

***Telling Bodies***  
***A Conference on Corporeal Classical Reception***

convened by Lilah Grace Canevaro, Barbara Graziosi, and Katerina Stergiopoulou  
Edinburgh, 13th-16th November 2025

What happens if we centre the body in classical reception studies?  
What tales does the body tell? And what tales are told about the body?

**Thursday, 13 November**

[The conference will be preceded by the Launch for the A.G. Leventis Centre for Greek Studies, from 3-4.15pm. Robin Osborne, Margaret Mullett, and Gonda Van Steen will speak on the past, present, and future of diachronic Greek Studies. All conference participants are welcome to attend.]

4.15-5.00 Arrival and registration (with coffee & cakes)

5.00-6.30 Keynote lecture: Barbara Graziosi (University of Edinburgh, Princeton University)  
Against the Wall: Classical Traditions, Cross-Cultural Confluences,  
and Embodied Practice

**Drinks Reception**

**Followed by Dinner for Speakers at the Scotch Malt Whisky Society from 7.30pm**

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**Friday, 14 November**

**Embodied Cognition and Classical Reception**

9.00-10.00 Alex Purves (UCLA)  
Achille Underwater in Derek Walcott's *Omeros*

10.00-11.00 Nina Papathanasopoulou (College Year in Athens)  
Telling Emotion in Martha Graham's Greek-themed Dances and Errand into the Maze

Coffee Break

**Genre-Defying Bodies**

11.30-12.30 Naomi Weiss (Harvard University)  
Bodies Between Pots and Plays

Lunch

1.30-2.30 Sarah Nooter (Chicago University)  
Pindar's Queer Effluence

2.30-3.30 Rebecca Laemmle (University of Cambridge)  
Tantalizing Gestures. Sinners In and After Homer

Coffee Break

4.00-5.00 Christian Laes (University of Manchester)  
*Aesop Novel 1: A Physiognomical Description of a Telling Body*

**5.30-7.00 Buffet Dinner**

**8.30 Dance Performance at Adam House Basement Theatre**  
Martha Graham & Greek Myth: Clytemnestra

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**Saturday, 15 November**

**Bodies of Knowledge**

9.00-10.00 Katherine Harloe (Institute for Classical Studies, London)  
Winckelmann, Casanova, and Classical Scholarship *in Flagante*

10.00-11.00 Alexia Petsalis-Diomidis (University of St Andrews)  
Mobility, Materiality and the Epistolary Medium: Elizabeth Leake, a Victorian Case Study of Embodied Classical Reception

Coffee Break

11.30-12.30 Francesca Beretta (St Anne's College, Oxford)  
(Em)Bodying Sappho: Italian Queer Reception (1970s-1980s)

Lunch

**Political Bodies**

1.30-2.30 Dan-el Padilla Peralta (Princeton University)  
Archives of Brown Tongues: Affect and Accent in the Ancient Mediterranean

2.30-3.30 Mirko Canevaro (University of Edinburgh)  
Embodiment and Democratic Class Experience from Athens to Modernity

Coffee Break

4.00-5.00 Henry Stead (University of St Andrews)  
Red All Over: British Communist Reception of the Ancient Body

5.00-6.00 Lilah Grace Canevaro (University of Edinburgh)  
William Morris and the Embodiment of Dreams

**Conference Dinner and Ceilidh from 7.30pm at South Hall**

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**Sunday, 16 November**

**Bodies and Places**

9.00-10.00 Brooke Holmes (Princeton University)  
Posidonius on the Shore

10.00-11.00 Peter Kelly (Princeton University)  
Embodied Wandering: Traversing the Environments of Classical Myth and Irish Poetry

Coffee Break

11.15-12.15 Katerina Stergiopoulou (University of Edinburgh)  
The Body in Time: The 'Days' Poems of C.P. Cavafy and James Merrill

Lunch before departure