

Ecocritical Approaches to Space in Imperial Greek Literature

Dr. Jason König
University of St Andrews

Friday, April 16
3:30–5:00 p.m. EDT

Click [here](#) to register for the lecture.



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Recent work in the environmental humanities has moved away from a focus on nature writing toward an understanding that all texts are potentially open to ecocritical reading, with its capacity to reveal underlying assumptions about human-environment relations. This lecture will explore some of the ways in which ecocritical approaches open up new questions for the literatures of the Roman empire, and vice versa. There are strands in imperial Greek literature—and in related traditions in Latin, Jewish, and early Christian literature—that overlap significantly with modern ecocritical concerns. Perhaps most obviously, ancient texts repeatedly question the boundaries between human and non-human agency, as an increasing number of New Materialist approaches to Greek and Latin literature are beginning to show. Reading these texts through an ecocritical lens can help us to see them afresh. Ancient texts in turn provide us with powerful resources for current environmental engagement, and haunting images against which to measure our own environmental assumptions.

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