

BIPPA Conference on Women in the History of Ancient Philosophy



Saturday 4th February 2023

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| 10:25 – 10:30 | Introduction |
| 10:30 – 11:10 | Marie Castner (Humboldt Univ zu Berlin/KCL): The Transformative Nature of Medieval Christian Mystics' Experiences as Basis for Their Knowledge Claims |
| 11:10 – 11:50 | Charlotte Munglani (KCL): Women vs. Philosophers - Lucian and Alciphron's ironizing of female epistemology |
| 11:50 – 12:30 | Aisha Qadoos (Birmingham): How Countercultural Was Rabia al-Adawiyya? |
| 12:30 – 13:20 | Lunch break |
| 13:20 – 14:10 | Keynote address: Dr. Caterina Pellò (Nottingham University): In a Different Voice: How Can We Access the Thought of Ancient Women? |
| 14:10 – 15:00 | Keynote address: Dr. Katharine O'Reilly (Toronto Metropolitan University): Hearing a Different Voice: How Can We Teach the Thought of Ancient Women? |

Abstracts for keynote lectures:

In a Different Voice: How Can We Access the Thought of Ancient Women?

*Our sources show that in antiquity women engaged in philosophical activity alongside men. The problem is that we have no texts uncontestedly ascribed to ancient women philosophers. In our forthcoming edited volume, *Ancient Women Philosophers: Recovered Ideas and New Perspectives*, Katharine O'Reilly and I aim to retrieve the ideas of ancient women and their contributions to the history of philosophy. We also discuss the challenges of this study and the methodology we can use to approach these female thinkers philosophically. In my talk, I*

focus on two challenges - the issue of pseudonymity and the role of fictional women philosophers - and one particular case study - the writings of the Pythagorean women. I discuss whether, and if so to what extent, texts written under female pseudonyms and literary versions of women philosophers can be used as evidence for historical women philosophers and how, if at all, researchers can use these sources to access the thought of ancient women.

Hearing a Different Voice: How Can We Teach the Thought of Ancient Women?

*It is undeniable that women have been ever-present in philosophy. Yet despite the presence of women in ancient philosophical communities, and the inclusion of women philosophers from other periods, it is an exception that these figures are taught even in specialist University-level courses. Here I discuss some of the methodological and pedagogical challenges to doing so, to argue, ultimately, for the benefits of doing so. Drawing on the forthcoming volume edited by myself and Caterina Pellò, *Ancient Women Philosophers: Recovered Ideas and New Perspectives*, I focus on three challenges: male authorship, biographical focus, and great minds vs. communities. I address approaches researchers take to these challenges in order to recover women's voices, and then turn to think about how this can help us teach these figures. I provide some specific suggestions for how to integrate the philosophical thought of ancient women into our teaching, and invite open discussion of the pragmatic challenges involved. I conclude with thoughts on the extensive benefits of teaching ancient women philosophers.*