

Faculty of Classics

The Ancient History Seminar: Trinity Term 2025

Tuesdays, 4.00 pm, Ioannou Centre Lecture Theatre

The Social War

Convenors: Dr Ed Bispham & Prof. John Marincola

The Social War (91-87 B.C.) arguably changed the face, and the destiny, of the Roman Republic more than any other single event. Viewed from that perspective, the conflict arguably suffered from relative neglect in the twentieth century, perhaps since both the detailed course of the war itself, and many of its consequences, are occluded from us thanks to a limited evidential base. The last decade has, however, seen renewed interest (*e.g.* Dart 2014; Vervaeke 2023; Cappelletti & Pittia 2024, although the renewal of interest owes a lot to Mouritsen 1998). This seminar series aims to offer a range of perspectives on and interrogations of the Social War, bringing together contributions by historians, historiographers, philologists, literary scholars and archaeologists. We hope that the cross-fertilisation of approaches and concerns will continue to stimulate debate on the conflict, and especially on how it was received by contemporaries, and on what its impact was across Roman society in the following generations.

The seminar will run in parallel with a Language and Literature seminar (Mondays at 4.00 pm; convened by Luke Pitcher and John Marincola) on the relevant sections of Appian, *Civil Wars* 1, the only continuous narrative source for the war.

Tuesday 06 May

Prof. Sylvie Pittia (Paris I, Sorbonne)

Hatreds and Solidarities: the Heritage of the Social War

Prof. John Marincola (FSU)

The Historiography of the Social War

Tuesday 13 May

Prof. Paolo Poccetti (Rome, Tor Vergata)

The Social war in the Perspective of the Multilingual Epigraphic Evidence

Respondent: Prof. Wolfgang de Melo

Tuesday 20 May

Prof. Harriet Flower (Princeton)

Religious Aspects of the Social War

Prof. Tesse Stek (Groningen / KNIR)

Are the Consequences of the Social War Visible in the Archaeological Record? A Comparison and Calibration of Field Survey Projects in Central Southern Italy

Tuesday 27 May

Dr Ed Bispham (Oxford)

Quis iustius induit arma? Can we know why the Social War happened?

Tuesday 03 June

Dr. Geraldine Herbert-Brown (CCC)

The Social War in the Augustan Age (Ovid *Am.* 3.15)

Prof. Nicholas Purcell (Oxford)

The War that Started in the Theatre - Saunio the *gelotopoios* and the Outbreak of the Social War

Tuesday 10 June

Dr David Bishop (Baltimore)

The Social War: Some Material Cultural Consequences

Tuesday 17 June

Prof. Alessandro Barchiesi (NYU)

Virgil's Bauernkrieg

Prof. Cristina Rosillo Lopez (Seville, Pablo de Olavide)

Rethinking the Roman Census Before and After the Social War

EHB

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A Select Bibliography:

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- E. Gabba, *Republican Rome, the Armies and the Allies* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1976), ch. 3
- E.T. Salmon, *The Making of Roman Italy* (London: Thames & Hudson, 1982)
- E. Gabba, 'Rome and Italy: the Social War', in *CAH IX* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992), 104-28
- J.-M. David, *The Roman Conquest of Italy* (tr. A. Nevill of *La romanisation d'Italie*, 1994), (Oxford: Blackwell, 1996), ch. 7
- H. Mouritsen, *Italian Unification. A Study in Ancient and Modern Historiography*. BICS Supplement 70 (London: Institute of Classical Studies / School of Advanced Study, 1998)
- M.P. Pobjoy, 'The First *Italia*', in E. Herring & K. Lomas (eds), *State Identities in Italy in the First Millennium B.C.* Accordia Specialist Studies in Italy 8 (London: Accordia Research Institute, 2000), 187-211
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- S. Kendall, *The Struggle for Roman Citizenship: Romans, Allies and the Wars of 91-77 BCE*. Gorgias Studies in Classical and Late Antiquity 2 (Piscataway, NJ: Gorgias Press, 2013)
- C.J. Dart, *The Social War, 81-88 BCE. A History of the Italian Insurgency against the Roman Republic* (Farnham: Ashgate, 2014)
- F. Carlà-Uhink, *The "Birth" of Italy. The Institutionalization of Italy as a Region, 3rd-1st Century BCE*. *Klio* Beiheft, n.F. 28 (Berlin / Boston: De Gruyter, 2017), 277-394
- F. Santangelo, 'The Social War'. In G.D. Farney & G.J. Bradley (eds), *The Peoples of Ancient Italy* (Berlin / Boston: De Gruyter, 2018), 231-53
- S. Roselaar, *Italy's Economic Revolution. Integration & Economy in Republican Italy* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019)
- G.J. Bradley, 'State Formation and the Social War', in K.-J. Hölkeskamp, S. Karataş & R. Roth (eds), *Empire, Hegemony or Anarchy? Rome and Italy, 201-31 BCE* (Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag, 2019), 167-89
- F.J. Vervaet, *Reform, Revolution, Reaction. A Short History of Rome from the Origins of the Social War to the Dictatorship of Sulla*. *Libera Res Publica* 10 (Zaragoza, 2023)
- L. Cappelletti & S. Pittia (eds), *L'Italie entre déchirements et réconciliations: la guerre sociale (91-88 avant notre ère) et ses lendemains* (Besançon: Presses Universitaires de Franche-Comté, 2024)

F. Santangelo, 'Italy in a Global Context, 270-49 BCE', in M. Maiuro with J. Botsford Johnson, *The Oxford Handbook of Pre-Roman Italy (1000-49 BCE)* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2024) 507-529