

Dresdner Meisterklasse 2023

Public opinion: Why did it matter in Ancient Rome?

Cristina Rosillo López
Friday, 23. June 2023
Raum: ASG/04

The Meisterklasse focuses on the role (and existence) of public opinion in Ancient Rome. Through lecture, small-group work, presentations and seminar discussion, we will engage with concrete examples of Ciceronian rhetoric, its impact and thus the larger question of why (and how) public opinion mattered when analyzing political culture in Republican Rome.

Program:

Freitag, 23.06.2023

10:30-12:00

- a) Cristina Rosillo López: Introduction to Ancient public opinion
- b) Small-group work (with guidance): analysing Cicero In Verrem I in preparation for small presentation after the lunch break

12:00-13:00 lunch break

13:00-15:00

- a) Small-group presentations on In Verrem I
- b) Discussion of presentations and of In Verrem I: what was Cicero's rhetorical strategy and how successful was it? What can we learn from Cicero's speech about public opinion?

15:00-15:45 afternoon tea & informal discussion

15:45-16:15 Final discussion: Why did public opinion matter in Ancient Rome?

Practicalities:

Main language of the Meisterklasse is English, but students can speak German. Participants need to read Cicero In Verrem I (Latin and/or German/English) in advance and bring the text with them. Further to that, reading suggestions are:

- Rosillo López, C.: Public opinion and politics in the Late Roman Republic, sect. 1.1, 1.4 and c. 2.
- Morstein-Marx, R.: 'Political Graffiti in the Late Roman Republic: "Hidden Transcripts" and "Common Knowledge"', in Politische Kommunikation und öffentliche Meinung in der antiken Welt, ed. C. Kuhn, Stuttgart 2012, pp. 191–218.

Die Anzahl der Plätze ist begrenzt, weswegen eine kurze Bewerbung (Stand im Studium, Motivation, max. 1 Seite) nötig ist – per eMail an: Kerstin.Dittrich@tu-dresden.de