

Ancient World Studies: Which Path to Take?

In the wake of calls to diversify curricula and pressures facing the humanities, the boundaries separating Classics and other related disciplines, concerned with the study of ancient cultures, seem harder and harder to justify and maintain. This roundtable brings together a diverse group of junior scholars to explore how we move beyond ‘Classics’ towards an Ancient World Studies framework.

What constitutes the ‘ancient world’? Is a unified study of antiquity, extending beyond the Mediterranean, possible? How did different fields that study ancient cultures become so fragmented, and how do we overcome that? Participants will interrogate current disciplinary divisions to answer these questions. Envisioning how Ancient World Studies would work in practice, they will also engage with other topical issues in the field—including inclusivity, language teaching, and integration of critical theories—drawing on their own involvement in collectives that promote diversity and community for graduate students on these topics.

From this roundtable, we aim to understand how graduate students and junior scholars view the future of studying ancient cultures, within and beyond Classics. We also intend to identify key themes for more focused panels in the future, generating longevity in this conversation of what it means to do Ancient World Studies.