CALL FOR PAPERS:

Claiming the Classical

21st century political rhetoric and the Greco-Roman past

Friday 9th November 2018, 10:00-17:00
Room G22/26, Institute for Classical Studies, Senate House, Malet Street, London

From white supremacists in the USA to Golden Dawn in Greece, and from the Five Star Movement in Italy to pro-EU campaigners in Brexit Britain, the Greco-Roman world has been variously deployed in the political rhetoric of the 21st century.

These politicised ‘claims on the classical’ shape public perceptions of antiquity, as well as influencing developments within academia. Understanding them is therefore crucial both for contemporary political and cultural commentators, and for researchers. The aim of this day-long workshop is to chart how Greco-Roman antiquity has been deployed in political rhetoric in the 21st century, exploring differences over national and continental borders as well as across the political spectrum.

In this workshop, we aim to map regional and international patterns in these claims on the classical. Does invoking the Spartans mean something different in the banlieues of Paris from what it means in Charlottesville, Virginia? If Europa on the bull represents internationalism in Brussels, what does it signify under the Orbán government in Budapest? Looking internationally, does the Right make more use of classical antiquity than the Left? And if so, why?

Structure
We are inviting proposals for brief papers summarising claims on the classical within a specific country or other defined area (15 mins), as well as for spotlight talks highlighting particular cases (5 mins). Throughout the day, the emphasis will be on discussion and information-sharing.

Please send abstracts or expressions of interest to:
Naoise Mac Sweeney (nm241@le.ac.uk) or Helen Roche (hber2@cam.ac.uk)
Closing date for submissions: 1st July 2018