

Literary Genres in Greek Literature of the Imperial Period
Digital Conference, Hosted by the University of the Peloponnese
ZOOM-Link: TBA in May 2023

2-3 June 2023

Organizers:

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Greek literature of the Roman Empire has long ago ceased to be treated as the fruit of pure imitation and unimaginative reproduction of literary models from the Classical age. Drawing from the conceptual and methodological agendas of modern fields such as narratology, cognitive studies, and linguistics, classicists have approached with a fresh eye notions related to Imperial Greek literature, such as *mimesis* or *paideia*, while the authors of the Second Sophistic are today seen as anything but lacking originality in the ways they chose themes, moulded their linguistic imprints, and developed their compositional styles.

Nevertheless, a great amount of the Imperial literature still remains significantly unexplored in terms of the ways literary genres evolved at those times and interacted with each other. Although rhetoric has admittedly left its mark on the literary production of this era through renowned sophists such as Dio Chrysostom, Aelius Aristides, Philostratus or Libanius, on the other hand, sundry other literary works have been produced in the form of genres which, although being closely linked to rhetoric, transcend its distinctive features. To begin with, the works of Lucian provide by themselves strong evidence in support of this view. Also, schemes of poetry are appropriated by prose in the hymns of Aelius Aristides, while features of drama are very often absorbed in oratory. The genre of dialogue, which has found its place of honor in Lucian, the multifaceted oeuvre of Plutarch, the distinctive works of Galen, and Imperial Greek historiography mirror the astonishing richness of the multifarious genres that call for further comparative research.

In this line of thought, the organizers of the present conference aspire to focus on how the literary goal-settings of Imperial Greek authors shaped the generic trends and physiognomy of current literary production, and to penetrate more into the various co-existing and, very frequently, interactive modes of writing, in order to shed new light on the generic fusions operated in the Imperial Era on a literary level.

Program:

Friday

10:15–10:30: Opening remarks

10:30–11:30: Key-note speech: Francesca Mestre (Universitat de Barcelona)
“Literary Genres in Greek Literature of the Imperial Period: Ancient and New Approaches”

PANEL A: Rhetoric

11:30–12:00: Michael Trapp (King’s College London)
“Literary Boundaries and Generic Fusion: The Case of Aelius Aristides”

12:00–12:30: Dimitri Kasprzyk (Université de Bretagne Occidentale, Brest)
“Variations génériques sur un même titre chez Dion de Pruse”

12:30–13:00: Heinz-Günther Nesselrath (Georg-August-Universität Göttingen)
“Rhetoric Enriched by Drama: The Declamations of Libanius”

13:00–13:30: Jean-Luc Vix (Université de Strasbourg)
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PANEL B: Dialogue and Doxography

13:30–14:00: Katarzyna Jażdżewska (Aarhus University, Denmark)
“Encountering the Divine in Early Imperial Dialogues”

14:00–14:30: Sophia Xenophontos (University of Thessaloniki)
“Galen and Doxography”

14:30–16:00: Lunch break

PANEL C: Poetry

16:00–16:30: Gianfranco Agosti (Università di Pisa)
“Autobiography in Late Antique Poetry”

16:30–17:00: Enrico Magnelli (Università degli Studi di Firenze)
“The epic temptations of Marcellus Sidetes”

17:00–17:30 Giampiero Scafoglio (Université Côte d’Azur)
“The Two Ways of the Epic Genre in Late Antiquity: A Revival of the Epic Cycle”

Saturday

PANEL A: Biography

11:30–12:00: Pilar Gómez (Universitat de Barcelona)
“Between Greeks and Romans: Plutarch’s History as Anecdote” /
“Entre griegos y romanos: la historia como anécdota en Plutarco”

12:00–12:30: Nikoletta Kanavou (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens)
“Slander in Philostratus”

PANEL B: Historiography

12:30–13:00: Vasileios Liotsakis (University of the Peloponnese)
“Arrian’s *Indikē*: The Generic *alter ego* of the *Anabasis of Alexander*”

13:00–13:30: Carsten Hjort Lange (Aalborg University, Denmark)
“Civil War Writing: New Perspectives on Cassius Dio”

13:30–14:00: Mario Baumann (Technische Universität Dresden)
“History and/as Drama: Tragic –and Comic– Aspects in Herodian”

14:00–16:00: Lunch break

PANEL C: Novel

16:00–16:30: Marília P. Futre Pinheiro (Universidade de Lisboa)
“Mixing Genres: The Intertextual and Metadiscursive Play in Heliodorus’ *Aethiopica*”

16:30–17:00: Karen ní Mheallaigh (Johns Hopkins University)
“Beyond Genre, off the Map: Antonius Diogenes and *The wonders beyond Thule*”

PANEL D: Lucian

17:00–17:30: Orestis Karavas (University of the Peloponnese)
“Lucian and the παρα- Genre”

17:30–18:00: Emeline Marquis (Sorbonne Université)
“Le mélange des genres chez Lucien de Samosate : Quels ingrédients pour quel type de mélange ?”

18:00–18:30: Alberto Camerotto (Università Ca’Foscari di Venezia)
“Lucian's Last Words: *Parrhesia* beyond Literary Genres”

18:30–19:00: Closing remarks