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Gaze, Vision and Visuality in ancient Greek Literature: Concepts, Contexts and Reception.



Academy Conference, Freiburg
4–6 December 2014



HEIDELBERGER AKADEMIE
DER WISSENSCHAFTEN

Akademie der Wissenschaften
des Landes Baden-Württemberg

Gaze, Vision and Visuality in ancient Greek Literature: Concepts, Contexts and Reception.

Venue: Haus zur Lieben Hand (Großer Saal)
Löwenstraße 16
79098 Freiburg
Date: 4–6 December 2014
Beginning: Thursday, 4 December 2014, 8:00 a.m.

Visuality was a key feature of ancient Greek culture. Performance and spectacle lay at the heart of all aspects of everyday life, such as courts and assemblies, cult and ritual, arts and culture. Literary genres often host acts of viewing or describe other visual experiences, engaging continually with sight-related language, while also exploring multiple interconnections between viewing, understanding and knowing. The recipients of ancient Greek literature (both oral and written) are thus encouraged to perceive the narrated scenes as spectacles and to ‘follow the gaze’ of the characters in the narrative. Seeing and visuality were also debated topics. Whilst being considered as the most secure means into knowledge (note the historians’ insistence on *opsis* and *autopsia*), seeing was often associated with mere appearance, false perception and deceptiveness (see, for instance, the ideas of Plato, but also, *a contrario*, the connection between oracular knowledge and darkness or blindness).

This conference aims at exploring the various forms of gaze, vision, and visuality in ancient Greek literature. By setting a broad time span, we seek to track down the evolution of the gaze culture in Greek literature, while also addressing broader topics, such as theories of vision, the prominence of visuality in specific time periods, or the position of visuality in a hierarchization of senses.

Cover picture:

“Oculus historiae, oculus memoriae, oculus oblivionis” (detail),
A. and P. Poirier, München, photo: digital cat.

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PROGRAM



THURSDAY, 4 DECEMBER 2014

- 8:00 ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION
- 9:00 **IAN RUTHERFORD**
The Vocabulary of Gaze and Vision
(workshop session)
- 11:00 COFFEE BREAK
- 11:30 **NIKOLAUS DIETRICH**
Viewing and Identification:
The Agency of the Viewer in Archaic and
Early Classical Greek Visual Culture
- 12:15 LUNCH BREAK
- 14:00 **ANNA NOVOKHATKO**
The Semantics of Vision and Visuality
in Sicilian and Old Attic Comedy
- 14:45 **RUBY BLONDELL**
Devastating Beauty: Visualizing Helen
in Euripides' Trojan Women
- 15:30 COFFEE BREAK
- 15:45 **DEBORAH TARN STEINER**
Visible Writings: Visuality, Performativity
and *Enargeia* in Early Inscriptions, Images
and Texts
- 16:30 **CHRISTIAN ORTH**
Deixis in the Prologues of Greek Comedy
- 17:15 COFFEE BREAK
- 17:30 **SIMON BÜCHNER**
Gaze in the Information Processing Paradigm
- 18:15 **JONAS GRETHLEIN**
Gaze, Desire and Destruction in the *Odyssey*



FRIDAY, 5 DECEMBER 2014

- 9:00 **NIKOS MILTSIOS**
The Directions of Gaze in Herodotus
- 9:45 **ROSIE HARMAN**
The Visual in Greek Historiography
- 10:30 COFFEE BREAK
- 10:45 **FELIX MAIER**
Directing the Gaze in Procopius
- 11:30 **ALEXIA PETSALIS-DIOMIDIS**
Gazing at Votives in Texts and on the Ground:
Dedicatory Epigrams and Material Offerings
- 12:15 LUNCH BREAK
- 14:00 **FRANÇOISE LÉTOUBLON**
War as Spectacle in the *Iliad*
- 14:45 **DOUGLAS CAIRNS**
Phrikê, Theatricality, and the Visual
- 15:30 FREE TIME
- 18:00 **HELEN LOVATT**
Apollonius Rhodius and the Epic Gaze
(plenary talk)
- 20:00 CONFERENCE DINNER

Amphora painting of Odysseus and his men blinding
Polyphemus (detail), Museum of Eleusis.

SATURDAY, 6 DECEMBER 2014

- 9:45 **STYLIANOS CHRONOPOULOS**
The Fearsome Gaze of Thrasymachus
(Pl. *Resp.* 336b–e):
Eye Communication and Philosophical
Dialogue
- 10:30 COFFEE BREAK
- 10:45 **HELEN-MELINA TAMIOLAKI**
Being or Appearing Virtuous?
The Challenges of Leadership in
Xenophon's *Cyropaedia*
- 11:30 **CLAUDIA MICHEL**
Blindness and Blinding in the *Odyssey*
- 12:15 LUNCH BREAK
- 14:00 **EMMANUELA BAKOLA**
Seeing the Invisible: Visuality, Interiority,
and Theatrical Space in the *Oresteia*
- 14:45 **ANNA LAMARI**
Exploring Visual Intertextuality
in Greek Drama
- 15:30 COFFEE BREAK
- 15:45 **ALEXANDROS KAMPAKOGLOU**
The Poetics of Gaze in Apollonius Rhodius
- 16:30 **EFSTATHIA ATHANASOPOULOU**
The Construction of Vision:
Plato's Allegory of the Cave in Film
- 17:15 COFFEE BREAK
- 17:30 CLOSING DISCUSSION