

Classics Session

Theme: The Role of Classics as a Discipline of Integration

Sub-section 1: Classical Studies: Continuity and Change

Chair: **Elizabeth Craik**

Speakers;

Hiroyuki Takahashi: Classical Tradition: a continuum from here to eternity.

Richard Hunter: Creating the Classical Tradition

Atsuhiko Hirota: *Othello* and Shakespeare's Rewritings of the *Aeneid*

This session looks at the classical tradition as a creative entity building itself up with incessant innovations. 'Tradition' implies an identical core being kept intact, while innovations involve adaptations and applications, – a series of 'renaissances' in order to be better equipped to face new/different situations brought about by contact with the outside world. To consider this paradoxical aspect of the classical tradition might help us better understand and overcome intellectual and cultural differences.

Hiroyuki Takahashi will discuss the self-conscious drive inherent in the classical tradition to keep on reinventing itself. **Richard Hunter** will look at Hellenistic literature and its role as a critical transition from classical Greece to Rome in 'establishing' the classical tradition. **Atsuhiko Hirota** will compare *Othello* with Virgil's *Aeneid* and discuss how Shakespeare approached the classical tradition.

Sub-section 2: Role and Possibility of Ancient History and Classical Archaeology

Chair: **Fergus Millar**

Speakers

Robin Osborne: The Role and Possibility of Ancient History in Britain

Takashi Minamikawa: Ancient History in Japan: Past, Present and Future

Satoshi Koyama: Classical Language as a Medium of Cultural Communication in Early Modern Europe: Latin in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in the 16-18th Centuries

The second part of the Classics Session will be devoted to the field of historical studies. The argument will centre on two issues, the first of which concerns the role and potential of two subfields of classical studies, Ancient History and Classical Archaeology, in the humanities and in society as a whole. In order to address this issue, it is essential to review the development of Ancient History in the light of its social and historical background, to scrutinize its present condition, and to consider its

prospects for the future. In this session, we will hear two keynote speeches and discuss the future shape of classical studies. The first, by **Robin Osborne**, will show us the role and potential of Ancient History in Britain, a country whose scholars have contributed so greatly to both Ancient History and Classical Archaeology. The second keynote speech, by **Takashi Minamikawa**, will explore the example of Japan, which, despite the lack of cultural foundations provided by ancient Greek and Roman heritage, has been a committed participant in classical studies since World War II.

The second issue considers the role of classical studies in the social history of Europe. Transcending the Western European perspective, the keynote speaker, **Satoshi Koyama**, will present the case study of Poland in order to illustrate the role and significance of classical studies in early modern European society. This presentation will serve as a starting point to extend the argument towards Western European and Asian societies in an attempt not only to integrate the humanities, but also to define the role that Classics should play in society.