



**University of Edinburgh  
School of History, Classics, and Archaeology**

**The Eighth A. G. Leventis Conference in Greek  
Greek Laughter and Tears: Antiquity and After**

**John Macintyre Conference Centre**

**7-10 November 2013**

**Draft programme (SUBJECT TO ALTERATION)**

**Thursday 7 November**

1pm Registration and coffee

2.00-3.30 Chair TBA

Richard Seaford (Exeter)

**Laughter and Tears in Early Greek Literature**

Stephen Halliwell (St Andrews)

**Divine and Human Laughter from Homer to Lucian**

3.30 Coffee

4.00-5.30 Chair TBA

Calum Maciver (Edinburgh)

**Fantasy *Loci* and Telescopic Satire in Lucian's *Verae Historiae***

Stephanie West (Oxford)

***Philogelos*: An Anti-Intellectual Joke-Book**

5.30 Public Lecture:

Meg Alexiou (Harvard/Edinburgh)

**Potent Potions of Tears and Laughter: The Case of 'Theodore Prodromos'**

Followed by a Reception

**Friday 8 November**

8.30 Registration

9.30-11.00 Chair TBA

Judith Herrin (KCL)  
**Tantalus Ever in Tears!**

Simone Beta (Siena)  
**'Do you think you're clever? Solve this riddle, then!' The Comic Side of Byzantine Enigmatic Poetry**

11.00 Tea and coffee

11.30-1.00 Chair TBA

Jan Stenger (Glasgow)  
**Staging Laughter and Tears: Libanius, Chrysostom, and the Riot of the Statues**

Susan Ashbrook Harvey (Brown)  
**Guiding Grief: Liturgical Poetry and Ritual Lamentation in Early Byzantium**

1.00 Lunch

2.00-3.30 Chair TBA

Ruth Webb (Lille)  
**Mime and the Dangers of Laughter in Late Antiquity**

Aglæ Pizzone (Geneva)  
**Was there a Byzantine Theory of the Comic?**

3.30 Tea and coffee

4.00-5.30 Chair TBA

Martin Hinterberger (Cyprus)  
**Tears, Smile, and Laughter and Emotions Expressed by them in Byzantine Literature**

Alicia Walker (Bryn Mawr)  
**Exaggeration and Inversion: Humour in the Secular Arts of Mediaeval Byzantium**

Followed by a reception (details TBA)

**8.00 Conference dinner at Zucca, Grindlay Street**

**Saturday 9 November**

9.30-11.00 Chair TBA

Przemysław Marciniak (Silesia)  
**Laughter on Display: Mimes and Jesters in Byzantium**

Alexander Lingas (City, London)  
**Parahymnography and the Question of Musical Solemnity in Byzantium**

11.00 Tea and coffee

11.30-1.00 Chair TBA

Elena Boeck (De Paul)  
**Tumbling towards Empire: The Power of Amusement and the Amusement of Power in the Princely Frescoes of St Sophia, Kiev**

Margaret Mullett (Dumbarton Oaks)  
**Do Princes Weep? Male Lament and Tears in Eleventh- and Twelfth-Century Byzantium**

1.00 Lunch

2.00-3.30 Chair TBA

Stratis Papaioannou (Brown)  
**Lament and Emotion in the Metaphrastic Menologion**

Max Lauxtermann (Oxford)  
**Exemplary Grief: Anon. Gozo, Ovid, and the Myth of Phaethon**

3.30 Tea and coffee

4.00-6.15 Chair TBA

Dimiter Angelov (Harvard)  
**Bitter Joy: The Laughter and Tears of Theodore II Laskaris**

Michael Angold (Edinburgh)  
**Nicetas Choniates's lament for Constantinople**

Panagiotis Roilos (Harvard)  
**From Plutarch to Gregory of Nyssa: Aspects of Pagan and Christian Approaches to Death and Mourning in Late Antiquity**

**7.30 Dinner and entertainment (South Hall)**

**Sunday 10 November**

9.30-11.00 Chair TBA

Panagiotis Agapitos (Cyprus)  
**'Words Filled with Tears': Amorous Discourse as Lamentation in the**

## **Palaiologan Romances**

David Holton (Cambridge)

**The Tragic, the Comic, and the Tragicomic in Cretan Renaissance Literature,  
with Particular Reference to *Panoria***

11.00 Tea and coffee

11.30-1.00 Chair: M. Alexiou

Anna Stavrakopoulou (Thessaloniki)

**Belisarius in the Shadow Theatre: The Private Calvary of a Legendary General**

Roderick Beaton (KCL) and Ruth Macrides (Birmingham)

**Summation and concluding discussion**

1.00 Lunch

End of conference