

'The tumuli in the Troad' – next in the Classics Seminar Series

Centre for Classical Studies

Thursday, 5.15 pm, 9 October 2014
G41, A. D. Hope Building #14, Australian National University

Prof. Elizabeth Minchin, FAHA

Centre for Classical Studies, Australian National University

The Centre for Classical Studies warmly invites you to attend a talk in its Classics Seminar Series by Prof. Elizabeth Minchin.



As usual, after the talk, we shall continue discussion in the ANU Classics Museum.

'The *tumuli* in the Troad that are traditionally associated with the heroes of Troy – Achilles, Patroclus, Ajax – have been a focus of attention for hundreds of years. Apart from their attraction for tomb robbers across the millennia, these *tumuli* were for many visitors in the ancient world the object of pilgrimage and cult worship; in modern times they have been a curio in the landscape for those with antiquarian interests; and in the last few decades they have been excavated systematically

and carefully studied, as archaeologists try to reconstruct the history of their presence (and, indeed, clarify their status) in the vicinity of Hisarlık/Troy.

'My approach to these *tumuli* will be via two phenomena of memory: on the one hand, the memory system that cognitive psychology refers to as spatial memory – in particular, the capacity of spatial information to cue the recall of associated material, such as events and emotions; and, on the other, collective memory, which has the capacity to store and transmit the traditional memories that we associate with any culture. My aim in this paper is to bring together the work of scholars like Brian Rose and Michael Sage on the landscape of the Troad with research at that junction where mind and memory meet. I shall consider how the story of Troy and cultural values associated with it were shaped over centuries (long after the end of the Bronze Age) by the presence of these *tumuli* in the landscape; and I shall observe how a particular landscape can serve, not only in a pre-literate world but also in the modern world, as a significant repository for a culture's traditions.' [Photo: ANCH2020 on Achilles' Tomb in 2011.]

Presented by

School of Literature,
Languages and Linguistics
ANU College of
Arts & Social
Sciences

Enquiries

Fiona Sweet Formiatti
E fiona.sweet-formiatti@anu.edu.au T 02 6125 4395

This event is free, and all are welcome.

Please visit our website for further information:
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