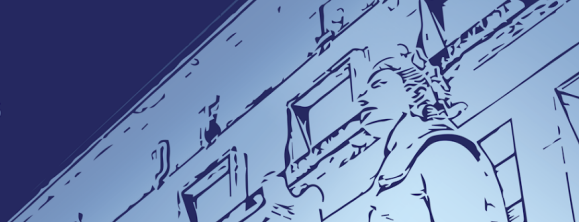


## CALL FOR PAPERS

# *The Concept of Freedom in Ancient Greece and Rome*



PANEL ORGANIZATION:



## ORGANIZER 1:

|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| name        | Lothar Willms                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| e-mail      | lothar.willms@hu-berlin.de                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| affiliation | Humboldt Universität zu Berlin                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| country     | Germany                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| biography   | PhD in classical philology from the University of Trier in 2004; habilitation in classical philology from the University of Heidelberg in 2011, Humboldt research fellow at Brown University and the University of Heidelberg 2017-2019, Heisenberg research fellow at Humboldt Universität zu Berlin as of 2022 |

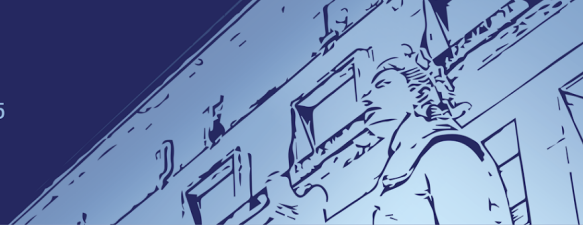
## ORGANIZER 2:

|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| name        | Helen-Melina Tamiolaki                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| e-mail      | tamiolaki@uoc.gr                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| affiliation | University of Crete                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| country     | Greece                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| biography   | Professor of Ancient Greek Literature at the Department of Philology, Vice-Rector of Development, International Affairs and Outlook of the University of Crete (from September 2024), PhD from the University of Paris-Sorbonne (2007) (Liberté et esclavage chez les historiens grecs classiques), author of numerous articles and (co-)editor of several volumes |

## PANEL SYNOPSIS:

Freedom is a core concept of the Western world; it is crucial to political discourse and theory, and fundamental in social and philosophical debates. The idea of freedom arose in ancient Greece and progressively unfolded. Research on freedom has mainly focused on the following issues: on the vocabulary of ἐλευθερία (freedom) and related terms, such as αὐτονομία (autonomy) (Krüger-Mohamad-Klotzbach-Pfeilschifter 2022) and παρρησία (freedom of speech) (Sluiter-Rosen 2017), on the initial conceptualization of the notion (Raaflaub 2004, Patterson 1991), on its meaning and nuances (ideological or rhetorical) in specific authors (Binayemotlagh 2002, Galloway 2004, Eliasson 2008, Edwards 2009, Tamiolaki 2010), on its political or philosophical dimension (Muller 1997, Bobzien 1998, Willms 2011), on its relation to other concepts of relevant or contrary meaning, such as individual rights, equality, democracy, tyranny and unfreedom (Liddel 2007, Anagnostopoulos-Santas 2013, Vlassopoulos 2021, Tamiolaki 2024).

Despite the plethora of studies in freedom, there is still scope for deepening our understanding of this notion, by systematically examining more terms and related expressions (e.g. ἐλευθεριότης, προαίρεσις, τὸ ἐφ' ἡμῖν), by promoting interdisciplinary and cross-cultural approaches, and by studying more closely the association (or possible equivalence) between ancient and modern concepts of



freedom (e.g. ancient terms related to the freedom of will, sexual or religious freedom, moral freedom, freedom of choice etc.).

The aim of this panel is twofold:

- a) first, to offer a forum for a methodological and terminological clarification of this notion, by examining underexplored authors and genres (such as the novel, the New Testament, theology, inscriptions, papyri, etc. esp. philosophical) that might contain thus far undiscovered concepts of freedom;
- b) to prompt a comparative reflection on freedom by focusing on two ancient civilizations, ancient Greece and Rome.

More specifically, papers in this panel will investigate the concept of freedom in politics, jurisprudence, historiography, literature, philosophy, and theology with a chronological range from the Mycenaean Bronze Age to Late Antiquity, addressing (one or more of) the following questions:

- What are the terms used to refer to freedom in ancient Greece and/or Rome, and what is their meaning? Is this notion implicit, made explicit (e.g. by a definition) or even debated (e.g. in the philosophical treatises on freedom and slavery)?
- Which terms/concepts are correlated with freedom in ancient Greek and Latin literature and culture (e.g. παρρησία, ἐλευθεριότητα, αὐτονομία, libertas, liberalitas, licentia, dignitas, honor, virtus) and what are their different nuances?
- To what extent does genre (poetry/prose) affect the conceptualization of freedom and its literary representation in ancient Greece and/or Rome?
- Can we trace an evolution of this concept from ancient Greece to Rome? And how is this evolution situated in the history of ideas?
- To what degree do concepts of freedom in ancient Greece and/or Rome influence or enrich our modern understanding of the concept?
- Digital representation of the concept of freedom (e.g. through tools that bring to light its proximity/association with other concepts etc.)

We expect that this panel will significantly contribute to a deeper understanding of the notion of freedom in Greco-Roman antiquity and to a reevaluation of its potential relevance for our modern world.

Confirmed speakers are:

Sven Günther, Professor, Northeast Normal University, Changchun

Naomi Kampa, Assistant Professor, University of Washington

Demetra Kassimis, Assistant Prof. Cambridge

Hartmut Leppin, Professor, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt

Christoph Lundgreen, Professor, Technische Universität Dresden

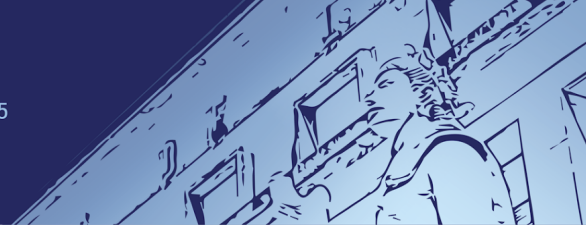
Orlando Patterson, John Cowles Professor of Sociology, Harvard University

Klaus Vieweg, Professor, Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena

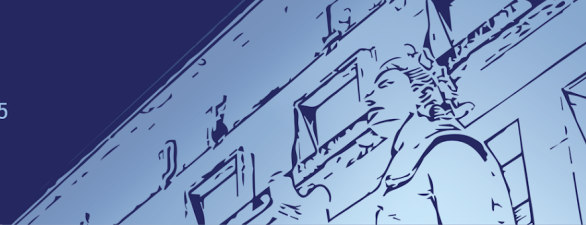
Kostas Vlassopoulos, Professor, University of Crete

Shane Wallace, Assistant Professor, University of Dublin

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## Observations:

Abstracts in English of no more than 300 words should be sent to both organizers (lothar.willms@hu-berlin.de, tamiolaki@uoc.gr) in both pdf and word no later than February 20, 2025. Notifications about acceptance will be sent after March 5, 2025. We plan to publish the contributions in an edited volume.