

AMPAL Report (SPHS)

The 2018 Annual Meeting of Postgraduates in Ancient Literature was held at the University of Manchester on the 21st and 22nd June, under the theme of 'Memory and Commemoration'. The two day conference, for which abstracts were received from postgraduate students at Masters and Doctoral level from a great range of institutions in a number different countries, saw 40 papers presented in twelve panels, grouping papers together on common aspect of the theme ranging from 'Memory as a narrative device' to 'Memory, History and Historiography'. The conference was attended by almost 50 students, along with several members of the University's Department of Classics and Ancient History, and attracted speakers and attendees from around the world, including students from the UK, across Europe, and Brazil.

AMPAL represents a great opportunity for postgraduate students to gain experience of presenting their own work, to receive feedback, and to participate in research discussions with fellow students of a range of backgrounds and interests. The organising committee were very keen to create a friendly, constructive and above all welcoming atmosphere in each session for the benefit of both experienced and first-time time speakers, for whom presenting work in front of an audience can be a daunting prospect. Papers at the conference were given by a range of students at different levels of study, and the topics stretched from studies on Greek epinician poetry to Latin epigrams, from Greek theatre to commemorative inscriptions, and from Latin love elegy to medieval and modern reception.

AMPAL's keynote lecture was given by Professor Richard Hunter of Cambridge University, entitled 'Memory and its Discontents in Ancient Literature'. The talk was fascinating and well-received by all attendees. Following this there was a wine reception to close the first day of the conference, allowing for postgraduate attendees to network with each other and with Professor Hunter. Throughout the conference there was a great amount of discussion - both during and following the question sessions - and connections among students; AMPAL provided an excellent opportunity for cross-institution and discipline meetings.

Overall, the conference was a great success; our generous funders including the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies has allowed us to offer higher bursaries to speakers which encouraged a greater range of students to attend and speak at the conference and allowed us to create such a rich research environment.



