



Classics and/in Africa

July 3-4, 2025, University College London

Recent scholarship in Classics has both redirected the exclusive focus on ancient Greece and Rome to study of the broader ancient Mediterranean as a space of diversity and connectivity and traced the transmission of classical antiquity in cultures and regions beyond the West. Such work includes the study of ancient African cultures, representations of Africa by Greco-Roman authors, and African receptions of the Classics. At the same time, classicists working in African countries may or may not choose to thematize an African connection to the Classics. This conference is intended to facilitate a flexible and open-ended dialogue, where Africa is at once the focus of research and the site of current disciplinary praxis—it both invites contributions on Classics *and* Africa and on lines of research currently pursued *in* Africa.

Organizing Committee:

Hasskei Majeed (U. Ghana, Legon); Justine McConnell (KCL); Olakunbi Olasope (U. Ibadan, Nigeria); Daniel Orrells (KCL); Luke Roman (Memorial University, Canada); Phiroze Vasunia (UCL).

This conference is organized in collaboration with the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, the University of Ghana, Legon, King's College London, The Department of Greek and Latin at University College London, and Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador. It is part of a collaborative project, *Classics at the Crossroads: Partnership, Mobility, and Exchange Between Ghana, Nigeria, and Canada*, funded by a Social Sciences and Humanities Council of Canada Partnership Development Grant (Co-directors: Olakunbi Olasope, Hasskei Majeed, and Luke Roman).

Location:

The conference will take place at the [Medical Sciences](#) and [Anatomy](#) Buildings on Gower St. on UCL's Bloomsbury Campus.

July 3, 2025

8:30 – 9:00: Orientation/Introductory Remarks

Session 1, Panel 1, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm:

Ancient Theatre and Modern Africa

Chair: **Olakunbi Olasope (University of Ibadan)**

9:00 – 9:30 am online	Stella Antwiwaa (University of Cape Coast)	Can the subaltern be heard? Women and rhetoric in selected Euripidean and Ghanaian plays
9:30 – 10:00 am	Clare Chang (University of Oxford)	Athol Fugard's <i>Orestes</i> - Orestes' Past and/in the Present
10:00 – 10:30 am	Leo Kershaw (University of Oxford and University of Warwick)	'Medeia is in jou bloed': Die Breughel Teatergroep's <i>Medeia-Ballade</i> , Coloured identity, and community theatre
10:30 – 11:00 am	'Tunde Awosanmi (University of Ibadan)	"Oyedipo at Kolhuni": Wole Soyinka's Multicultural Adaptation of Sophocles' <i>Oedipus at Colonus</i>
11:00 – 11:30 am	Coffee Break	
11:30 am – 12:00 pm	Tiziana Morosetti (Goldsmiths, University of London)	The making of Classics at Ibadan and the theatre arts, 1948-1963

Session 1, Panel 2, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm:

Rome and North Africa: From Cicero to Early Modernity

Chair: **Hasskei Majeed (University of Ghana)**

9:00 – 9:30 am	Hannah Čulík-Baird (UCLA) and Mathias Hanses (Penn State)	Cicero's Dream of Africa
9:30 – 10:00 am	Fenna Visser (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)	Maghrebian Shadows: Tracing North Africa's legacy in Ancient Rome from the Punic wars to the African emperors.
10:00 – 10:30 am	Shani Lange (Stellenbosch University)	Fruitful Soil: A Postcolonial Ecofeminist Reading of the colonisation of Carthage and Italy in Vergil's <i>Aeneid</i>
10:30 – 11:00 am	Amy L. Daniels (Stellenbosch University)	Augustine against the Donatists. A Discourse Historical Approach to the anti-Donatist martyr sermons

11:00 – 11:30 am	Coffee Break	
11:30 am – 12:00 pm	Elena Giusti (Cambridge University)	The Early Modern Reinvention of Rome's Imagined Africa

12:00 – 1:30: Lunch

Session 2, Panel 1, 1:30 – 5:00 pm:

Comparative Analyses: Mythology, Religion, Ethics

Chair: **Justine McConnell (KCL)**

1:30 – 2:00 pm	Olakunbi Olasope (University of Ibadan) and 'Tunde Awosanmi (University of Ibadan)	Deity, Spirit, and Nature: Mythic Trinity in the Forests of Euripides, Fagunwa, and Soyinka
2:00 – 2:30 pm	Philomena Ngozi Nwoko (University of Ibadan)	Bravery and Cowardice in the Characters of Admetus in Euripides' <i>Alcestis</i> and Elesin in Wole Soyinka's <i>Death and the King's Horseman</i>
2:30 – 3:00 pm online	Gill Adekannbi (University of Ibadan) and Bosede Adebawale (University of Ibadan)	Theophrastean Perspectives on Yoruba Taboos: A Comparative Analysis
3:00 – 3:30 pm online	Madhlozi Moyo (University of the Free State)	Animals as symbols of "sophia" in ancient Greek and some African fables
3:30 – 4:00 pm	Coffee Break	
4:00 – 4:30 pm	Charis Addai (University of Maryland, College Park)	Prayer and Sacrifice in Books 1-12 of Homer's <i>Iliad</i> : Relevance to Contemporary African Experience
4:30 – 5:00 pm online	Vera Obeng (University of Ghana)	Child exposure in ancient Rome: A Look at the Concept of a Mental Construct

Session 2, Panel 2, 1:30 – 5:00 pm:

Comparative Analyses: Philosophy, Politics, Culture

Chair: **Peter Grant (University of Cape Coast)**

1:30 – 2:00 pm	Hasskei Mohammed Majeed (University of Ghana)	Aspects of Greek and Akan Metaphysics: Convergences and Divergences
2:00 – 2:30 pm	Jonathan Asante Otchere (University of Cape Coast)	The Polished Chair (<i>stilpnós hédra</i>) in Homer's <i>Iliad</i> : Reflections of Homeric

		Arbitration in Ghanaian Socio-Cultural and Traditional Societies
2:30 – 3:00 pm online	Peter Kwame Womber (University of Cape Coast and Makerere University)	The Reception of Peisistratus' Horizontal Egalitarianism in Sixth Century Attica: Implications for Scholarship
3:00 – 3:30 pm	Babatunde E. Blavo (University of Ibadan) and Israel A. Fadipe (Augustine University)	Vulgarity, Gender and Sexualisation in Catullus' and St. Janet's Works
3:30 – 4:00 pm	Coffee Break	
4:00 – 4:30 pm online	Richmond Kwesi (University of Ghana)	Reconstructing the concept of 'Crisis': Perspectives from Nkrumah and the Greeks
4:30 – 5:00 pm online	Eleni Bozia, (University of Florida, Gainesville)	Unlikely Couplings: Aristophanes and Joseph Conrad vs. Lucian and Chinua Achebe

5:00 – 5:30 pm: Break

5:30 – 7:30 pm:

Keynote Presentation: Reading from Femi Osofisan's *Medaayé*

overseen by **Femi Osofisan (University of Ibadan)** in collaboration with **Olakunbi Olosope (University of Ibadan)**, **Tunde Awosanmi (University of Ibadan)**, and **Heavy Wind Media**.

July 4, 2025

Session 1, Panel 1, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Receptions, Transmissions, Translations

Chair: **Daniel Orrells (KCL)**

9:00 – 9:30 am	Michael Okyere Asante (Cambridge University)	Greek and Latin in Ghana's Educational History: Tracing Shifts from Colonial to Post-Independence Eras
9:30 – 10:00 am online	Sergiusz Kazmierski (University of Regensburg)	Pasolini's "African Oresteia" in Digital Context
10:00 – 10:30 am	Claire Kieffer-Walker (University of Cape Town)	Roman Echoes, African Voices: The Reception of Roman Drama in South Africa
10:30 – 11:00 am	Coffee Break	
11:00 – 11:30 am	Samantha Masters (Stellenbosch University)	Changing places and inserting faces: a Muse, the Graces and 'Venus' in African art
11:30 – 12:00 pm	Richard L. Hewitt (Kamuzu Academy, Malawi)	Yehova ndiye kuwunika kwanga: Oxford and / in Malawi
12:00 – 12:30 pm	Discussion / free time	

Session 1, Panel 2, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm:

Representations of Africa: Historiography, Theatre, Visual Arts

Chair: **'Tunde Awosanmi (University of Ibadan).**

9:00 – 9:30 am	Amelia Bensch-Schaus (Davidson College)	Africa on the Ancient Athenian Stage
9:30 – 10:00 am	Daniel Wendt (University of Graz)	Herodotus and/in South Africa? Revisiting Fictions of Africa in the Works of A. Brink and J.M. Coetzee
10:00 – 10:30 am	Discussion / free time	
10:30 – 11:00 am	Coffee Break	
11:00 – 11:30 am online	Andreas Prasinos (University of Glasgow)	Libya as an Exotic Other in Ancient Greek Comedy: Humor, Satire, and the Absurd
11:30 am – 12:00 pm	Anthony Gallipoli (University of Alberta)	Classical representations and ethnography of Africa and Arabia
12:00 – 12:30 pm	Discussion / free time	

12:30 pm to 2:00 pm: Lunch

Session 2, Panel 1, 2:00 pm to 5:30 pm:

Classics in a Global Perspective

Chair: **Luke Roman (Memorial University)**

2:00 – 2:30 pm online	Jeffrey Murray (University of Cape Town)	Greeks, Romans, Zulus: Anti-Classical Black Intellectual Traditions in Natal.
2:30 – 3:00 pm	Daniel Ocansey (University of Ghana)	Towards an African Classics: Re-evaluating Western Cultural Imperialism
3:00 – 3:30 pm	Emmanuel Mensah (Texas Tech University)	The Global Classics Project: The Roadmap to an Inclusive Classics in Sub-Saharan Africa?
3:30 – 4:00 pm	Coffee Break	
4:00 – 4:30 pm	Peter K. T. Grant (University of Cape Coast) and Daniel Ocansey (University of Ghana)	Changing Phases of Classics in Ghana: Towards a Learner-Friendly Model
4:30 – 5:00 pm	Gifty Etornam Katahena (University of Ghana)	Classics in Ghana: Diversification, Integration, Reception and the Challenges
5:00 – 5:30 pm	Idowu Mojeed Alade (University of Ibadan)	Classics in Contemporary Ibadan: Historical Echoes and Local Expressions

End of Conference: Fond Farewells