



Πανεπιστήμιο Κύπρου
Τμήμα Κλασικών Σπουδών
και Φιλοσοφίας

ΠΡΟΣΚΛΗΣΗ

Το Τμήμα Κλασικών Σπουδών και Φιλοσοφίας
σας προσκαλεί στη διάλεξη
που θα δώσει ο

Associate Professor Mark Heerink

(University of Amsterdam)

με θέμα:

Civil War, Lucan, and Trauma in Valerius Flaccus' Argonautica

Η διάλεξη θα πραγματοποιηθεί
την Πέμπτη 6 Απριλίου 2023 και ώρα 15:00
στην αίθουσα EB 107
Καλλιπόλεως 75 – Κεντρικό Κτήριο

Περίληψη

Valerius Flaccus' epic *Argonautica* is replete with civil war, and in this respect differs markedly from Apollonius Rhodius' Hellenistic epic *Argonautica*, Valerius' most important model with regard to plot. This omnipresence of civil war suggests a contemporary relevance. Written in the Flavian age, and probably already under Vespasian, to whom the epic is dedicated, Valerius' epic seems to react to the devastating civil wars that followed the death of Nero in 68 CE and brought the Julio-Claudian dynasty to an end.

In this paper I will focus on one of the most obvious evocations of civil war in the *Argonautica*, the Cyzicus episode in Book 3, to see how these historical events impacted Valerius' epic. I will argue that the interaction between two other important models, Virgil's *Aeneid* and Lucan's *Bellum Civile*, plays an important role in this respect. The Cyzicus episode is tainted by the events of 68-69 CE, and in dealing with these traumatic experiences the narrator is inspired by Lucan's Neronian epic on the civil war between Caesar and Pompey, which was written just before the civil wars and almost seems to predict what was about to happen after the death of Nero. Through its engagement with Virgil and Lucan, the Cyzicus episode is part of Valerius' broader narrative of repeated civil wars in the *Argonautica*, which immortalizes the experiences of civil war instead of the actual, unspeakable, historic events.