



Image: History of Science Museum, Oxford: Vertical disc dial. Found near Bratislava, c.250 CE, Inv. 51358

# Dr Sarah Lawrence (University of New England) - 'The More Things Change: Exemplary Time in Valerius Maximus'

Wednesday, September 25th, 3:15pm

The way time functions in the short, didactic stories called *exempla* by the Romans is strange: simultaneously fixed and elastic, ancient and contemporary. In Valerius Maximus' collection, the *Facta et Dicta Memorabilia*, the stories depend partly on their age: this is particularly acute in Book Two, which respectfully details the antiquity of Roman values and structures in an ideal past. Nevertheless, in order to have power and efficacy, *exempla* also needed to speak to the present day, and so a balance constantly had to be struck between the authority of age and the currency of the values and tensions explored in the work. In this paper, I use the chapter *De Indole* (On Innate Character, 3.1), as a springboard for examining the operation of time in Valerius' text. Drawing on broader philosophical perspectives, as well as close analysis of Valerius' language, I set out a model for understanding 'exemplary time'.

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**

## Contact

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