

## *Wonder Woman* and Warrior Princesses in Classical Reception

The widespread international commercial success and critical acclaim for the 2017 film *Wonder Woman* (directed by Patty Jenkins) has brought new attention and visibility to the representation of ancient warrior women and action heroines. Earlier figures like Xena and Artemisia, as well as classical allusions in other genre works like *Battlestar Galactica*'s Starbuck and *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, have been used to legitimize and provide authority to the figure of the female action hero. Her divine origin gives her an excuse for being an extraordinary woman, unlike others in a patriarchal society. In particular, many modern works of classical reception draw upon the legacy of the Amazons, the semi-fictional warrior women whom the classical Greeks and Romans themselves adopted as symbols of alterity and alternative heroic models.

This panel seeks to address how modern works, in literature, film, television, and other mass media, have invoked and adapted the motif of the Amazon as both a positive and negative symbol. Since her comic origins, *Wonder Woman* has been a model not only of superheroic bravery but of alternative sexuality; other classically themed warrior women have followed in her path. Several papers also seek to address the queerness of these particular allusions – are warrior women defined by their lack of need for men?

Following the recent traditions of classical reception studies and feminist studies, this panel also seeks to incorporate the voices of both traditional scholars within academia and active practitioners and artists of classical reception, including both historical fiction novelists and the organizer of the Artemis Women in Action Film Festival. CAMWS has always been an institution that sought to welcome a wider variety

of voices and this panel would be a perfect nexus for such collaboration and dialogue.

The panel also features a range of both senior and junior scholars of diverse backgrounds.