



**Institutskolloquium mit Semestereröffnung  
der Klassischen Philologie  
an der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin**

**Vortrag: Bernd Steinbock**  
University of Western Ontario

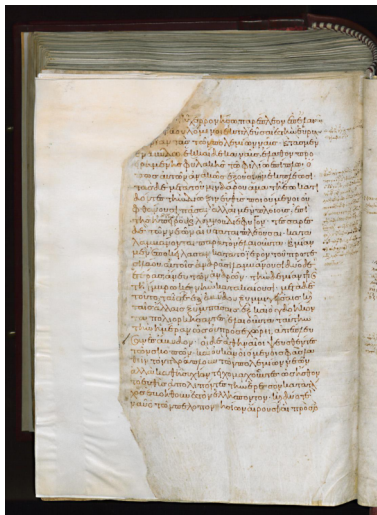
**Working through Trauma  
Thucydides' Empathic Account  
of the Athenians' Departure from Syracuse**

**28. April 2022 – 18:00 Uhr (Vortrag: 18:30 Uhr) per Zoom**

**[https://hu-berlin.zoom.us/j/65561363682?](https://hu-berlin.zoom.us/j/65561363682?pwd=Q2IDYVdzVFA2N2ZNZ0pVYUYrUmExZz09)**

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**Meeting-ID: 655 6136 3682 Passwort: 444805**



By connecting Thucydides' evident attentiveness to human suffering with recent trauma theory, Neville Morley has shown that Thucydides' history of the Peloponnesian War exhibits not only features of critical historiography, but also serves as a model for historians of traumatic events. Building on Morley's seminal article, I investigate another, so far underexplored aspect of Thucydides' account of horrific events, that is its affective dimension. In a close reading of Thucydides' harrowing account of the Athenians' departure from their camp at Syracuse (7.75), I will make the case that Thucydides, through the literary means of *enargeia* (vivid description) and pathos created what Dominick LaCapra calls an 'empathic unsettlement' in his readers, which helped them to come to terms with this traumatic event.