



The Betty Behrens Seminar

on Classics of Historiography

The seminar offers a unique opportunity for students and scholars to reflect on great historical works and engage in discussion with renowned experts.

It will endeavour to underline the importance of the classics of historiography for their relevant intellectual function in creating critical political thought.

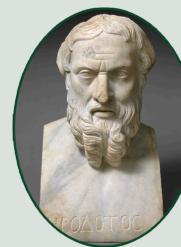
Classics



Muqaddimah
(1377)
Ibn Khaldun



History of Italy
(1537-1540)
Francesco Guicciardini



Histories
(V c. BC)
Herodotus of Halicarnassus



The History of England from the Accession of James I to that of the Brunswick Line (1763-1783)
Catherine Macaulay

Lent 2024

Where

Richard Eden Suite, Clare Hall,
West Court, Cambridge

Speakers

AMIRA K. BENNISON

Professor in the History and Culture of the Maghrib
University of Cambridge

ROBERT BLACK

Professor Emeritus of Renaissance History, University of Leeds

PAUL CARTLEDGE

Emeritus A.G. Leventis Professor of Greek Culture
University of Cambridge

KAREN O'BRIEN

Vice-Chancellor and Warden, Durham University

Convener

DAVIDE CADEDDU

Life Member and Associate, Clare Hall, Cambridge
Professor of History of Political Theory, University of Milan



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE



CLARE HALL
CAMBRIDGE

The Seminar

The seminar will take place between the 31st of January and the 21st of February and will be constituted of four weekly meetings. The charming and fresh atmosphere of the Richard Eden Suite in Clare Hall, West Court, Cambridge, will be the location for the discussions.

How it works

Each meeting is composed of two hours. The guest speaker will introduce the classic by talking for half an hour. After that, each participant may briefly express their understanding of the work by addressing some questions to the other participants and the guest speaker. In order to be ready for the dialogue, everyone might read some pages of the work under scrutiny.

The selection of pages is chosen by the guest speaker and is downloadable from the Clare Hall website: <https://www.clarehall.cam.ac.uk>

Lunch and refreshment

Before each seminar meeting, the Clare Hall dining hall will be available for lunch. After each event, the participants will enjoy a further informal exchange of viewpoints over a glass of juice or wine.

How to sign up

There are a few posts available to guarantee the close dynamics of the discussion and the full involvement of the participants. Those interested can even apply for just one meeting.

To attend the seminar, please register via <https://the-betty-behrens-seminar-tickets.eventbrite.com>

For further information

davide.cadeddu@unimi.it

Program

**Wednesday
31 January 2024**

1.45pm
Registration

2pm
Seminar
“Muqaddimah”
by Ibn Khaldun



AMIRA K. BENNISON

**Wednesday
7 February 2024**

1.45pm
Registration

2pm
Seminar
“History of Italy”
by Francesco Guicciardini



ROBERT BLACK

**Wednesday
14 February 2024**

1.45pm
Registration

2pm
Seminar
“Histories”
by Herodotus of Halicarnassus



PAUL CARTLEDGE

**Wednesday
21 February 2024**

1.45pm
Registration

2pm
Seminar
“The History of England from the Accession of James I to that of the Brunswick Line”
by Catherine Macaulay



KAREN O'BRIEN

Purpose

The seminar offers a unique opportunity for students and scholars to reflect on several great historical works and engage in discussion with renowned experts.

As we know, a classic is recognized as such insofar as it retains its value as an intellectual and cognitive tool, helping us to gain an understanding of the past as well as the present from a particular cultural viewpoint. Classics still have the capacity to resonate and speak to us about current problems. They produce perspectives that are implicitly comparative and dynamic, thanks to the historical dimension passing through both them and us.

These considerations are even more relevant when we speak about the classics of historiography because the same historical dimension is present on several more levels. These classics challenge us to contemplate some historical problems which are only fully understood when properly contextualised. In the same way, even the classic itself can fruitfully produce its own intellectually provocative value when read through the eyes of the present but interpreted with a historicist approach.

The seminar will endeavour to underline the importance of the classics of historiography for their relevant intellectual function in creating critical political thought.

design by
M. Invernizzi