kasimis (POLIS) and Giulia Maltagliati (Classics)

Theorising Opacity, Politicising the Oikos: An Interdisciplinary Dialogue

May

5 May 2026, 4.30pm Room 1.04 in the Faculty of Classics

Konstantinos L. Zachos (Ioannina)

From Actium to Rome: The Victory Monument at Nicopolis and the Representation of Augustan Triumph

D Caucus: Classical Archaeology

6 May 2026, 2:30 pm Runcie Room (Faculty of Divinity) followed by tea at 4pm in the Selwyn Room

Wolfgang Zwickel (Mainz), The History of Akko according to Textual References with some Insights into Unpublished Archaeological Material
(Old Testament) Hebrew Bible Research Seminar series

6th May, 5pm, McDonald Institute Seminar Room

Nadia Ben-Marzouk, Loyola Marymount University

Rethinking Egyptian Writing in the Bronze Age Levant: Towards a Model of Adaptive Innovation for the Umm el-Marra Cylinders and Anra Scarabs

Egyptian World Seminar Series, McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research

Seminars are followed by a reception

6 May 2026, 5.15 pm, room G.21 Faculty of Classics building

Jo Willmott (Cambridge)

Unmaking Homer, Tichy's Ilias Diachronica

A Caucus, Classical Literature seminar series in conjunction with Linguistics Seminar

7 May 2026; 5pm, in room 1.11 of the Faculty of Classics

Mehmet Erginel

'Varieties of conflict in Plato's *Republic*' (Eastern Mediterranean University)

B Caucus, Philosophy seminar series

11 May 2026, 4–6pm in the English Faculty, room G-R 06/07

Walter Scheidel (Stanford)

Ancient History as Universal History

(Joint CLAWS/Global Middle Ages Event)

11 May 2026; 4.30-6.30 pm in room 1.11, Faculty of Classics

Oliver Primavesi '

Speusippus on the One and the Indefinite Dyad'

B Caucus, Philosophy seminar series

12 May 2026; 4:00–5:30pm, Lightfoot Room

Simon Gathercole

'The Apocryphal Gospel Material of Celsus' Jew: Recovering the Jewish Source behind Contra Celsum Book I'

Cambridge New Testament Research seminar series

Convenor: Prof. George van Kooten, gv258@cam.ac.uk (also for Zoom requests)

12 May 2026, 5pm, Room G.21, Faculty of Classics

Dr Karolina Sekita (Lewis-Gibson Visiting Fellow and University of Tel-Aviv)

Introduced by Professor Tim Whitmarsh

Greek Dialogues - A Lost Troy Story? Herakles' Bizarre Cameo in Odyssey 11

Cambridge Centre for Greek Studies seminar series

12 May 2026, 5:30pm - 7pm, Lucia Windsor Room, Newnham College

Venetia Porter (British Museum), Dina Matar (SOAS), Dan Lowe (British Library), Seif El-Rashidi (The Barakat Trust)

Heritage Culture and Resistance

History of Southwest Asia and North Africa seminar series, co-sponsored with Archives of the Disappeared Programme and Ambivalent Archives (CRASSH)

13 May 2026, 17.15-18.45, in room G.21 Faculty of Classics

Tim Whitmarsh

Musaeus, Hero and Leander: Following the Beacon

A Caucus, Classical Literature seminar series

14 May 2026 4.30pm, Bradfield Room, Darwin College [AGM + seminar]

Prof. Andrew Morrison Ruiz, University of Glasgow

Senders, Addressees, Dialogue across Greek and Latin Letter Collections

Tea and cakes will be served at the Bradfield Room from 4.00pm

The Cambridge Philological Society

15 May 2026, 2pm-3pm, Provost's Drawing room, King's College

Irene Lok (University of Cambridge & Dunhuang Academy)

Great Compassion Beyond Boundaries: Visualising the Bodhisattva at Dunhuang along the Silk Road

Silk Road Seminar Series

[Zoom Registration](#)

18 May 2026; 4.30-6.30 pm in room 1.11, Faculty of Classics

Emily Hulme

'Evil Technē? Craft and Normativity in Plato'

B Caucus, Philosophy seminar series

19 May 2.00-3.30pm G21, Faculty of Classics, Refreshments to follow

Comparing Ancient Worlds: Methods and Futures

Roundtable discussion with Geoffrey Lloyd (Cambridge) and Walter Scheidel (Stanford).

Moderator: Jenny Zhao (Cambridge)

Sino-Hellenic Network Seminar Series

For Zoom participation, please register [here](#).

19 May 2026; 5.00pm, G19, Faculty of Classics

Professor Denis Feeney

Ariadne on Naxos

The 2026 J.H. Gray Lectures

20 May 2026, 2:30 pm Runcie Room (Faculty of Divinity) followed by tea at 4pm in the Selwyn Room

Sara Kipfer (Dortmund)

Drought, War, Locust Plague and the Day of YHWH in the Book of Joel

(Old Testament) Hebrew Bible Research Seminar series

20 May, 14.00-16.00 in room G.21 Faculty of Classics

Denis Feeney (Princeton, Emeritus)

J.H. Gray Lecturer, Catullus 64 and Aeneid 6

A Caucus, Classical Literature seminar series

20th May 2026, 4.30pm Room 1.04, Faculty of Classics

Piers Kelly (in-person / hybrid)

The origins and evolution of writing: a very brief synthesis

Visual Interactions in Early Writing Systems seminar series

Zoom registration for all seminars, <https://tinyurl.com/3dfy25n2>

20 May 2026, 2pm, G21, Faculty of Classics

Professor Denis Feeney

Catullus 64 and Virgil *Aeneid* 6

The 2026 J.H. Gray Lectures (Seminar)

21 May 2026, 5.15pm, Room 10, Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

Tahera Qutbuddin (University of Oxford)

Writing a Literary Biography of 'Alī ibn Abī Ṭālib: Toward a Balanced Methodology

DMES Research Lectures

Tea and coffee from 5pm

22 May 2026, 2pm-3pm, Audit room, King's College

Matsura Sidikova & Nargis Nurulla-Khoja, Silk Road International University of Tourism and Cultural Heritage, Samarkand

Samarkand as a Key Urban Hub of the Silk Road & How the Sogdians Used Wine on the Silk Road

Silk Road Seminar Series

[Zoom Registration](#)

25 May 2026; 4.30-6.30 pm in room 1.11, Faculty of Classics

Christian Keime

'Hesiod's 'cosmogonic' Erōs from Plato to Byzantium: a philosophical myth?'

B Caucus, Philosophy seminar series

26 May, 2-6 pm, Classics Faculty, room G.21

***The Futures of Antiquity*: a panel discussion with Walter Scheidel (Stanford) and Joy Connolly (ACLS). Commentators: Peter Frankopan (Oxford), Philipp von Rummel (FU Berlin), Amy Russell (Brown) & Greg Woolf (ISAW)**

To be followed by a reception.

A CLAWS Event

26 May 2026; 4:00–5:30pm, Lightfoot Room

Matthias Becker (Heidelberg)

'The Gospels in the Hagiographic Discourse of the Imperial Period'

Cambridge New Testament Research seminar series

Convenor: Prof. George van Kooten, gv258@cam.ac.uk (also for Zoom requests)

26 May 2026, Tea & coffee at 5:30 pm, lecture at 6pm in AMES Rooms 8-9

Ullendorff Lecture in Semitic Philology

Michael Macdonald (Oxford)

Speech in stone: Writing in literate and non-literate societies in ancient North Arabia.

27th May 2026, 5pm, McDonald Institute Seminar Room

Heba Abd El Gawad (Horniman Museum, London)

Whose Egypt? Community Stewardship and the Politics of Museum Interpretation Heba

Egyptian World Seminar Series, McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research

Seminars are followed by a reception

27 May 2026, 17.15-18.45, in room G.21 Faculty of Classics

Oliver Primavesi (LMU, Munich)

Introducing the newly published Empedocles papyrus

A Caucus, Classical Literature seminar series

28 May 2026; 5pm, in room 1.11 of the Faculty of Classics

Patricio A. Fernandez (University of Texas at Austin)

Title to be confirmed

B Caucus, Philosophy seminar series

28 May 2026, 7pm, Palmerston Room, St John's College

Joy Connolly (American Council for Learned Societies), with Shushma Malik (Classics)

Meeting the conditions of freedom: Roman political thought in an age of tyranny and greed
The Newell Classical Event

June

1 June 2026 (provisionally scheduled for 11am – details to be confirmed)

Chloe Balla (Crete)

China Goes to Greece: The Case of KELKIP (Center of Greek and Chinese Ancient Civilizations)
Sino-Hellenic Network seminar series

1 June 2026, 5pm - 6:30pm, Keynes's Hall, King's College

Magnus Marsden (University of Sussex)

Silk Roads Visiting Scholar Lecture

Silk Road Seminar Series

[Zoom Registration](#)

3rd June 2026, 4.30pm Room 1.04, Faculty of Classics

Jeiran Jahani (in-person / hybrid)

Pluriverse of animals in lexical lists of the Late Uruk period

Visual Interactions in Early Writing Systems seminar series

Zoom registration for all seminars, <https://tinyurl.com/3dfy25n2>

3 June 2026, 2:30 pm Runcie Room (Faculty of Divinity) followed by tea at 4pm in the Selwyn Room

Orit Peleg-Barkat (Jerusalem)

"A Song of Ascents... Let Us Go to the House of the LORD" (Psalm 122:1): Ascending to the Temple in Late Second Temple Period Jerusalem
(Old Testament) Hebrew Bible Research Seminar series

4 June, c.10–6pm, Room G.2, Faculty of Classics

Truth and Beauty: A One-Day Conference in Honour of Nigel Spivey

With contributions by Adriano Aymonino (Buckingham), Emily Clifford (Warwick), Jaś Elsner (Oxford/Chicago), Rolf Schneider (LMU Munich), Hugo Shakeshaft (Washington DC) and Michael Squire (Cambridge)

Contact Michael Squire for further information (mjs73@cam.ac.uk)

5 June 2026, 2pm - 3pm, Audit room, King's College

Iqtedar Alam (University of Cambridge)

Mapping a Mughal Canal: A study of Shah Nahr and Shahjahanabad (1639-1857)

Silk Road Seminar Series

[Zoom Registration](#)

10th June 2026; 4:30pm (online only)

Sveva Elti di Rodeano

Phrygian and the Spread of the Alphabet

Visual Interactions in Early Writing Systems seminar series

Zoom registration for all seminars, <https://tinyurl.com/3dfy25n2>

12 June 2026, 2pm - 3pm, Keynes Hall, King's College

Grégory Delaplace (École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris)

The Voice of Ghosts: Dead People's Outbursts and Silences across Mongolia

Silk Road Seminar Series

[Zoom Registration](#)

17th June 2026; 4:30pm (online only)

Vincent Morel

Inscribing Territoriality: Graffiti and the Politics of Visibility in Egypt's Eastern Desert

Visual Interactions in Early Writing Systems seminar series

Zoom registration for all seminars <https://tinyurl.com/3dfy25n2>

19 June 2026, 5:30pm, Refreshments are served from 5pm

Samuel N.C. Lieu, Robinson College, Cambridge

Manichaeism in the Roman Near East – a Century of New Discoveries.

Ancient India & Iran Trust

July

4-5 July 2026, Rooms 8/9 & 10 in the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

Empires & Ecologies of Afro-Eurasia at the end of Antiquity: an AMES/CLAWS/Classics Conference

Programme and Registration:

<https://www.ames.cam.ac.uk/events/empires-ecologies-afro-eurasia-end-antiquity>