

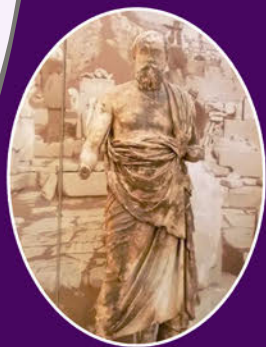


The Betty Behrens Seminar *on Classics of Historiography*

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



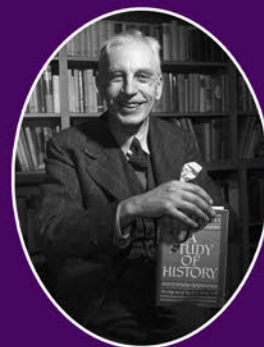
Parallel Lives
Plutarch



Florentine Histories
Niccolò Machiavelli



The New Science
Giambattista Vico



A Study of History
Arnold J. Toynbee

May
2023

Where

Richard Eden Suite, Clare Hall,
West Court, Cambridge

Speakers

JUDITH MOSSMAN

Professor of Classics, Coventry University

JANE CAPLAN

Emeritus Fellow, St Antony's College, Oxford

JOHN ROBERTSON

Professor Emeritus of the History of Political Thought
University of Cambridge

MAURIZIO VIROLI

Professor Emeritus of Politics, Princeton University

Convener

DAVIDE CADEDDU

Life Member, Clare Hall, Cambridge
Professor of History of Political Theory, University of Milan



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE



CLARE HALL
CAMBRIDGE

The Seminar

The seminar will take place between the 4th and 25th of May and will be constituted 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 discussions.

How it works

Each meeting is composed of two 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, everyone is asked to read about fifty pages of the work under scrutiny.

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 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. In addition, there will be space for a good number of auditors who will not actively participate.

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
4 May 2023

Thursday
11 May 2023

Thursday
18 May 2023

Thursday
25 May 2023

1.45pm
Registration

2pm
Seminar
“Parallel Lives”
(II c.)
by Plutarch



JUDITH MOSSMAN

1.45pm
Registration

2pm
Seminar
“A Study of History”
(1934-1961)
by Arnold J. Toynbee



JANE CAPLAN

1.45pm
Registration

2pm
Seminar
“The New Science”
(1725)
by Giambattista Vico



JOHN ROBERTSON

1.45pm
Registration

2pm
Seminar
“Florentine Histories”
(1532)
by Niccolò Machiavelli



MAURIZIO VIROLI

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 through 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.



design by
M. Invernizzi