

# Imperium through time

Imperium is one of the most important terms in Roman political thought. A crucial concept in Roman political, military and social history, imperium was variously the right of command, particularly for leading magistrates at Rome, the commands themselves to be obeyed, and the signifier for the power that Rome held over its territories. Simultaneously military, political, jurisdictional and geographical, imperium has many meanings that overlap and inform each other.

Our conference seeks to explore the intersections and differences between these meanings, and their change through time. Our suspicion is that the meanings of imperium are not fully appreciated, not least through the pressure of expansion and the proliferation of command through the development of the middle Republic to the monopolisation of power by the Roman emperor.

## Organized by

Prof. Dr. Christoph Lundgreen  
and  
Dr. Panayiotis Christoforou

## Location

### Monday:

Klempener-Saal  
SLUB Dresden  
Zellescher Weg 18  
01069 Dresden

### Tuesday:

ASG 04  
BZW  
Bürogebäude Zellescher Weg 17  
01069 Dresden



Further information:

Member of the Network of **DRESDEN  
concept**  
SCIENCE AND  
INNOVATION CAMPUS



Alexander von  
**HUMBOLDT**  
STIFTUNG

conference

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1.-2. Juni 2026



## Monday, 1. June

### SECTION I: DEFINING IMPERIUM

CHAIR: PANAYIOTIS CHRISTOFOROU

- 14:00 **Introduction**
- 14:30 Coffee Break
- 15:00 **Imperium sine fine**  
Christoph Lundgreen (Dresden)
- 15:45 **Imperium in Kinderschuhem -  
Sizilien als Experimentierfeld für  
außeritalische Imperien**  
Sema Karataş (Köln)
- 16:30 Coffee Break
- Keynote**
- 17:15 **The *Imperia extraordinaria* of the  
Roman Republic, or: The  
Demilitarisation of the Nobility**  
Wolfgang Blösel (Duisburg/Essen)

## Tuesday, 2. June (First Half)

### SECTION II: ORIGINS OF IMPERIUM

CHAIR: CATHERINE STEEL

- 9:30 **The Evolution of Archaic *Imperium***  
Jeremy Armstrong (Auckland)
- 10:15 ***Imperium* and the Military Reforms  
of the Fourth Century BC**  
Fred Drogula (Athens, OH)
- 11:00 Coffee Break
- SECTION III: IMPERIUM IN THE MID-REPUBLIC**  
CHAIR: NOREEN STÜHMER
- 11:30 **Checked and Balanced - Roman  
Generals, *imperium*, and Citizen-  
Soldiers in the Army of the Middle  
Republic**  
Marian Helm (Ottawa)
- 12:15 **Empire and Imperium in the Middle  
Roman Republic**  
Connor Beattie (Oxford)
- 13:00 Lunch

## Tuesday, 2. June (Second Half)

### SECTION IV: IMPERIUM IN PRACTICE

CHAIR: CHRISTOPH LUNDGREEN

- 14:30 **Imperium as (in)finite resource:  
creation, allocation and termination**  
Catherine Steel (Glasgow)
- 15:15 Coffee Break
- 15:45 ***Imperium* and *Privati* in Tacitus'  
*Histories*, or the problem of the  
emperor**  
Panayiotis Christoforou  
(Oxford/Dresden)
- 16:30 **From imperium to Empire:  
constructing narratives of imperial  
military power in the roman world**  
Consuelo Martino (Edinburgh)