

Classics Day 2024 War and peace in the classical world

15 June 2024 – British Museum, BP Lecture Theatre



Welcome to our annual study day, a partnership between City Lit and the British Museum. Caroline Vout, Ian Morris and other leading Classicists will discuss the life and death struggles of soldiers and their loved ones, in a world where war and peace were in constant flux.

The day complements the British Museum's current exhibition **Legion: Life in the Roman Army** (open until 23 June), with curator Dr Richard Abdy introducing the themes of the exhibition and highlighting key aspects of its content. Writer and critic Daisy Dunn will then present a lecture on the way Homer deals with the Trojan War, followed by renowned archaeologist and scholar Ian Morris, who will reflect on the role of war in the ancient world. The day will conclude with a talk on life, love and conquest in Roman Britain by the award-winning classicist Caroline Vout.

Daisy Dunn, Caroline Vout and Ian Morris will be available for book signing during the lunch break. Tea/coffee will be served during the morning break.

Programme*

10:30-10:40 Welcome and introductions

10:40–11:25 Introducing "Legion: Life in the Roman Army" – Richard Abdy, British Museum



Richard Abdy is curator of Roman and Iron Age coins in the Department of Coins and Medals at the British Museum. He is curator of the exhibition 'Legion: life in the Roman army' and co-author of the exhibition book. He has published widely in specialist journals on Roman coinage, especially in the UK and Italy.

11:25-11:45 Break - coffee/tea served in the Foyer

11:45-12:30 Homer and the Trojan War - Dr. Daisy Dunn



Daisy Dunn is an award-winning classicist and author of seven books. Her most recent, *The Missing Thread: A New History of the Ancient World through the Women who Shaped It*, is published this month. Daisy has also written biographies of the Latin love poet Catullus and the two Plinys. She is editor of *ARGO: A Hellenic Review* and a cultural columnist and critic.

12:30-14:00 Lunch break and book signing

The speakers will be available to sign copies of their books

14:00–15:00 Killing people and breaking things: What Roman legions were for? – Prof. Ian Morris, Stanford University



Professor Ian Morris is an archaeologist and historian who studies the long-run patterns of the past and their implications for our future. He has directed archaeological digs in Greece and Italy and has published 14 books, including *Why the West Rules—For Now* (2010), which has been translated into 14 languages. He grew up in Britain and was educated at Birmingham and Cambridge Universities, but now teaches at

^{*} Subject to last-minute changes

Stanford University in California. In addition to serving as Stanford's Senior Associate Dean of Humanities and Sciences, chair of its Classics department and director of the Stanford Archaeology Center, he has won the Dean's Award for Excellence in Teaching. He is also a Senior Fellow in the IDEAS programme at the London School of Economics and a Fellow of the British Academy.

15:00-15:15 Break

15:15–16:00 Visual insights into life, love and conquest in Roman Britain – Prof. Caroline Vout, Cambridge University



Professor Caroline Vout is Professor of Classics at the University of Cambridge, and Byvanck Chair of Classical Archaeology at Leiden University. She has published widely on Greek and Roman art and its reception, ancient history and Latin literature. Her books include *Power and Eroticism in Imperial Rome* (2007) and *The Hills of Rome: Signature of an Eternal City* (2012), both Cambridge University Press, *Sex on Show: Seeing the Erotic in*

Greece and Rome (2013, The British Museum) Classical Art: A Life History from Antiquity to the Present (Princeton, 2018). Her latest book Exposed: The Greek and Roman Body (2022, Profile/Wellcome) was awarded the London Hellenic Prize. Caroline is also Director of Cambridge's Museum of Classical Archaeology.

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