

## Ancient Temporalities: Greece and Rome

A linear understanding of time as an object that can be measured, as if with measuring tape, has a long history, tracing its roots back to Plato and Aristotle (Dimock 2006). However, an experiential understanding of time – as an elastic phenomenon that can be felt to be shorter or longer than “measured time” depending on one’s highly subjective experience – likewise found its origins in an ancient response to this successive clock time, namely, in Augustine’s famous meditations on time in book 10 of the *Confessions*. The conference we are proposing for the AALAC grant represents an exploration of these two models of representing time, as well as the way measured time had a literary, and cultural impact, as technologies of time-measurement evolved from the Archaic and Classical periods into the late Roman Empire. We are interested in analyzing how technologies of time influenced local culture, how linear time and its representation became politicized and leveraged in service of teleological and imperial narratives, and how poets, philosophers, historians, and artists responded to what Johannes Fabian calls *chronopolitics* (Fabian 1983) with nostalgic reimaginations of the past, present, and future. Our conference participates in a growing anthropological field of inquiry within the Classics, which began with Denis Feeney’s Sather Lectures (Feeney 2007) on the influence of Caesar’s calendar on the Augustan and Imperial periods in Rome and continued through Robert Hannah’s study of time-measurement (Hannah 2008) into the most recent Institute for the Study of the Ancient World exhibition, *Time and Cosmos in Greco-Roman Antiquity* (which culminated in the publication of Jones, ed. 2016).

We plan to have the conference at Wellesley College in Spring 2020. Kate Gilhuly ([cgilhuly@wellesley.edu](mailto:cgilhuly@wellesley.edu), Department of Classical Studies, Wellesley College) is the designated workshop liaison, Andreas Zanker ([azanker@amherst.edu](mailto:azanker@amherst.edu), Assistant Professor, Amherst College) and Sarah Olsen ([seo2@williams.edu](mailto:seo2@williams.edu), Assistant Professor, Williams College) will serve as co-organizers.

Participants will submit papers and read the collection before we meet, preserving our time for in-depth discussion of papers. We envision that we will meet for a weekend, hold paper panels Saturday, and through midday Sunday, culminating in a pedagogical discussion that will engage a meta-chronological perspective. We will consider what it means to teach in a discipline that is temporally bounded and located in the past. This panel will be geared toward developing pedagogical strategies to communicate the value and challenges of engagement with a discreet and influential past in the modern academy.