

Thucydides: reception, reinterpretation and influence: postgraduate studentships

This four-year, AHRC-funded research project at the University of Bristol, led by Professor Neville Morley, will explore the history of the reception of Thucydides and his work since the Renaissance, including the history of scholarship and criticism on the text, the changing interpretative frameworks and the use of Thucydides in modern debates about such subjects as citizenship and democracy, international relations and the nature of history. We are now seeking to recruit for two postgraduate studentships. One student will research an aspect of the modern reception of Thucydides as a historian and within the general field of historiography; the other will research an aspect of the modern reception of Thucydides within social and political theory or political philosophy. The exact topics will depend on interests and experience. Applicants must have completed a first degree and either be studying for or have completed a Masters degree in an appropriate subject area such as history, classics and ancient history, philosophy or politics. A good command of ancient Greek and at least one modern European language is desirable. Please note that, in order to receive the maintenance award from the AHRC, residency conditions apply.

Further details can be found at <http://www.bris.ac.uk/arts/scholarships>. Candidates must first submit an application for postgraduate research at the University of Bristol, including two academic references and an outline of the proposed research; an application form can be found at <http://www.bris.ac.uk/prospectus/postgraduate/2009/intro/8>.

Further Particulars

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The project students will contribute to the project by assisting in assembling and analysing the basic material on the history of Thucydidean scholarship and commentary, a task which will require the full efforts of all four members of the team and which lays the foundation for the rest of the project, and by investigating a particular theme in detail. They will take an active role in the regular meetings of the research team, at which ideas and findings will be discussed to ensure the coherence of the project even while members are pursuing their own lines of research, and in the biannual research workshops. They will be expected to play a full part, including presenting papers, at the concluding conference, and will be encouraged to consider how their work should be published from an early stage in the research.

One student will be expected to research an aspect of the modern reception of Thucydides as a historian and within the general field of historiography. The exact topic will depend on their interests and experience, but possible research areas include: the history of comparisons between Thucydides and Herodotus or Thucydides and Tacitus, their relative importance as influences on modern historiography and the changing valuation of each of them; the importance of Thucydides for a particular historian of classical Greece, e.g. George Grote or Friedrich Creuzer, or within a particular national tradition; the place of Thucydides, and especially his speeches or his methodological precepts,

within debates about the nature of historiography; the place of Thucydides, or selected passages from Thucydides, within a particular educational context or tradition, and the way that this relates to broader conceptions of the work.

The other student will research an aspect of the modern reception of Thucydides within social and political theory or political philosophy. The exact topic will depend on their interests and experience, but possible research areas include: the place of Thucydides in the development of the concept of 'realism', within either political philosophy or international relations; the place of Thucydides in debates about nineteenth-century democracy; the role of Thucydides in modern debates about the idea of citizenship; the adoption of Thucydides as a model for intellectual endeavour and the relation between intellectuals and society.

The project has substantial funding for research expenses, particularly the costs of trips to libraries across the UK and in Europe, both for work that supports the project as a whole and for the students' own research.

Criteria for eligibility: you must have completed a first degree, and either be studying for or have completed a Masters degree, in an appropriate subject area; given the interdisciplinary nature of the project, relevant disciplines include history, classics and ancient history, philosophy and politics. It would be desirable, but not essential, to have a good command of ancient Greek and at least one modern European language.

Candidates must first submit an application for postgraduate research at the University of Bristol, including two academic references and an outline of the proposed research. Applications must be made via the university on-line application system:

<http://www.bris.ac.uk/prospectus/postgraduate/2009/intro/8>

Contact Neville Morley (n.d.g.morley@bristol.ac.uk) for further details about the project.