

Lightness quickness multiplicity

Three memos for Classicists

7–9 April
2022

A workshop in honour
of Therese Fuhrer

Humboldt-Universität
zu Berlin

ORGANIZERS:

Lisa Cordes (HU Berlin)

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Fritz Thyssen Stiftung
für Wissenschaftsförderung

ITALO CALVINO AND ANTIQUITY · HUMBOLDT-UNIVERSITÄT ZU BERLIN

Thursday, 7 April

from 17:00

Conference Office: Humboldt-University Berlin, Institut für Klassische Philologie, Main Building, Unter den Linden 6, R. 2249.

18:00

Welcome and Introduction:

Lisa Cordes (Berlin), **Marco Formisano** (Ghent), **Janja Soldo** (Manchester)
Italo Calvino's Memos for the New Millennium and Classics.

18:15

Keynote lecture: **Laura Jansen** (Bristol) Lucretian Lightness and the Future of Antiquity.

Dinner 20:00

In 1985-86, the Italian writer Italo Calvino was invited to give the Charles Eliot Norton Poetry Lectures at Harvard. He conceived his five lectures as "memos for the next millennium", exploring textual qualities suited to accompanying writers and readers into the literature of the future: lightness, quickness, exactitude, visibility, multiplicity (a sixth on consistency remained but a project). In these lectures Calvino takes into consideration a broad spectrum of texts, ancient and modern, from poetry to philosophy, from the novel to science, from biography to drama. But specific prominence is given to the work of certain classical Greek and Roman authors, in particular Homer, Lucretius and Ovid, to whom Calvino also devoted an important essay entitled Ovid and universal contiguity.

Calvino strongly believed that (literary) writing must be generated by an external constriction, so we take inspiration from those famous "memos" and invite our speakers to a specific task: to look at a text of their own choice through the lens of the Calvinian memos which are perhaps less discussed in the study of classical literature, namely "lightness", "quickness" and "multiplicity." We invite speakers not only to reconsider those Greek and Latin texts which were treated by Calvino himself, such as Lucretius and Ovid, but also to turn those poetic qualities into powerful hermeneutic strategies for reading and investigating ancient and late antique textuality more generally.

This conference is dedicated to Professor Therese Fuhrer (LMU Munich), our academic guide, colleague and friend.

Friday, 8 April

Lightness

Chair: Lisa Cordes

09:00–09:30

Sabine Föllinger (Marburg)
Trauer, Schmerz und dichterische Form: Literatur als Existenzbewältigung.

09:30–10:00

Jan Stenger (Würzburg)
Lightness, quickness und multiplicity in der Dichtung des Bakchylides.

Coffee Break 10:00–10:30

10:30–11:00

Jacqueline Fabre-Serris (Lille)
Horace and Ovid: two ways of thinking about the *leuitas* of Love.

11:00–11:30

Antje Wessels (Leiden)
Leichtigkeit und Schwere in Ovids Tristia.

Lunch 11:30–13:30

Quickness

Chair: Marco Formisano

13:30–14:00

Tobias Uhle (Munich)
Das schwere Ende einer leichten Gattung. Der Abgesang auf die Bukolik in Vergils 9. Ecloge.

14:00–14:30

Henriette Harich-Schwarzbauer (Basel)
Schnelles Enden – Zu Senecas Consolationes.

Coffee Break 14:30–15:00

15:00–15:30

Kathleen Coleman (Harvard)
'Epigrams in prose'? Pliny's shortest letters.

15:30–16:00

Christoph Marksches (Berlin)
Beschleunigung in vormodernen Zeiten? Literarische Gestaltung von Beschleunigung in antiken christlichen Texten.

Dinner 20:00

Lightness
quickness
multiplicity

Saturday, 9 April

Multiplicity

Chair: Janja Soldo

09:00–09:30

Renate Schlesier (Berlin)
Anakreons multiple Lesbieren.

09:30–10:00

Gernot M. Müller (Bonn)
Der Flaneur und seine Tradition oder: Wie Horaz seine satirische persona zur ethischen Beobachterin werden lässt (Hor. serm. 1,4,103–143).

10:00–10:30

Stephen Harrison (Oxford)
Vergil and Sibylline Prophecy: Generic Multiplicity in the Aeneid.

Coffee Break 10:30–11:00

11:00–11:30

Christopher Whitton (Cambridge)
Light, shade and texture: Pliny (with Tacitus) on master-murder (Ep. 3.14).

11:30–12:00

Paolo Felice Sacchi (Pavia)
Diffracting flatness: multiplicity and materiality in Claudian's Carmina minora.

12:00–12:30

Therese Fuhrer (Munich)
Wrap-up.

Lunch 13:15

**Guided tour of
Humboldt-Forum 15:00**