

Being a Classicist in the Digital World: Public Scholarship in the Age of Twitter

The traditional model of publication in academia is changing to include public scholarship as a more significant part. Funding and job opportunities are being shared across digital social networks, and networking is frequently accomplished using these same tools. As academia slowly transitions to incorporate more digital tools, graduate students who are aware of what these tools are and how they work are in a better position for making use of them.

In order to prepare graduate students for the world of digital public scholarship, we are offering a panel which will present three perspectives on using digital tools: one specialist in digital outreach and online writing, one YouTube content creator and online community specialist, and one podcast creator and Twitter scholar. The purpose of the panel is to discuss effective ways that graduate students can engage in public scholarship within the classics using these various digital methods. Many of us are active on social media and consistently read online journalism, but most departments are ill-equipped and disinterested in preparing students in how to use these tools.

Our first presenter is a current PhD student in classics who has written for the online Classics magazine *Eidolon* and works as the outreach officer for a caucus for an underrepresented group in the field. She will speak about using digital tools for activism and engaged scholarship, as well as writing for a nonacademic audience and using social media as a scholar in general. Our second presenter is another Classics graduate student as well as YouTube content creator and producer of their own classics-themed YouTube channel. They will talk about how social video tools can be used in academia — for pedagogy as well as for catharsis — and the benefits of engaging with digital communities. Finally, our third presenter is an Assistant Professor in Ancient Studies and the creator of a podcast, YouTube channel, and online

community focused on ancient history. She will talk about how to use podcasts, youtube, and twitter as public scholarship, the advantages and limitations of those platforms, and the problems of how to make this kind of work seem (to be frank) respectable, and even impressive, to grad supervisors and potential employers. Afterward, the audience will participate in a question-and-answer session where they will be invited to engage with the panelists individually or collectively.

Graduate students should be provided, early on, with the tools that they need to make use of the digital world. By introducing experts on various aspects of the digital world and who have successfully incorporated digital tools into their academic careers, we aim to shed light on techniques that grad students can use to bolster their own credentials. We intend for participants to leave the panel having gained insight into what tools are available, how to use them successfully, and how to incorporate digital techniques into existing academic infrastructure.