Session III. Literary Metaphors and Ideas

Robert Pitt (CYA): “Staging the Sicilian expedition: Protagonists and Silent actors”

This paper will build upon earlier studies of Thucydides' use of elements of drama and epic by looking at how the historian constructs the Sicilian narrative as a piece of theatre, employing dramatic devices and staging the events around a small number of actors. In particular, it will explore Thucydides' naming of individual characters, and the choices he makes of who to name and who to keep anonymous, in order to focus his readers' attention upon certain players and obscure the roles of others in the narrative.