

## Programme

### Thursday 21 June

#### 9.30. Registration and Introduction

#### 10.00 – 11.15. **PANEL 1: Concepts of Pollution in Ancient Rome**

This panel will explore the various manifestations of pollution and purity in the early stages of Roman society. Fantham's paper will discuss the formulation of pollution and purification in one area of Roman religious ritual and the way this filtered across into the community's secular life. Barton will approach this question from the quite different angle of Roman psychology and emotion, and will examine literary contexts in which the Romans imagined themselves from the point of view of their enemies as polluters and defilers. This panel will critically assess the terms in which pollution and propriety can be formulated and described, and will set out some initial parameters for understanding and approaching these concepts during the conference.

**10.00. Elaine Fantham (Classics, Princeton): *Passive and active pollution in Roman pagan tradition***

**10.20. Carlin Barton (History, Massachusetts): *Compassion and Purity: an Antithetical Pair?***

**10.45. Respondent: Val Curtis (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine), followed by discussion.**

#### 11.15 – 11.45. Coffee

#### 11.45 – 13.00. **PANEL 2: Pollution and Propriety in Ancient Urban Development**

This panel will examine the ways in which notions of pollution and purity helped give the ancient city physical shape, by exploring the establishment and negotiation of boundaries at critical stages in Roman historical development. Davies' paper will discuss urban planning during the Republic when the city was expanding faster than at any other period. This paper will consider Roman attitudes to death and burial, and how these attitudes dictated the relationship between 'inside' and 'outside', between clean and unclean, as well as how Republican politicians directed their professional careers to establishing and reinforcing urban sanitation and cleanliness. Bodel will examine aspects of Roman identity and propriety at the urban peripheries, and how suburban space lent itself to the performance of activities that might be considered inappropriate in the urban centre. Bodel will discuss the development of this difficult relationship between *urbs* and *suburbium* from the early principate to the sixth century. Thus this panel will address the full chronological span of ancient Roman urban development and discuss the significance of pollution and propriety in defining the physical shape of the city.

**11.45. Penelope Davies (Art History, Austin): *Pollution, propriety and urbanism in Republican Rome***

**12.05. John Bodel (Classics, Brown): *Pollution at the Periphery: Living with the Dead in the Roman Suburbs***

**12.30. Respondent: Mark Bradley (Classics, Nottingham), followed by discussion.**

**13.00 – 14.00. Lunch (provided by Archbar at the British School)**

**14.00 – 15.15. PANEL 3. Purity and Symbolism in Ancient Roman Waste Disposal**

The third panel will be concerned with the representation of waste disposal in ancient Rome, and will explore how the very process of urban cleansing could be incorporated into the city's religious and symbolic system. It will do this by examining two of the most characteristic of Roman institutions – the sewer and the public latrine. Hopkins' paper examines the ambivalent representation of the Cloaca Maxima – a magnificent miracle of engineering for purging the city and a receptacle and focal point for the city's dirt and impurity. Jansen discusses the function of gods in the wall-paintings of public latrines from Pompeii and Rome. Both papers draw attention to the distinctive symbolic and intellectual currency attached to the process of waste disposal in ancient Rome.

**14.00. John Hopkins (Art History, Austin): *The Sacred Sewer: Tradition and Religion in the Cloaca Maxima***

**14.20. Gemma Jansen (Archaeology, Maastricht): *Divine help on a Roman toilet***

**14.45. Respondent: Ann Olga Koloski-Ostrow (Classical Studies, Brandeis), followed by discussion.**

**15.15 – 15.45. Tea**

**15.45 – 17.00. PANEL 4: Scapegoats and Heresy from Pagan Ritual to Early Christendom**

The final panel of the day will explore historical continuity (and discontinuity) in pagan and early Christian scapegoating and ritual cleansing by looking first at a familiar case-study from the city's pagan past and then at pontifical documents in seventh and eighth-century Rome. Schultz will revisit a classic problem of Roman religious ritual – the live interment of transgressive Vestal virgins – and consider the traditions of this practise alongside other expiatory rituals in Roman religion that involved expulsion and elimination. Cubitt will examine the expulsion of heretics from Rome in the seventh and eighth centuries and will consider the representation of such acts of cleansing in the *Liber pontificalis* and other conciliar documents, as well as how this was played out in contemporary visual culture. Above all, this panel will discuss similarities and differences in religious formulations of pollution and purification from antiquity to early Christianity.

**15.45. Celia Schultz (Classics, Yale): *The Proper Disposal of a Polluting Presence***

**16.05. Katy Cubitt (Centre for Medieval Studies, York): *The jet-black spiderwebs of heresy: pollution and the language of heresy in seventh- and eighth-century Rome***

**16.30. Respondent: Adam Gutteridge (British School at Rome), followed by discussion.**

## **Friday 22 June**

### **9.15 – 10.20. PANEL 5: Treatments of Plague.**

This panel will discuss responses to and representations of plague in the city, both in antiquity and in early modern Rome. Arnott will examine the so-called ‘Antonine Plague’ in mid second-century Rome, and assess the difficulties posed by ancient evidence in determining the nature and character of the outbreak – in effect, how ancient approaches to disease and its ramifications differ from modern evaluations. Gentilcore will discuss the Roman plague of 1656 and the attitude adopted by the authorities in treating the outbreak. This panel will consider whether the outbreak of disease, and its effects and treatment, were discussed and evaluated within the city in comparable ways at different stages in Rome’s history.

**9.15. Robert Arnott (Centre for the History of Medicine, Birmingham):  
*The Antonine Plague: fact and fiction***

**9.35. David Gentilcore (History, Leicester):  
*Negotiating medical remedies in time of plague: Rome, 1656***

**10.00. Respondent: François Quiviger (Warburg Institute, SAS), followed by discussion.**

**10.20 – 10.45. Coffee.**

### **10.45 – 11.55. PANEL 6: Pollution, the Body, and the Church**

This panel will examine the role of pollution in the critical discourse of the Roman Church in the medieval and early modern periods. It will focus on the polluted body: first, the sexualised

bodies of tenth-century priests; second, the notion of the diseased body of the Church as it was applied to the city of Rome. Leyser will discuss sexual scandal in the Roman Church in the tenth century, a period that would later earn the city the pejorative tag of 'pornocracy'. Assonitis will consider the treatises and sermons of Fra Girolamo Savonarola in which Rome is presented as a diseased graveyard for pagan morals and behaviour. This panel will consider a theme that has been integral to the city's religious and moral identity at various stages in Rome's history.

**10.45. Conrad Leyser (History, Manchester):**

***'Pornocracy' and Professionalization: The Roman Church in the Tenth Century***

**11.05. Alessio Assonitis (The Medici Archive Project, Florence):**

***The Miasma of Rome: Fra Girolamo Savonarola on the City of Popes and the Urbs Antiqua***

**11.30. Respondent: Caroline Goodson (History, Birkbeck), followed by discussion.**

**11.55 – 13.00 and 14.00 – 15.15. PANEL 7: Sanitation and Renovation from Early Modern Rome to Roma capitale**

The panel will examine various efforts in the history of Rome from the early modern period to the late nineteenth century to fix Rome's prevailing reputation as a city of dirt, disease and corruption. Rinne will survey papal efforts in the early modern period to improve urban sanitation by renovating the city's water supply and infrastructure and thereby symbolically cleansing both the city and the Church of vice and corruption. Stow will then discuss the marginalisation of Rome's ghettoized Jews in the late sixteenth century and the means by which this section of the Roman community dealt with poor urban sanitation. Sansa will explore the social impact of legislation to improve cleanliness and sanitation. Syrjämaa will explore the tensions generated by differing approaches to Rome's identity, both those formulated by outsiders and those proposed by the internal authorities, once Rome had become the nation's capital in the late nineteenth century. This panel will highlight the continuing significance attributed to programmes of cleansing and purification in Rome's modern history and discuss the relationship of these programmes to the city's long-standing associations with dirt and pollution.

***Part 1: 11.55 – 13.00.***

**11.55. Katherine Rinne (Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities, Virginia):**  
***Cleansing Counter Reformation Rome***

**12.15. Kenneth Stow (Jewish History, Haifa): *Was the Ghetto Cleaner?***

**12.40. Respondent: Pamela O. Long (Independent Scholar, Washington, D.C.)**

**13.00 – 14.00. Lunch (provided by Archbar at the British School)**

***Part 2: 14.00 – 15.15.***

**14.00. Renato Sansa (Università G. D'Annunzio Chieti Pescara):**

***Playing Dirty: the social impact of legislation on dirt and cleanliness in 18th-century Rome***

**14.20. Taina Syrjämaa (School of History, University of Turku, Finland):**  
***The clash of picturesque dirtiness and modern cleanliness in late nineteenth-century Rome***

**14.45. Respondent: Richard Wrigley (Art History, Nottingham)**

**15.15 – 15.45. Tea.**

**15.45 – 17.00. PANEL 8: Immorality and Deviancy**

The panel considers two cases where Rome was associated with physical and sexual immorality: first, by Victorian commentators in mid nineteenth-century England; second, by the legal and political discourses of 1920s Rome. Janes will discuss the city's representation as a site of physical and moral danger by religious figures of Victorian England for whom Rome had become an evocative lesson about the dangers of decay and corruption. Secondly, Salvante will explore a case study within Rome itself, concerning the regulation of 'deviant' juvenile sexuality – specifically, male prostitution – and its identification with the city's physical and moral margins. This final panel, therefore, will consider pollution discourses within the city's more recent history and their role in formulating and shaping Rome's urban identity.

**15.40. Dominic Janes (History of Art, Birkbeck):**  
***'I hope the ladies present will forgive me': Victorian clergy and the erotics of Christian antiquities in Rome***

**16.00. Martina Salvante (European University Institute, Fiesole):**  
***Delinquency and pederasty: 'deviant' youngsters in Rome's working class suburbs in the late\_1920s***

**16.25. Respondent: Meredith Carew (British School at Rome)**

**17.00. PLENARY REMARKS. Tribute to Mary Douglas: dirt, culture and future directions.**