

Keeping it in the Family? Exploring familial tension and rupture in the ancient & early-medieval Mediterranean (PG and ECR Conference) Report

The Postgraduate and Early Career Researcher conference 'Keeping it in the Family? Exploring familial tension and rupture in the ancient & early-medieval Mediterranean' (KiitF) ran between 24-25th April 2019. It was organised by Becca Grose, Doukissa Kamini and Rebecca Rusk, all current PhD candidates with the University of Reading. We were fortunate enough to receive funding from the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies, the Classical Association, the Past and Present Society and the Classics department at the University of Reading.

Family is an aspect of human interaction that bridges the personal and the public. It contributes to self-identity and shapes broader social interactions. Given its pervasive nature, ideas of family are often taken for granted despite the changing expectations and duties of family members. By looking at the moments when the family unit is shown in crisis, we aimed to explore the understanding of families within the ancient and early medieval Mediterranean.

We were fortunate enough to have applications from speakers who covered a range of historical topics and periods from the Hittite laws on violence against the family to the impact of Ascetics in household during the Late Antique period. This diverse mix of research interests fuelled extensive debate around the nature of the family. The postgraduate and early career focus of the conference meant that all participants felt able to contribute actively to discussions.

The support from the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic studies allowed us to offer bursaries to our speakers to attend. As many of our speakers were travelling a significant distance to join us, this made it possible for us to offer support them towards the cost of travel and accommodation. We know from conversations with our speakers that the support made a big difference to their ability to attend.

Conference Programme

Day 1 (Wednesday 24th April)

10.00-11.00: **Registration**

11.00-12.30: **First session**

Taboos within the Family Structure (chair: Andreas Gavrielatos)

Olive, Peter (Royal Holloway University of London): *Re-centring debate about the Danaïds' plea in Aeschylus' Supplices.*

Watson, Joe (Durham University): *Inscribing Incest: Byblis' Love Letter to Caunus and Ovid's Fear of Taboo in Metamorphoses 9.*

Kirsch, Stephanie (University of Bonn): *Taboo to topic? – Small scale violence against children and disciplina in the Roman family from the 2nd century BCE till 2nd century CE.*

12.30-13.20: Lunch break

13.20-15.10: First keynote speech & response

Kate Cooper (RHUL): *When Fathers Fail: Gender, cultural change and family dynamics in late antiquity*
Response: Christa Gray (Reading)

(including 14.20-14.40 coffee & cake pause)

15.20-16.50: **Second session**

Interfamilial Conflict, Succession and Inheritance (chair: Rebecca Rusk)

Paprocki, Maciej (Universität München): *Apollo, Kronos' avenger? Divine intergenerational conflicts in light of 'Kronos' curse'.*

Martorana, Simona (Durham University): *Telemachus, Penelope's puer: (de-) legitimation, precarious masculinity and familial liminality in Ovid's Heroides 1.*

Shields, Katharine (University College of London): *"Do not kill anyone of [your] family, it is not good."* *Succession, inheritance, and legal language in the Proclamation of Telipinu.*

16.50-17.15: Coffee Break

17.15-19.05: Second keynote speech & response

Edith Hall (KCL): *Are house slaves family? Seeking Illumination from Artemidorus' Interpretation of Dreams*

Response: Emma Aston (Reading)

(including 18.15-18.35 wine & nibbles pause)

19.05-20.00 **Continued wine reception and poster session** Host: Arietta Papaconstantinou (Reading)

20.00: **Dinner**

Day 2 (Thursday 25th April)

09.00-10.30: **Third session**

Family on the Edge: Perceptions and Pressure of Family Image (chair: Doukissa Kamini)

Kostecka, Katarzyna (University of Warsaw): *Dealing with family failure – unsuccessful kin in the Epinician Odes of Pindar.*

Sandon, Tatjana (University of Edinburgh): *Concubina mea amantissima. The role of concubinae in Roman family and society in light of the epigraphic evidence.*

Morassi, Davide (University of Oxford): *Tough love: fatherhood as a metaphor for political and military leadership.*

10.30-11.00: Coffee Break

11.00-12.30: **Fourth session**

Wives and Mothers: Expectations and Challenges (chair: Becca Grose)

Golay, Charlotte (University of Lausanne): *Reproductive expectations: Fear and tension around the production of children within the Hellenistic couple.*

Thoma, Marianna (University of Athens): *Women and intergenerational conflict in Greco-Roman family: "If she spends another month with me like this, I will throw myself into the sea." (P.Petaus 29,8-10).*

Patzelt, Maik (University of Sheffield): *The aftermath of familial rupture: constructing and contesting the widow's identity in late antiquity.*

12.30-13.30: Lunch Break

13.30-15.00: **Fifth session**

(Re-)Constructing Families (chair: Juliane Zachhuber)

Clarke, Anactoria (King's College London): *Mantic lineage: Constructing hereditary transmission of prophetic skills.*

De Luca, Gaia (École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris; Università Orientale, Naples): *Conflicting citizenship within the family: a Rhodian example.*

Raisharma, Sukanya. (University of Oxford.) *An Ascetic in the Household: Late-antique Monastic Spaces as Spaces of Familial Conflict*

15.00-16.30: Roundtable Chair: Barbara Goff (Reading) Title: tbd

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