



Image: The Thracian Bosphorus with Constantinople Divided into Wards. Pierre Gilles, *The Antiquities of Constantinople* (London 1979).

Dr Daniel Hanigan (Trinity College, Cambridge)- 'Counter-Mapping Empire: Dionysius of Byzantium in the Thracian Bosphorus'

The rhetoric of global territorial conquest was central to the propaganda of the early Roman Empire. Augustus and his successors frequently presented themselves in Virgilian terms as masters of an "empire without end" (*imperium sine fine*) bounded only by the impassable waters of Ocean. This was, however, a strained and ultimately fictional discourse. Rome never became anything like a global empire but was limited throughout its history by environmental and military frontiers. This paper will show that the maritime coastline emerged in the Greek literature of the early empire as a privileged space for the exploration of this disconnect between rhetoric and reality. It will focus on Dionysius of Byzantium's *Anaplous of the Bosphorus* (2nd Cent. C.E.) which depicts the shores of the Thracian Bosphorus as spaces shaped by numerous peoples, cultures, and histories that refuse to be flattened by the agglutinative machinery of empire.

This event forms part of the Centre of Classical Studies research seminar series and will take place at **3:15pm** in **Conference Room, A D Hope Building**.

All welcome. No registration required

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