

## Making and Unmaking Memory in the Ancient World, from the 7<sup>th</sup> Century BCE to the 7<sup>th</sup> Century CE

**19<sup>th</sup> UNISA Classics Colloquium in collaboration with the ARC Discovery Project, 'Memories of Utopia: Destroying the past to create the future (300-650 CE)'**

Pretoria, 7-10 November 2018

We are pleased to announce the first call for papers for the annual Unisa Classics Colloquium in collaboration with the Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery Project: "Memories of Utopia: Destroying the Past to Create the Future (300-650 CE)".

The conference aims to explore a wide variety of aspects relating to the building, dismantling and reconstructing of memory and reputation across the various cultures bordering on the ancient Mediterranean, and over a wide time-frame. We know that memory and history are not fixed, objective occurrences, but are subjective representations of reality, and we can see evidence of this in the way in which those items which transmit memory are manipulated and used throughout antiquity. Memory and history, for example, are often reconstructed in light of various utopian (or even dystopian) ideals, thereby creating visions of the future that are based on strategic manipulations of the past. The unmaking and reconstitution of memory can be discreet, but more often occurs through violent means, whether through discursive and/or physical violence, which is an important aspect for further investigation.

The proposed conference aims to create fruitful interaction between the disciplines of Classics, Early Christian Studies, Late Antiquity and Byzantine Studies, by exploring both ancient written material and/or ancient material culture within the stated theme. The conference thus offers plenty of areas for further exploration, of which the following fields are a sample:

- Methodological considerations on the use of Memory Studies and Utopia Studies in the field of Ancient History
- From *damnatio* to *renovatio memoriae*. The mutilation, transformation and/or re-use of items representing the past such as buildings, statues and iconography
- The effects of iconoclasm and intersectional violence
- Spolia: from the narrative of power to repurposing of architectural fragments
- The importance of promoting or undermining ancestry in the ancient world, for example in Greek or Roman portraiture and busts and the recutting of busts to new portraits
- Continuity and change in historiography – debates on the past among the ancient historians
- The making and breaking of reputations, e.g. techniques and strategies (and their effectiveness) in ancient biography and hagiography
- Memory, utopia and ancient religion
- Utopias and the building of collective identities
- Building genealogies and ancestry, and aristocratic genealogy-competition and rivalry
- The purpose of evoking memory through Classical reception

Paper proposals (approximately 300 words) are invited for papers of 30 minutes debating current issues and problems on any aspect of the above theme.

Abstracts and titles should include your name and university affiliation, and should be submitted to either:

- Prof Martine De Marre (*Ancient History and Classics*) at [dmarrmea@unisa.ac.za](mailto:dmarrmea@unisa.ac.za) or [dmarrmea@gmail.com](mailto:dmarrmea@gmail.com)
- Prof Chris de Wet (*Early Christian Studies*) at [chrisldw@gmail.com](mailto:chrisldw@gmail.com)

Deadline for abstracts: **30 June 2018**

We look forward to hearing from you, and please do not hesitate to contact us at the addresses provided above if you have any queries.