

Crime and Punishment in Antiquity

Wrocław, Poland, 17-19th June 2015

Scientific committee:

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Organizers:

Institute of Classical, Mediterranean and Oriental Studies, University of Wrocław, Poland

Institute of Near Eastern Studies, West-Bohemian University in Plzen, Czech Republic

Institute of Comparative Linguistics, Charles University Prague, Czech Republic

Confucius Institute at the University of Wrocław, Poland

Since the dawn of time different crimes have occurred within the human societies, and as their consequence various ideas and ways of punishment have developed. It may look naturally, that if a crime happens, a punishment must follow. However, similar behaviours didn't have to be understood as illegal or of an analogous gravity in different societies, and also a respective form of punishment could differ among ancient cultures and societies. It is commonly believed that purely punitive vengeance, as in the case of talion, and compensation, either for an aggrieved or for the society/state, should be recognized as the primeval aims of punishment. While the penology has constantly developed together with the jurisprudence, crimes have not changed significantly in their nature in the course of history. What has been changing though was a cultural, social and legal approach to harmful behaviours. How did the ancients perceive these acts and their authors? What determined classifying an act as a crime? What were the means of limiting the range of crimes in ancient societies? What sorts of punishment did the ancient use? What was an approach of the ancients to different kinds of punishment? How sorts of punishment reflected social or cultural tendencies?

The most important topics of the conference should be as follows:

Crime and punishment as elements of social and cultural life
Political and legal aspects of crime and punishment in ancient society
Social and cultural role of punishment
Ancient criminal law and jurisprudence
Crime and punishment in ancient literature and art
Linguistic representations of legally forbidden behaviours
Customs and taboos related to crimes and punishment
Material remains of criminal trials or places and kinds of punishment

This conference will take a comparative approach, taking a wide geographical and chronological sweep. We warmly invite all scholars whose subject of study concerns ancient Greece and Rome as well as ancient Near and Far East – linguists, historians, archaeologists, lawyers, sociologists and anthropologists.

The conference is hosted by the Institute of Classical, Mediterranean and Oriental Studies and Confucius Institute, University of Wrocław, Poland on June 17th – 19th, 2015. The language of the conference is English.

Proposals are now invited for individual papers or posters. Proposals of no longer than 300 words (in English) can be submitted by 15th January 2015 to the conference e-mail: crime.and.punishment@uni.wroc.pl

Proposals will be accepted after revision by the scientific committee by 28th February 2015. The final programme of the conference will be released by 31st March 2015.

The conference fee should be paid until 15th March 2015.

Additional information:

Every speech should last no more than 20 minutes, with a further 10 minutes discussion. In case of too many applications, selection will be made by the scientific committee of the conference. As an alternative to presenting a paper, posters can be used.

The registration fee is € 100.

Discounted fee for doctoral students is € 80 and for accompanying persons € 50.

Fees should be paid by the bank transfer to the following account:

IBAN: PL 80 1090 2398 0000 0001 2002 5457

SWIFT: WBKPPLPP

Address and additional information for payment:

Uniwersytet Wrocławski

Plac Uniwersytecki 1

50-137 Wrocław

“Crime and punishment”

Conference fee does not include accommodation nor the reimbursement of the travel costs. Participants, who would like to receive an invoice, should make a remark in the registration e-mail, giving the necessary billing details.

Should you have any additional questions please do not hesitate to contact the organizers, sending your e-mail to the conference address:

crime.and.punishment@uni.wroc.pl