

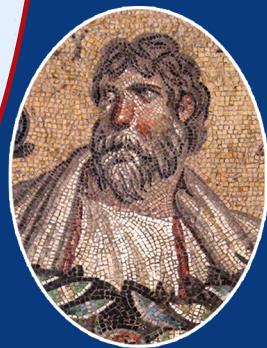


The Betty Behrens Seminar *on Classics of Historiography*

The seminar offers a unique opportunity for students and scholars to reflect on great historical works and engage in discussion with renowned experts.

It will endeavour to underline the importance of the classics of historiography for their relevant intellectual function in creating critical political thought.

Classics



History of the Peloponnesian War
(V c. BC)
Thucydides of Athens



Ecclesiastical History
(IV c.)
Eusebius of Caesarea



*The History of the Decline and Fall
of the Roman Empire* (1776-1789)
Edward Gibbon



*The Whig Interpretation
of History* (1931)
Herbert Butterfield

September 2022

Where

Richard Eden Suite, Clare Hall,
West Court, Cambridge
Churchill Archives Centre,
Churchill College, Cambridge

Speakers

MICHAEL BENTLEY

Emeritus Professor of Modern History, University of St Andrews

JAMES CORKE-WEBSTER

Senior Lecturer in Classics, History and Liberal Arts
King's College London

JOHANNA HANINK

Professor of Classics, Brown University

DAVID WOMERSLEY

Thomas Warton Professor of English Literature, University of Oxford

Convener

DAVIDE CADEDDU

Life Member, Clare Hall, Cambridge

Associate Professor of History of Political Theory, University of Milan



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE



CLARE HALL
CAMBRIDGE

The Seminar

The seminar will take place in September, between Thursday the 8th and Friday the 30th and is composed of four weekly meetings. The charming and fresh atmosphere of the Richard Eden Suite in Clare Hall, West Court, Cambridge, will be the location for the first three discussions. The last meeting will take place in Churchill Archives Centre, Churchill College, Cambridge, and will be followed by a tour of the Archive reading rooms and a glimpse behind the scenes (one or two items from the Behrens collection).

How it works

Each meeting is composed of three hours. The guest speaker will introduce the classic by talking for half an hour. After that, each participant will briefly express their understanding of the work by addressing some questions to the other participants and the guest speaker. In order to be ready for the dialogue, each participant is asked to read about fifty pages of the work under scrutiny and to send a paper of 1.500-3.000 words to the seminar's convener before each meeting. The selection of pages is chosen by the guest speaker and is downloadable from the Clare Hall website: <https://www.clarehall.cam.ac.uk>

Lunch and refreshment

Before each seminar meeting, the Clare Hall dining hall will be available for the participants for lunch. After each event, the participants will enjoy a further informal exchange of viewpoints over a glass of juice or wine.

How to sign up

There are only twelve posts available to guarantee the close dynamics of the discussion and the full involvement of the participants. Those interested can even apply for just one meeting. However, preference will be given to those who sign up for all four meetings. In addition, there will be space for a good number of auditors who will not actively participate. The sign up deadline has been set on September 6th. To attend the seminar either as a participant or as an auditor, please register via <https://the-betty-behrens-seminar-tickets.eventbrite.com>

For further information

davide.cadeddu@unimi.it

Program

Thursday 8 September 2022

1.45pm
Clare Hall, Richard Eden Suite
Registration

2pm
Opening Speech
*Betty Behrens: A Personal
Recollection and Reflection*



GILLIAN SUTHERLAND
Fellow Emerita, Newnham
College Cambridge

2.30pm
Seminar
*The History of the Decline and
Fall of the Roman Empire
by Edward Gibbon*



DAVID WOMERSLEY
Thomas Warton Professor of
English Literature
University of Oxford

Thursday 15 September 2022

1.45pm
Clare Hall, Richard Eden Suite
Registration

2pm
Seminar
*Ecclesiastical History
by Eusebius of Caesarea*



JAMES CORKE-WEBSTER
Senior Lecturer in Classics
History and Liberal Arts
King's College London

Thursday 22 September 2022

1.45pm
Clare Hall, Richard Eden Suite
Registration

2pm
Seminar
*The Whig Interpretation of
History by Herbert Butterfield*



MICHAEL BENTLEY
Emeritus Professor of Modern
History, University of
St Andrews

Friday 30 September 2022

1.45pm
Churchill Archives Centre
Registration

2pm
Seminar
*History of the Peloponnesian
War by Thucydides of Athens*



JOHANNA HANINK
Professor of Classics
Brown University

5pm
Presentation
*The Papers of Betty Behrens
and the Churchill Archives
Centre*



ALLEN PACKWOOD
Director, Churchill Archives
Centre

Purpose

The seminar offers a unique opportunity for students and scholars to reflect on several great historical works and engage in discussion with renowned experts.

As we know, a classic is recognized as such insofar as it retains its value as an intellectual and cognitive tool, helping us to gain an understanding of the past as well as the present from a particular cultural viewpoint. Classics still have the capacity to resonate and speak to us about current problems. They produce perspectives that are implicitly comparative and dynamic, thanks to the historical dimension passing through both them and us.

These considerations are even more relevant when we speak about the classics of historiography because the same historical dimension is present on several more levels. These classics challenge us to contemplate some historical problems which are only fully understood when properly contextualised. In the same way, even the classic itself can fruitfully produce its own intellectually provocative value when read with the eyes of the present but interpreted with a historicist approach.

The seminar will endeavour to underline the importance of the classics of historiography for their relevant intellectual function in creating critical political thought.

