

Teaching Place, Displacement, and Replacement in Ancient History and Literature: An Examination of the Treatment of *Metoikoi* in Athenian Drama and Court Speeches

This project began as two weeks of summer research for an NEH grant on Displacement, Migration, and Transplantation in the Ancient World and has developed into a year long research project through a Faculty-Undergraduate Collaborative Research award from CAMWS. As I have compiled and analyzed both primary and secondary sources, shaping it into a class tentatively titled “Place, Displacement, and Replacement in the Ancient World,” the portrayal of Athens in literary works versus in Fourth-Century court speeches stood out.

Although Athens is portrayed to be a place of great hospitality towards foreigners and a refuge for them in times of crisis in Athenian Drama, Fourth-Century BCE Athenian court speeches reveal the city as a place far more hostile, unjust, and prejudiced towards foreigners, specifically metics. Tragedies from throughout the Fifth-Century BCE, including Aeschylus’ *Eumenides* and *Suppliants*, Euripides’ *Suppliants*, *Medea*, and *Phoenician Women*, and Sophocles’ *Oedipus at Colonus* emphasize Athens’ hospitality toward foreigners as a mark of pride of the city. Court speeches such as pseudo-Demosthenes’ *Against Neaera* though, display the violence foreigners could be subjected to and the lack of legal protection given to them (Kennedy 2016). Similar issues are present within Demosthenes’ *For Phormion* and *Against Eubulides* as well. The contrasting portrayals of the dynamics between foreigners and Athenians allows one to see the complex relationship between the two (Dougherty 2017). The analysis of these court speeches alters the notion of Athens as a refuge, forcing the cruel reality to be recognized.

Poster Layout

My poster will be split into three sections. The first will focus on discussing the origins of metics in Athens, working within the argument that a legal status for them was established around 460 BCE, along with a brief overview of legislation that is applicable, such as Perikles citizenship law. The next section will provide an analysis of how the Athenian treatment of foreigners in Athenian Drama contradicts the treatment seen in Fourth-Century BCE Athenian court speeches. The third section will cover how this comparison and analysis is applicable to the larger outcome of this research, a course on displacement.

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