



Australian
National
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Humanities
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Centre

Centre for
Classical
Studies



6PM WEDNESDAY 15 MAY 2024



DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES

Image: ANU Classics Museum 1975.20

Presented in collaboration with the ANU Centre for Classical Studies

Diversity Arenas? A Roman Pre-History of Racial Capitalism

6.00pm
Wed 15 May

RSSS Bld.
Auditorium 1.28

Lecture
followed by
refreshments

This talk will introduce key themes from the speaker's forthcoming book on Roman diversity, using examples from the Roman gladiatorial arena to illustrate how the value Romans placed on diversity was often tied to the commodification of racial difference. Drawing from Achille Mbembe's work on necropolitics and the archive, this talk views the arena as a diversity theater that enabled Romans to tokenize and consume memories of the violent incorporation of the foreign that ultimately resulted in the orderly heterogeneity of empire. It will ask whether Rome's gladiatorial spectacles speak to our own modern mechanisms for negotiating ethnic difference, from sports arenas to universities to quotas.



Dr Nandini Pandey

Associate Professor of Classics, John Hopkins University
HRC-Centre for Classical Studies Visiting Fellow, 2024

Dr Nandini Pandey is an Associate Professor of Classics at John Hopkins University. In 2018, she published a prize-winning monograph, *The Poetics of Power in Augustan Rome* (Cambridge University Press). More recently, Dr Pandey's public-facing essays and podcasts have analyzed modern culture, politics, and racial issues in light of the ancient past.



↑ Free Event
Register via Humanitix

HRC 2024 Annual Theme – Time, Place, Everywhen

2024 marks the 50th year of the ANU Humanities Research Centre (HRC).

To celebrate, the HRC is supporting research into different ideas of time and place and paying respect to Indigenous people through the theme of 'everywhen'.

hrc@anu.edu.au
hrc.cass.anu.edu.au

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