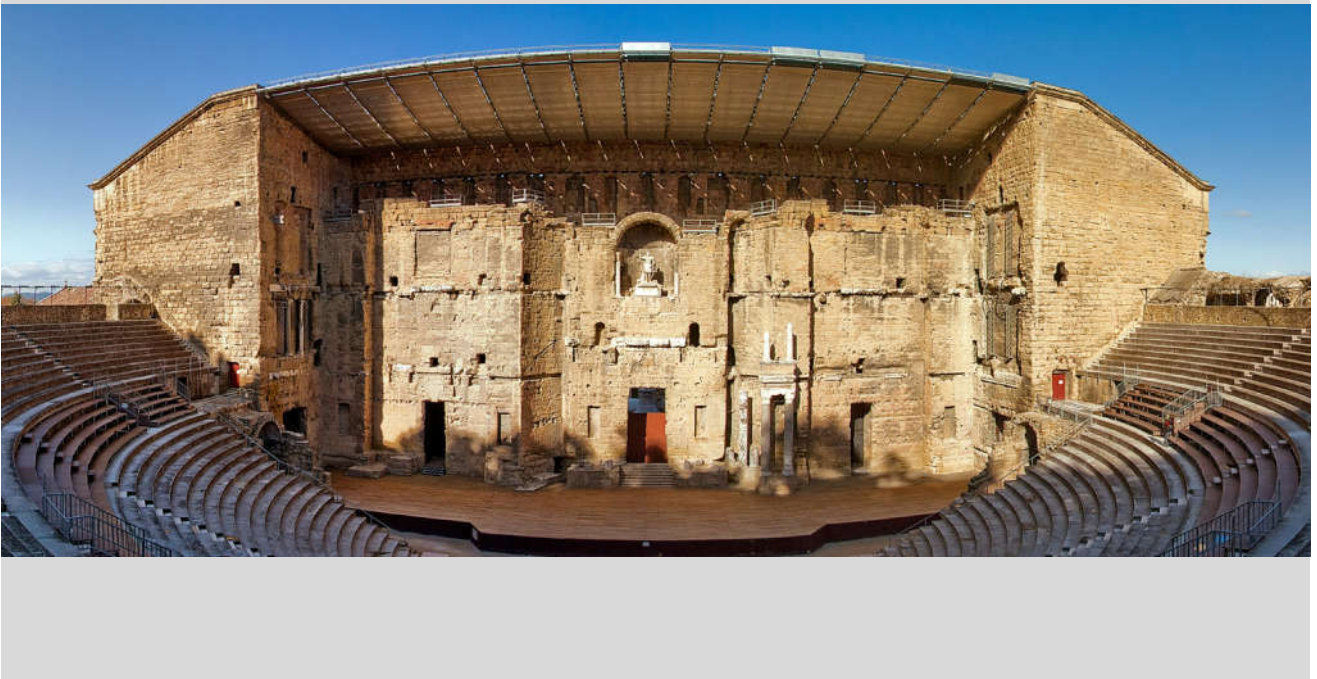




THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

THEATRE AND AUTOCRACY IN THE ANCIENT WORLD



JULY 26-27, 2018

**CENTRE FOR CLASSICAL
AND NEAR EASTERN
STUDIES**

**Room 480, Level 4, Madsen
Building, University of
Sydney**

For More information

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THEATRE AND AUTOCRACY IN THE ANCIENT WORLD

Plato claimed that poets of tragic drama 'drag states into tyranny and democracy'. The word order is very deliberate: he goes on to say that tragic poets are honoured 'especially by the tyrants, and secondly by the democracies' (*Republic* 568c). For more than forty years scholars have explored the political, ideological, structural and economic links between democracy and theatre in ancient Greece. By contrast, the links between autocracy and theatre are virtually ignored, despite the fact that in the first 200 years of its existence more than a third of all theatre-states were autocratic. For the next 600 years, theatre flourished exclusively in autocratic regimes. The conference brings together experts in ancient theatre to undertake the first systematic study of the patterns of use made of the theatre by tyrants, regents, kings and emperors. For two generations theatre has, as an instrument of mass communication, been characterised as ancient democracy's supreme cultural artefact. Our conference will explore the historical circumstances and means by which autocrats turned a medium of mass communication into an instrument of mass control.



SPEAKERS

Lucia Athanassaki (University of Crete), Ewen Bowie (Oxford University), Bob Cowan (University of Sydney), Eric Csapo (University of Sydney), Anne Duncan (University of Nebraska-Lincoln), Simon Goldhill (Cambridge University), Hans Goette (German Archaeological Institute and University of Giessen), Chris Kraus (Yale University), Brigitte Le Guen (University of Paris 8), Chris de L'Isle (Oxford University), Nino Luraghi (Princeton University), Elodie Paillard (Universities of Basel and Sydney), Simon Perris (University of Wellington), Jelle Stoop (University of Sydney), Paul Touyz (Princeton University), Peter Wilson (University of Sydney)

STUDENT TRAVEL BURSARIES

A number of travel bursaries are available to doctoral students who wish to attend the conference. Please register your interest before **March 15, 2018**, by sending (as a single pdf file) a short letter of application, stating how the theme of the conference relates to the topic of your PhD, a CV (with list of publications), and a short reference letter from your supervisor to Billy Kennedy at:

william.kennedy@sydney.edu.au



Roman copper alloy coin. Obverse: head of Nero.
Reverse: Nero playing lyre as Apollo Citharoedus.
BM 1921,0612.5 ©Trustees of the British Museum.

CONFERENCE ORGANISERS

Eric Csapo (University of Sydney), J. R. Green (University of Sydney), Brigitte Le Guen (University of Paris 8), Elodie Paillard (Universities of Basel and Sydney) Jelle Stoop (University of Sydney), Peter Wilson (University of Sydney)

REGISTRATION:

Registration and attendance is free.

Please confirm your place by emailing Billy Kennedy by July 2nd, 2018 at: william.kennedy@sydney.edu.au

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