

Ecocritical Approaches to Ancient Performance Culture

Ritson Room, 38 North Bailey, Durham University

Wednesday April 22nd, 2026

0900 Registration

Greek Drama

0930

Natasha Ferreira (NWU, South Africa)

Voices of the Land in Attic Tragedy: Mere Personification, or Something More?

1000

Andreas Prasinos (Glasgow)

Prometheus Bound and the Ecology of Hubris

1030

Margaret Tighe (Oxford)

A Mimetic Ecology: Sounding the Natural World in Euripides' *Phaethon*

1100

Coffee Break

1130

Roderick Zoe (UCLA)

The Lyre, Impressions, and The Production of the Animal in Sophocles' *Trackers*

1200

Arnaud Zucker (Côte-d'Azur)

Observing Nature to Reimagine the Polis: An Ecocritical Perspective on the Naturalism of Aristophanes' *Birds*.

Performing in a Material World

1230

Michael Loy (Durham)

The Environmental Impact of Building a Theatre: an Archaeological Perspective

1300

Lunch Break

1400

Niklas Betterman (Heidelberg)

Between Stage and Soil: Resource Conflicts and Tree Protection in Ancient Greece

1430

Joel Christensen (Brandeis)

The Uses of the Earth: Myth and the Fantasy of Abundance in Ancient Performance Culture

Creative Initiatives

- 1500 Magdalena Zira (Fantastiko Theatre)
Old Men in a Grove Without Trees: a New Play for a Chorus of Narrators?
- 1530 David Bullen (RHUL)
Frogs, Turtles, and Trees: Ecocultural Approaches to Staging and Teaching Ancient Greek Drama
- 1600 Alison Sharrock (Manchester)
Erychthon, the Opera
- 1630 *Tea Break*
- 1700 Alicia Stallings (Oxford)
Keynote
- 1900 *Conference Dinner*

Thursday April 23rd

Roman Drama

- 1000 Andrew Fox (Liverpool)
Modelling Tree Literacy on the Roman Stage
- 1030 Meg Challis (Melbourne)
de macula rusticitate: Examining the Negative Connotations of Nature in Plautine Insults.
- 1100 Joe Droegemueller (Michigan)
mare quidem commune certost omnibus: An Ecocritical Approach to the Sea in Plautus' *Rudens*
- 1130 *Coffee Break*
- 1200 Eleonora Tola (Cordoba)
Maiusque mari Medea malum: Medea's Ecocritical Reasons in Seneca's Tragedy
- 1230 Jason Koenig (St Andrews)
'Planetary Viewing in Seneca's *Hercules*'.
- 1300 *Lunch Break*

Non-Theatrical Texts

- 1400 Georgos Lenos & Sofia Giapantantzali (Democritus Univ. of Thrace)
Nature as Stage and Actor: Ecocritical Readings of Mimesis in Theocritus
- 1430 Bill Freeman (Cambridge)
Setting the Scaena: Emergent Artifice in Ovid's Environments
- 1500 Emily Rushton (Cambridge)
'Hast thou heard my moans?': a Posthumanist Reading of Shakespeare's Enactment of Ovidian Wall and Woods.
- 1530 Roberto di Tuccio (Durham)
Erotic Ecologies: Sex Workers, Performance, and the Natural World in Alciphron's Letters
- 1600 Tea Break*
- 1630 Christoph Schliephake (Augsburg)
(Keynote) The Matter of the Earth and/as Performance: The Example of Naphtha in Plutarch's *Alexander*
- 1730 Reception and Launch of *Classical Encounters in England's North East*, ed. E. Hall, Rory McInnes-Gibbons and Edmund Thomas (Routledge Taylor Francis).