**Leah Lazar – Hellenic Society Individual Grant**

**‘The New Athenian Empire’ Conference – Funding Report**

The Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies generously supported ‘The New Athenian Empire’ conference, organised by Leah Lazar with Eric Driscoll and Michael Loy, which took place at the Classics Faculty in Oxford on 26th and 27th June 2023. Our aim was to kickstart a conversation about the future direction of scholarship on fifth-century BCE Athenian power. The Athenian empire is a canonical topic in ancient Greek history but one that has been counterintuitively underserved by scholarship in recent decades. Given increasing societal interest in empire and imperial legacies, and current advances in the field in terms of both historiographical issues and substantive data sources, we believed that a new collaborative, postcolonial, and interdisciplinary examination of the Athenian empire would be timely. The conference was very successful, and more than delivered on our ambitions.

Sixteen speakers, both early-career and more established scholars, from the UK, France, Germany, Greece, USA and Israel, gave presentations over the course of a day and a half. The Society’s grant supported the travel costs for two of the early-career speakers. Over a hundred people attended all or part of the conference in person or online, with registrations from across the world. The papers and ensuing discussions helped move the conversation on the empire forward in a number of ways. The contributions of the organisers and Christy Constantakopoulou were programmatic, questioning past approaches to the empire and suggesting how future scholarship, informed by postcolonial perspectives, should consider regional variation, subject agency and different kinds of change over time. Stephanie Däne dug into the difficulties of defining the empire and its subjects. A number of papers broadened the kinds of evidence at issue, moving away from Athenian literary and epigraphic sources, with Andrew Meadows and Koray Konuk considering coinage, Anja Slawisch looking at the Ionian archaeological record, and Patrice Hamon discussing Thasian inscriptions. Meadows, along with David Teegarden, Polly Low and Milan Melocco, put fifth-century Athenian power into a wider chronological frame, from the late-Archaic period through to the Hellenistic. Beatrice Pestarino, Robin Osborne and Yanxiao He, along with Konuk, Slawisch, Low and Hamon, shifted focus to allied and non-Athenian agents and their varied relationships with Athenian power.

The conference has provided an excellent foundation for future collaboration. We will further develop these approaches to the empire – regional variation and local allied agency, chronological development beyond orthodox narrative and beyond the fifth century, different kinds of evidence, contexualisation with broader intellectual developments – with a volume of essays, to be published with the British School at Athens and Cambridge University Press. All the conference speakers will write papers, with some additional commissions. We will also facilitate an editing workshop in summer 2024, and have nascent plans for other possible events. We are very grateful to the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies for supporting the initial conference, and for helping to kickstart this productive conversation.