**Report:**

**Conference: The Materiality of Ancient Greek Identities, 9th to 2nd Centuries BC**

**(Newcastle University, 21st April 2021)**

We successfully hosted our event on Thursday 21st April, to a total audience of 14 in-person and 38 online attendees. The event was very well received both in the room and on Zoom. We are hopeful that the event can have a legacy, through making a selection of the papers available online, as recordings, and through publication of them as an edited volume.

Funding from the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies (£500) was used to partially cover the costs of providing travel and accommodation bursaries to two of our non-funded speakers, one from the University of Oxford (UK) and one from Princeton University (USA), at a total cost of £350, and to cover the costs of catering, at a total cost of £698.25. Funding from the ICS (£250) was used to partially cover the costs of providing travel and accommodation bursaries to two of our non-funded speakers, one from the University of Oxford (UK) and one from Princeton University (USA), at a total cost of £350. Funding from MATCH (£150) was used to contribute towards catering costs, at a total cost of £698.25. Funding from the School of History, Classics and Archaeology at Newcastle University (£200) was used to contribute towards catering costs, at a total of £698.25, and to cover costs for miscellaneous items used on the day (including hand sanitiser, face masks, name badges, pens and notepads), at a total cost of £30.98.

Speakers

Our event presented two keynote addresses and ten papers, which explored a range of methodologies, topics and case studies relative to the creation and transformation of ancient Greek identities, and their relationship with material culture (please see the programme and speakers details document provided). Our keynote speakers were Professor Katharina Lorenz (Justus-Liebig University Giessen) and Professor Robin Osborne (University of Cambridge), whom are both prestigious scholars in the field of Greek identity. Our range of speakers comprised eight PhD candidates in the later stages of their projects, and three post-doc researchers. Our speakers represented a number of international universities: the University of Cambridge (3), the University of Oxford (1), the University of Nottingham (1), the Université Libre de Bruxelles (1), the École Française de Rome (1), the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (1), the University of California (1), the University of Bern (1) and Princeton University (1). Each keynote and paper generated substantive discussion, with questions from both in the room and via Zoom.

Attendees

We welcomed 14 in-person attendees, five of which were not speakers or organisers. The in-person attendees were from Newcastle University (4) and University College London (1). We welcomed 38 online attendees, 30 of which were not speakers or organisers. The virtual attendees were postgraduates, post-doc researchers and established scholars in post at a range of international institutions, who joined us from a wide range of international locations: please see figures below. There were consistently 20 virtual attendees across the five sessions and two keynote addresses. The in-person audience was consistent throughout the day. Attendees both in the room and online responded well to the event, and feedback indicated attendees and speakers consistently felt that the event ran smoothly and was an enriching experience. In-person attendees commented that they were particularly pleased at the opportunity to attend a conference in-person, and to interact and network with fellow scholars, after the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Figure 1** - Record of virtual attendees with institutional affiliation information available. Institutions represented: King's College London; Newcastle University; University of Cambridge; University of Oxford; University of Bristol; Max Planck Institute for the History of Science; University of Gottingen; University of Crete; University of California; California State University; Universidade de Sao Paulo; Universidade de Nova de Lisboa; Harvard University.

**Figure 2** – Record of in-person attendees with institutional affiliation information available.

**Figure 3** – Login locations for virtual attendees, including speakers presenting remotely.

Legacy

Given the response to the conference, and interest from scholars who were not able to attend but have contacted us about the event, we are making steps to ensure that the conference has a lasting legacy. We are establishing a YouTube channel, which will host recorded versions of a selection of the papers presented, with the permission of the speakers. We are also taking steps to publish the proceedings of the conference as an edited volume.

The ‘Hybrid’ Conference

The hybrid nature of the event created some technical challenges, which were primarily overcome by using sound equipment loaned from Newcastle University. Facilitating virtual as well as in-person attendance was particularly useful to enable us to reach a wider audience; the majority of our audience was online, though the majority of our speakers took up the opportunity to present in-person. Hosting the conference as a hybrid event also meant that we were able to record the papers and uploading them and making them freely accessible via YouTube will broaden our audience yet more: we have already been contacted by scholars that were unable to attend on the day but are interested in watching the papers retrospectively. Our hybrid format, which opened up presenting virtually, also helped us to secure our two prestigious keynotes; both were ultimately only able to contribute because the virtual option was available, because of scheduling conflicts with other commitments, which would not allow for travel to Newcastle. Likewise, one of our speakers may have had to drop out at very short notice, because of issues with travelling, which were mitigated by the fact they were able to present virtually instead of in-person as originally intended.