
Rosetta

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It is our pleasure to present the 28th issue of the Rosetta Journal. Being an entirely postgraduate-run journal has allowed this publication to retain a certain sense of ‘youthfulness’ throughout our 17 years of publication; weathering shocks from financial crises, difficult shifts to the way University education is funded and run, and a global pandemic. Each year has seen a new crop of editorial staff and contributors in the initial, often radical, periods of their research. It is at this early point of our careers that we can at times feel less constrained by orthodoxy, and respond more directly, in one way or another, to the changing realities of our times. Indeed, spaces like Rosetta (along with other excellent open-access postgraduate journals) allow early career researchers the latitude to expand into controversial or even iconoclastic areas. It is gratifying to see that this trend of subversiveness continues in Issue 28 – and, while the call for papers did not specify a theme for this issue – subversiveness itself has emerged as a connecting idea between the papers in this issue.

Both Shakeel Ahmed’s examination of ‘homosexual subculture’ in Athens and Evangelos Katsarelis’ description of ‘erotic otherness’ in the *Phaedrus* re-examine the complicated nature, all the more obfuscated by modern reception, of ancient Athenian sexuality. These articles, ‘reading between lines’ of the extant, largely elite and conservative sources, reveal a richer dimensionality to the different facets of Greek sexual identity, attraction, and alienation. Abigail Taylor makes a robust defence of a group which is often maligned as subversive by archaeologists – metal detectorists – by presenting an analysis of the impact this activity has made to the wider assemblage of the archaeological landscape. Maggie Tighe, on the other hand, confirms the literary subversiveness of an ancient poet who is celebrated for that very quality. She demonstrates how Ovid plays with his audience’s expectations of the trope of music in the pastoral to create new and unexpected literary results. For Konstantinos Kakatsidas, the focus shifts – what tools do those in power have at their disposal to deal with those deemed ‘subversive’? Focusing on Tiberius, this article tracks the use of legislation *de maiestate* and its effects, from censorship to persecution. Finally, Tyler Broome’s review of Cristina Rosillo-López’s *Political Conversations in Ancient Rome* demonstrates that the work is an excellent addition to what was once a highly subversive academic idea; that, far from an unqualified oligarchy, the politics of the Roman republic were intrinsically linked to attitudes, actions and decisions made by ordinary members of the *populus*.

We would especially like to thank the exceptional board members who have worked so hard to bring this issue to publication – Articles Editor Ciarán Bartlett, Book Reviews Editor Tyler Broome, Copy Editors Sarah MacCay Tams, Jarkko Tanninen, Tyler Broome, and Matt Watts, and to our IT officer, Amy E. Porter. In addition, many thanks to our excellent specialist editors. On behalf of the entire team, we hope you find this issue a stimulating and valuable contribution.

Cannon Fairbairn and Tim Elliott

General editors, Rosetta Journal