



Australian
National
University

Humanities
Research
Centre

Centre for
Classical
Studies



WEDNESDAY 6 MARCH 2024



Image: ANU Classics Museum 1976.10

DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES

Presented in collaboration with the ANU Centre for Classical Studies

Unsettling Oedipus. Psychoanalysis and the ancient Greek chorus

5.30pm
Wed 6 March

Sir Roland
Wilson Bld.
Theatrette 2.02

Lecture
followed by
refreshments

Many of us insist on an idea of living as a sequence of events, moving through challenge, conflict, space, and eventually finding an end. The linear trajectory of many figures in ancient Greek tragedy, Oedipus being the most famous, has been taken up by psychoanalysts ever since Freud, cohering with a commitment to notions of progress, of moving forward, of engaging in conflict (an agon) and finding eventual resolution. The ancient Greek chorus, however, provides a challenge to this mode of thinking. Drawing on the process of 'containment' articulated by British psychoanalyst Wilfred Bion (1897-1979) we can begin to reassess the function and psychological work of the chorus of Greek drama. In doing so we can illuminate a truer vision of the world, one that embraces an 'everywhen' and unsettles the supremacy of the individual.



Dr Lucy Jackson

*Associate Professor in Classics, Durham University, UK
HRC-Centre for Classical Studies Visiting Fellow*

Lucy C. M. M. Jackson is Associate Professor in Classics (Greek Literature) at Durham University. Her research interests include Greek drama in the classical period, particularly Greek tragedy and Greek choral performance. Her most recent book is *The Chorus of Drama in the Fourth Century BCE* (2020, Oxford University Press)



↑ 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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