

# Ancient Philosophy and Science Beyond Borders

## Call for Registration (In-person Attendance Only) & Programme

14th–15th March 2024  
Faculty of Classics, University of Cambridge

This conference looks beyond the traditional canon of ancient philosophy and science to ask what can be learned from engaging with cross-cultural perspectives on ancient ethics and politics, metaphysics and cosmology, as well as the mathematical and life sciences. Speakers from a range of disciplines (including Classics, Philosophy, History and Philosophy of Science, Theology, and Asian and Middle Eastern Studies) will thus discuss a range of texts, ideas, and figures from ancient Chinese, Egyptian, Greek, Indian, Jewish, and Mesopotamian traditions of thought.

### Confirmed speakers:

- **Bernardo Ballesteros** (Vienna)
- **Amber D. Carpenter** (KCL)
- **Karine Chemla** (CNRS)
- **Mark Geller** (UCL)
- **Elisabeth Hsu** (Oxford)
- **Ashley Lance** (Cambridge)
- **Chiara Martini** (Cambridge)
- **Stephen O Peprah** (Cambridge)
- **Eleanor Robson** (UCL)
- **Mor Segev** (South Florida)
- **Annette Imhausen** (Frankfurt)
- **Jan Westerhoff** (Oxford)
- **Jingyi Jenny Zhao** (Cambridge)

### Chairs:

- **Gábor Betegh** (Cambridge)
- **Laura Castelli** (Cambridge)
- **Sophia Connell** (Birkbeck)
- **Myrto Hatzimichali** (Cambridge)

### Organizers:

- **Lea Cantor** (Cambridge)
- **Arthur Harris** (Cambridge)

The Conference will take place in-person at the Faculty of Classics (G21), Cambridge, on **14th March (12:30-18:30) and 15th March (9:00-17:00)**.

**Registration:** A limited number of tickets for in-person attendance (priced at £10, which includes lunch and a closing drinks reception on Friday 15th March as well as coffee/tea on both days) will be available to purchase. Register your interest [here](#).

**Conference abstracts** can be consulted [here](#).

Visit our [PhilEvents page](#) for more information.

The conference is generously supported by the Cambridge Faculty of Classics, in collaboration with the Classics Beyond Borders project; the Cambridge Department of History and Philosophy of Science; and the British Society for the History of Philosophy.

## Programme

Thursday 14th March 2024

**12:30** Registration

**12:45-13:00** Introductory remarks

**Panel 1 – Ancient Ethics & Politics** (G21, Faculty of Classics)

Chair: **Myrto Hatzimichali** (Cambridge)

**13:00-13:45 Amber D. Carpenter** (KCL), ‘Knowledge and Ethical Transformation in Vasubandhu and Dignāga’

**13:45-14:30 Jingyi Jenny Zhao** (Cambridge), ‘Children, Nature and Morality in Ancient Greece and Early China’

**14:30-15:15 Stephen O Peprah** (Cambridge), ‘Plato on the Individual, Polis, and Political Authority: A Study in Moderate Communitarianism’

**15:15-15:45** Break

**Panel 2 – Cosmogony, Cosmology, & Metaphysics** (G21, Faculty of Classics)

Chair: **Gábor Betegh** (Cambridge)

**15:45-16:30 Bernardo Ballesteros** (Vienna), ‘Honours and Destinies: Hesiod’s *Theogony* and the Babylonian *Epic of Creation*’

**16:30-17:15 Jan Westerhoff** (Oxford), ‘The place of rebirth in Buddhist philosophy’

**17:15-17:45** Break

**17:45-18:30 Mor Segev** (South Florida), ‘Maimonides’ Torah-based response to Aristotle on cosmic eternity and perfection’

**19:00** Conference dinner (speakers & chairs only)

Friday 15th March 2024

**Panel 3 – Ancient Mathematics, Astronomy, & Physics** (G21, Faculty of Classics)

Chair: **Laura Castelli** (Cambridge)

**9:00-9:45 Chiara Martini** (Cambridge), ‘Theorems, Problems, and Diagrammatic Reasoning in Euclidean Geometry’

**9:45-10:30 Karine Chemla** (CNRS), ‘Computing through proving versus computing formally. Reflections based on Chinese sources’

**10:30-11:00** Break

**11:30-12:15 Laith Hussain** (University of Baghdad) and **Eleanor Robson** (UCL, presenting), ‘Micro-geographies of Old Babylonian mathematics’

**12:15-13:00 Annette Imhausen** (Frankfurt), ‘The Conceptualization of Mathematics in Pharaonic Egypt’

**12:30-14:00** Lunch

**Panel 3 – Ancient Medicine & Life Sciences** (G21, Faculty of Classics)

Chair: **Sophia Connell** (Birkbeck)

**14:00-14:45 Mark Geller** (UCL), ‘The Anatomy of Ancient Babylonian Medicine’

**14:45-15:30 Elisabeth Hsu** (Oxford), ‘Resonance (*gan ying*) as a philosophical problem, or is it an anthropological one?’

**15:30-16:00 Break**

**16:00-16:45 Ashley Lance** (Cambridge), ‘*Airs, Waters, Places* and ‘Racecraft’ in *Politics 7.7*’

**16:45-17:00 Closing**

End of Conference

**17:00 Closing reception**