

Megan Bowler

I was fortunate to attend the 2025 Conference of the Fédération internationale des associations d'études classiques (FIEC) in the beautiful venue of the University of Wrocław, from the 7th to 11th July. As part of a panel on rhetoric in Aristophanes' *Thesmophoriazusae* and *Lysistrata*, which I organised with two other Oxford DPhil students (Marina Paschalidou and Charlotte Susser), I presented some of my research that relates to my doctoral project on etymology in Greek comedy. This focused on a re-interpretation and contextualisation of the argument about women's names in the parabasis of Aristophanes' *Thesmophoriazusae*. We all benefited greatly from the discussions and questions asked by our audience.

The rest of the conference was a very useful experience. A particular highlight for me was a panel on sociopragmatics in Greek and Roman comedy. The wide variety of papers on offer made it hard to choose which panels to attend; I ended up gaining new insights into ancient lists and catalogues, Greek rhetoric, Atellan farce, and animal invective. I also enjoyed Eleanor Dickey's plenary lecture on ancient multilingualism, Edith Hall's constructive approach to crises in the Humanities, and the panel on classics education, which were relevant to my other research interests in languages policy. The conference was also a lovely opportunity to get to know PhD students from other European universities and to hear more about their work, and to meet researchers I'd previously only spoken with over email.

I am very grateful for the financial contribution to my travel costs provided by the Hellenic Society, which supported me in being able to stay for the full duration of this stimulating conference.

