

Intertextuality in Greek and Roman Literature: Problems, Challenges and Possibilities

PhD Workshop

University of Oslo: Department of Philosophy, Classics, History of Art and Ideas (IFIKK)

Organised by Silvio Bär (silvio.baer@ifikk.uio.no) & Ingela Nilsson (Ingela.Nilsson@lingfil.uu.se)

Monday 10 October (9am) – Tuesday 11 October (5pm) 2016

The introduction of intertextual approaches in the study of classical Greek and Roman literature has often been described as a paradigmatic change: the philological focus shifted from unidirectional source criticism to a more dynamic model of intertextuality, regarding references and allusions not as incidental ways of showing off classical learning, but as an integral part in a system of a “functional rhetorical matrix” (Conte 1986: 23). Traditional philologists such as David West objected loudly (West 1995), while more theoretically minded scholars such as Dan Fowler underlined the importance of changed attitudes and literary criticism in the study of classical literature (Fowler 1997). Looking back at the past thirty years, how can we describe the development of intertextual approaches in the study of Greek and Roman literature? Has the use of the intertextual terminology become more refined, or has it only replaced the same old way of looking at textual relations with a new term? What differences can we distinguish in the study of earlier and later texts, and to what extent are questions of function and intention brought into the discussion?

These are examples of the issues we would like to discuss at a workshop at the University of Oslo, Department of Philosophy, Classics, History of Art and Ideas (IFIKK), 10–11 October 2016. We invite PhD students and other junior scholars who are interested in theoretical and methodological aspects of textual relations to take part in a workshop led by Silvio Bär (Oslo), Ingela Nilsson (Uppsala/Oslo), Anastasia Maravela (Oslo), Kristoffel Demoen (Gent), and Christian Høgel (Odense). The discussions will be based on Greek and Latin texts from various periods and genres, along with secondary literature on the topic. Participants are expected to read the texts in advance in order to take part in fruitful discussions. The workshop is primarily directed at PhD students and early career academics, but it is also open to students and scholars at all levels. The course language is English.

PhD students can earn 5 ECTS credit points from this workshop. The requirements are: 1) preparation of the reading assignments and active participation at the entire workshop; 2) submission of a written paper (c. 20 pages) on any relevant topic to do with intertextuality in Greek and/or Roman literature (submission due after the workshop).

Travel costs and accommodation will have to be covered by the participants themselves, while coffee and lunch will be offered by IFIKK. It is also possible to participate at a dinner on Monday evening. The workshop will begin at 9am on Monday 10 October and finish at 5pm on Tuesday 11 October (with a public lecture held by Kristoffel Demon from 3:15–5pm).

The deadline for registration is 15 September 2016. Please contact Silvio Bär (silvio.baer@ifikk.uio.no), preferably as soon as possible, and indicate any dietary requirements you may have, and whether you wish to participate at the dinner on Monday evening. Feel free to contact the organiser in case you have any further queries. Please note that although Oslo is fairly expensive, there are numerous low-budget options for accommodation (youth hostel, AirBnB, etc.).

