



The Future of Classical Education

A lecture series hosted at the Institute of Advanced Studies,
Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań

It became almost banal to say that the humanities at the universities across the Western world (broadly conceived) are in some kind of crisis. The question of “why science?” (if we talk about STEM and also about social sciences) seems to be answered, usually, by referring to the advantages that applying these sciences brings society; for the public, it often seems to be the end of the problem. However, when it comes to “why the humanities?” question, the situation is much more complicated, although various “advantages”, “uses” or “relevance” of the humanities in general is also being brought up in public debates. The crisis of the humanities seems to be, at the core, a crisis of identity: What are we doing as scholars? What is the ultimate meaning of it? Why should society or the state support our academic activity? A good way of approaching the subject is via classical education, because Classics was the origin and, until recently, the very core of what we call “the humanities”. And the questions of the meaning and significance of classical education and its relation to the humanities in general are very pertinent, since in the West the very existence of Classics is being intellectually questioned, while various Classics departments are being closed down due to financial issues. In Poland, the problem seems to be more visible at the lower levels of education, where Latin has been disappearing after the collapse of Communism in Poland, but the status of Classics at the universities is also a challenging question.

1. Wolfgang de Melo (University of Oxford), *Why I won't decolonize my teaching: thoughts by a mixed-race classicist* (15 October 2024, 7h00 p.m. CET).

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83951364703?pwd=1kkaRbP2C4wg6ILbMWBr4X4TMRVaqT.1>

2. Jaspreet Singh Boparai (Independent), *When Classicists Attack Classics* (29 October 2024, 7h00 p.m. CET).

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86514711459?pwd=SaueKnQjGOqqNhk0RvKwRUC4ORN0qL.1>

3. Dobrinka Chiekova (The College of New Jersey), *Teaching Classics and Ancient history with open online resources* (26 November 2024, 7h00 p.m. CET).

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83068942683?pwd=4S9l6x1GFrtRKqc3Vn5KICAA0azfxx.1>

4. Edmund Stewart (University of Nottingham), *Professions, Professionalism and the Challenge of Bureaucracies: A Platonic Perspective* (21 January 2025, 7h00 p.m. CET).

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81730308075?pwd=RrQExlalkXbaMfqBXILIFdzrmbnPbr.1>

5. David Butterfield (Ralston College), *Hollowed-out Humanities: the Crisis of Classical Education*
(25 February 2025, 7h00 p.m. CET).

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89423386994?pwd=aRxBv0CgRKYxTnUzb9nqDbaamxU3Gr.1>

Contact person/organizer: Mateusz Stróżyński (Director of Institute of Classical Philology, Adam Mickiewicz University), email address: mateusz.strozynski@amu.edu.pl

Speakers' profiles:

Wolfgang de Melo is Professor of Classical Philology at the University of Oxford. His main research interest is in linguistics, metre and textual criticism. He has published extensively on Plautus, early Latin and Varro. His first book, *The Early Latin Verb System*, was a shortened version of his doctorate (OUP, 2007). After this, he edited and translated Plautus for the Loeb Classical Library (HUP, 5 vols., 2011-13), before turning to Varro (*Varro's De Lingua Latina: Introduction, Text, Translation, and Commentary*, OUP, 2019). His most recent book is intended for a student audience (*Latin Linguistics: An Introduction*, De Gruyter, 2024). He is currently on research leave, supported by a Leverhulme Major Research Fellowship, which will enable him to write a syntax of Plautus and Terence.

Jaspreet Singh Boparai has graduated from classical philology at the University of Oxford and completed his Ph.D. in neo-Latin literature at the University of Cambridge. He has graduated also from Cultural and Intellectual History at Warburg Institute and from History of Art at Courtauld Institute of Art in London. He was a Wallace Fellow at Villa I Tatti (Harvard Centre for Italian Renaissance Studies, Florence) in 2016-2017 and a lecturer in the History of Art at Charles Cecil Studios in Florence in 2017-2019. He was also offered a fellowship in Renaissance Studies at Newberry Library (Chicago) in 2019. He is currently an independent scholar. He co-authored: Adam Mickiewicz, *Metaphysical Poems*, eds. J. Fiećko, M. Stróżyński, tr. M. Stróżyński, J.S. Boparai (Paderborn: Brill, 2023). His other publications include: "Politian's Translation of Callimachus' 'Bath of Pallas' Hymn in the Miscellanea." *Canadian Journal of Comparative Literature* 41.1, 1-21; "Greek Poetry and Politian's Lyric Verse 1469-1480." *Studi umanistici piceni* 30 (2013) 48-63; "Pindar, Tragedy and Politian's Notion of Classical Greek" in (Morra, E. Mistretta, E.R. eds.) *Building the Canon: Italian Renaissance and the Creation of a Literary Tradition* (Brill, 2019); "Le Nutricia d'Ange Politien: de subitus calor à poeticus furor" in Pouey-Mounou, A.-P. ed., *Inqualifiables fureurs: les qualifications des figures de l'inspiration dans l'Europe de la Renaissance*, (Paris, 2020).

Dobrinka Chiekova teaches Ancient History and Classics at The College of New Jersey (USA). Previously she was a post-doctoral fellow at the Classics department at Princeton University, USA, and Visiting Assistant Professor at the Classics department at Bryn Mawr College, USA. She did her Ph.D. at University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland, while working as a teaching assistant at Institut de l'archéologie et des sciences de l'Antiquité classique. She is the author of the monograph: *Cultes et vie religieuse des cités grecques du Pont Gauche (Ville– Ier siècle av. J.-C.)* (Bern, 2008) and she co-edited (with D. Knoepfler et al.): *Éditer, traduire, commenter Pausanias en l'an 2000* (Genève, 2001). Her other publications include: "The Great Mother Goddess on the Thracian Coast of Pontos Euxeinos. Forms and Traditions", in *Ancient Civilizations from Scythia to Siberia* 29, Brill, 2023, 11-37; "Greek cities on

the western Black Sea Coast”, in *Philologos Dionysios. Mélanges offerts au professeur Denis Knoepfler* (Genève, 2011), 517-532; “Cults of the Greek cities en aristera tou Pontou: Interaction of Greek and Thracian traditions”, *Electronic Antiquity* 11.1.

Edmund Stewart is Assistant Professor in Ancient Greek History, at the Faculty of Arts of the University of Nottingham. He has published in the areas of the history of Greek drama and Greek religious festival culture, as well as economic history, sociology and ancient Greek politics. He is the author of *Greek Tragedy on the Move: The Birth of a Panhellenic Art Form c. 500-300 BC* (Oxford, 2017) and co-editor (with Harris, E., and Lewis, D.) of: *Skilled Labour, and Professionalism in Ancient Greece and Rome* (Cambridge, 2020). His other publications include ‘The Tyrant’s Progress: the meaning of the ΤΥΠΑΝΝΟΣ in Plato and Aristotle’, *Polis* 38 (2021) 208-36; ‘Inner nature, outward appearance: the theme of nobility in Euripides’ *Electra*’, *Phoenix* 73 (2019) 237-261; ‘Ion of Chios: the case of a foreign poet in Sparta’, *The Classical Quarterly*, 68 (2019) 394-407.

David Butterfield was Senior Lecturer in Classics at the University of Cambridge, currently affiliated with Ralston College. His primary areas of research are Latin literature, particularly of the Late Republic (and especially Lucretius), textual criticism, codicology and the history of scholarship. He authored a book *The Early Textual History of Lucretius’ De Rerum Natura* (Cambridge, 2013) and edited *Varro Varius: The Polymath of the Roman World* (Cambridge, 2015). His other publications include: “A.E. Housman: Classical Scholar (London: Duckworth, 2009; edited with C.A. Stray); ‘The poetic treatment of *atque* from Catullus to Juvenal’, *Mnemosyne* 61 (2008), 386-413; ‘Sigmatic ecthipsis in Lucretius’, *Hermes* 136 (2008), 188-205; ‘Housman’s public use of reproof’, *Housman Society Journal* 36 (2010), 158-70; ‘Classical Scholarship, The History of’ for R. Bagnall et al. (edd.), *The Encyclopedia of Ancient History* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2012); ‘Latin and Social Media’ and ‘The Gradus ad Parnassum and other verse manuals’, in P. Ford, J. Bloemendal & C. Fantazzi (edd.), *Encyclopedia of Neo-Latin Studies* (981-3, 1014-16; Brill, 2014).