

Saturday May 24, 2025

10:00 – 11:30

Panel 6: Nero on the Early Modern Stage

Presider: Ginna Closs

Emma Buckley (St. Andrews University): Re-inventing the Tyrant: Nero in Early Modern England

Caroline Engelmayer (Harvard University): “As at Atreus’ feast”: Anachronism and the Senecan Eclipse in Jonson’s *Catiline*

Curtis Perry (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign): The “Soul of Nero” and the Womb of Agrippina in English Renaissance Drama

11:30 – 12:00

Coffee Break

12:00 – 13:30

Panel 7: Nero on the Modern (Operatic) Stage and Screen

Presider: Christopher Star

Wendy Heller (Princeton University): “Otton, torna in te stesso”: Otho, Nero, and Masculinity on the Venetian Stage

Maria Wyke (University College London): Nero in the Early Years of Cinema

13:30 – 14:30

Lunch

14:30 – 16:00

Panel 8: Nero in Modern Popular Print Media

Presider: Emma Buckley

Shushma Malik (Cambridge University): Nero in an Age of Caricature, or Caricature in an Age of Nero

Ginna Closs (University of Massachusetts Amherst): True Comics, Fake News, and Nero’s Urban Renewal Agenda

Lauren Donovan Ginsberg (Duke University): Mad Man: Nero in 20th- Century Print Advertising

16:00 – 16:30

Closing Remarks

20:00

Dinner

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KOSTAS AND ELENI OURANI FOUNDATION-ACADEMY OF ATHENS

ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH COMMITTEE

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**19th Trends in Classics
International Conference**

***The Ages of Nero:
Reality and Reception***

Thessaloniki

May 22-24, 2025

https://lit.auth.gr/research/conferences/trends-in-classics/19th_trends

Auditorium I

**Aristotle University
Research Dissemination Center
September 3rd Avenue,
University Campus
<http://kedeia.rc.auth.gr>**

Organizing Committee

Lauren Donovan Ginsberg (Duke University)

Christopher Trinacty (Oberlin College)

Antonios Rengakos (Aristotle University
of Thessaloniki & Academy of Athens)

Stavros Frangoulidis (Aristotle University
of Thessaloniki)

Programme

Nero and his age continue to fascinate us. The past decade alone has seen two Companions, three major museum exhibitions, new excavations of the Domus Aurea, and several biographies that aim to shed new light on Rome’s notorious fifth emperor and the years 54-68 CE. It is also clear that the Age of Nero lived on well after the death of the man himself. In the centuries since his suicide in 68 CE, different groups of people have re-fashioned their own ideas of Nero or their own idea of the Age of Nero, from the Flavian reshaping of his memory and the Christian creation of the Nero Antichrist legend to the influence of Neronian authors on early modern poetics, the reclaiming of Nero in the late 19th century as a symbol of decadent masculinity, and Hollywood’s use of Nero as a symbol of its own spectacular power. Perhaps it is time that we speak of Ages of Nero in the plural. This international conference brings together scholars from different academic disciplines to explore such Ages of Nero including the literature, philosophy, art and architecture of Nero’s principate as well as the reception of Nero and Neronian culture from antiquity to today.

Thursday, May 22, 2025

13:00 – 15:00
Walking tour of Thessaloniki

16:00 – 16:30
Registration and Greetings

Ioanna Karamanou (Aristotle University)
Antonios Rengakos (Aristotle University & Academy of Athens)
Theodore D. Papanghelis (Aristotle University & Academy of Athens)
Lauren Donovan Ginsberg (Duke University)
Christopher Trinacty (Oberlin College)

16:30 – 18:00
Panel 1: Neronian Artistry, Neronian Aesthetics
Presider: Lauren Donovan Ginsberg

Eric Varner (Emory University): Going Beyond Greece: Nero’s Globalizing Artistic Agenda
Rebecca Moorman (Boston University): Petronian Gimmicks in the Age of Nero
Kate Meng Brassel (University of Pennsylvania): Persius as anti-Nero

18:00
Reception

Friday, May 23, 2025

10:00 – 11:30
Panel 2: Seneca Across the Ages of Nero
Presider: Timothy Joseph

Christopher Star (Middlebury College): Fate and Free Will: Seneca the Prophet
George Plotis (Cambridge University): Reflections of Seneca: Intertext and Politics in Quintilian’s *Institutio oratoria*
Christopher Trinacty (Oberlin College): Seneca’s *Epistulae ad Lucanum*: John Hersey’s *The Conspiracy*

11:30 – 12:00
Coffee Break

12:00 – 13:30
Panel 3: Neronian Dramas
Presider: Christopher Trinacty

George W.M. Harrison (Carleton University): Hercules on the Roman Stage: Seneca’s *Hercules furens* and the Anonymous *Hercules on Oeta*
Robert Cowan (University of Sydney): Did the Earth Move? Incest, Matricide, and Ecofeminism in the Ages of Nero
Stavros Frangoulidis (Aristotle University): Pseudo-Seneca, *Octavia*: Narratives of Nero

13:30-14:30
Lunch

14:30 – 16:00
Panel 4: Revisiting Neronian Encomia and Responses
Presider: Robert Cowan

Timothy Joseph (College of the Holy Cross): Lucan’s Muse: The Consistency of the Addresses to Nero / Caesar in the *Pharsalia*
Evangelos Karakasis (Aristotle University): The Second Einsiedeln Eclogue Revisited: A Case of Neronian Propaganda
Evan Jewell (Rutgers University): Not that “Chill and Mature Terrorist”: Nero *iu-venis* and Augustus *puer*

16:00 – 16:30
Coffee Break

16:30 – 17:30
Panel 5: Reflections of the Late Antique Nero
Presider: Shushma Malik

Julia Nations-Quiroz (Yale University): Narrative of Oppression: Nero’s Representation on a Late Antique Sarcophagus
Eleni Hall Manolaraki (University of South Florida): Nero in the *Suda*

17:30 – 18:30
2025 Trends in Classics Book Prize Award Ceremony

20:00
Dinner