



**MEDICAL  
KNOWLEDGE AND  
ITS 'SITZ IM LEBEN':**

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**BODY AND HORROR  
IN ANTIQUITY**    ««

**18-20 November 2021**

*The conference will be held as a hybrid event  
at Kiel University, Germany.*

*This conference explores ancient and modern concepts of horror with reference to the human body. The aim is to examine how the body processes horrifying experiences affectively and cognitively as well as how it can turn itself into a source of horror, e.g. in contexts of sickness and death. While we are firmly aware of the fact that 'horror' as a largely post-Romantic concept is not unproblematic when applied to Greek and Latin texts, we will try to show that its classical antecedents and roots must be considered as they might shed light on the ways in which the horrific, as a category that shapes our encounter with various forms of art but also with life itself, is understood today.*

**18 NOVEMBER 2021**

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10:40-11:00 *Coffee / Registration*

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11:00-11:20 **Welcome/Introductory Remarks**  
Chiara Thumiger and Georgios Kazantzidis  
(Kiel University, Germany / University of Patras, Greece)

**Thinking about beginnings**

11:20-12:00 **A Terrible History of Classical Horror**  
Nick Lowe  
(Royal Holloway University of London, UK)

**Epic**

12:00-12:40 **Hot and Cold Blood in Lucan's Civil War**  
Dunstan Lowe  
(University of Kent, UK)

13:00-15:00 *Lunch*

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## **Tragedy**

- 15:00-15:40 **The Horrific Body in Sophocles**  
Glenn Most  
(Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa, Italy /  
Committee on Social Thought, Chicago, USA)
- 15:40-16:20 **Heracles' Automatic Body: Madness, Horror and  
Laughter in Euripides' Hercules Furens**  
Maria Gerolemou  
(University of Exeter, UK)
- 16:20-17:00 **The Visceral Thrills of Tragedy: Flesh, Blood  
and Guts Off and On the Tragic Stage**  
Evina Sistikou  
(Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece)

18:00 *Dinner*

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## **19 NOVEMBER 2021**

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10:20-10:40 *Coffee*

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### **Horror between disgust and the sublime**

- 10:40-11:20 **Enargeia, Disgust and Visceral Abhorrence**  
Dimos Spatharas  
(University of Crete, Rethymno, Greece)
- 11:20-12:00 **Fearful Laughter:  
Bodily Horror in Roman Sexual Humor**  
Jesse Weiner  
(Hamilton College, Clinton, USA)
- 12:00-12:40 **Apocalypse: Horror and Divine Pleasure**  
Alessandro Schiesaro  
(University of Manchester, UK)

13:00-14:30 *Lunch*

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### **Horror and the natural world**

- 14:30-15:10 **Roots of Horror: Environment, Bodies, Societies**  
Lutz Käppel  
(Kiel University, Germany)
- 15:10-15:50 **Horror and the Body in Early Greek Paradoxography**  
George Kazantzidis  
(University of Patras, Greece)

### **Horror, demons, and (real) monsters**

- 15:50-16:30 **Naming the Monster: A Practice of Forensic  
Horror in Cicero's Pro Sexto Roscio Amerino**  
Sophia Luise Häberle  
(Humboldt Universität, Berlin, Germany)

16:30-17:10 **Demon Hordes and the Coming Apocalypse:  
The Limits of the Human in Chinese Late Antiquity**  
Michael Puett  
(Harvard University, Cambridge, USA)

**20 NOVEMBER 2021**

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10:40-11:00 *Coffee*

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**Horror and modern medical science**

11:00-11:40 **The Thrilling Forces Behind Horrific Experiences:  
A Neuroscientific Approach**  
Rodrigo Sigala  
(independent researcher, Germany)

11:40-12:20 **Overcoming Horror: Faintness and Medical Agents.  
Some Tentative Thoughts on Antiquity and Today**  
Lutz Alexander Graumann  
(University Hospital, Justus-Liebig-University Gießen,  
Germany)

**Horror, ancient medicine, magic**

12:20-13:00 **Recipes for Horrors**  
Sean Coughlin  
(Institute of Philosophy, Czech Academy of Sciences,  
Prague, Czech Republic)

13:00-13:40 **At the Borders of Horror and Science:  
The Social Contexts of Roman Dissection**  
Claire Bubb  
(New York University, USA)

13:40-14:00 **Concluding Remarks**  
Chiara Thumiger  
(Kiel University, Germany)

14:00 *Lunch*

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**ORGANIZED BY:**

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For more information regarding the event please visit:  
<https://tinyurl.com/65h3sa2h>  
(Fieldwork and Activities of the Cluster ROOTS)