Session III. Literary Metaphors and Ideas

T. F. Scanlon: “Thucydides’ Body Language”

The Thucydidean σôma, essentially meaning “body”, can include meanings of corpse, life, private welfare and wealth, and personal selfhood balanced against the polis or oikos. Thucydides’ term thus describes a balance or reciprocity between the often competing spheres of individual and the civic interest. Passages examined will include the speeches of Pericles and of the Corinthians (1.70), and the narrative of the plague.