Session III. Literary Metaphors and Ideas

Timothy Rood (University of Oxford): “Thucydides, Periclean Athens, and Homeric Scholarship”

This talk will offer an interpretation of Thucydides’ reading of Homer in relation to some of the new techniques of philological analysis that emerged in fifth-century Athens. It will argue that Thucydides engages with Homeric scholarship to construct a sense of distance between the past of Homeric epic and his own times, as well as between his own writing and Homeric poetry, and also to historicise contemporary Athens.