

Conference *(Re-)Constructing Ἐλευθερία and Libertas: Thinking and Imagining Freedom in Ancient Greece and Rome*, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt (29 – 31 May 2026)

Am Freitag, dem 29. und Samstag, dem 30. Mai, findet an der Goethe-Universität Frankfurt eine internationale Konferenz zum Thema *(Re-)Constructing Ἐλευθερία and Libertas: Thinking and Imagining Freedom in Ancient Greece and Rome* statt, die von PD Dr. Lothar Willms (Lehrstuhlvertretung Gräzistik) organisiert wird.

Gäste sind zu allen Vorträgen herzlich willkommen. Eine Anmeldung ist nur bei größeren Gruppen erwünscht (Willms@em.uni-frankfurt.de).

Programm

Friday, May 29 (SH¹ 0.107)

8:30-8:55 Welcome by Professor Dr. Anja Klöckner (Dean of Linguistics, Cultures and Arts) and by Professor Dr. Hans Bernsdorff (Director of the Institute of Classical Philology)
Introduction by the organizer

Freedom in Archaic and Classical Greece (Chair: Darja Šterbenc Erker)

9:00-9:30 Ana Rita Figueira (Universidade de Lisboa): Freedom through depictions. The ransom of Hector's body in Attic vase painting (*Iliad* 24) (online)

9:35-10:05 Oscar Daniel Lorente Martínez (Universitat de Barcelona): The positive meaning of ἐλεύθερος in Archaic Greece

10:10-10:40 Alexandra Eckert (Georg-August-Universität Göttingen): Democrats, Oligarchs and the role of Freedom in 5th century BCE Athens

10:40-11:10 Coffee Break

Freedom in Greek Literature (Chair: Aldo Dinucci)

11:10-11:40 Alexander von Lennep (University of Cologne): Freedom, Desperation and Responsibility in Sophocles' *Philoctetes*

11:45-12:15 Carla Capizzi (University of Padua): Bodies Unbound: Material Freedom and the Limits of Civic Order in Euripides' *Bacchae*

12:15-14:15 Lunch break

Between Classical and Hellenistic Freedom (Chair: Alexandra Eckert)

14:15-14:45 Giulia Zinedine Fuschino (independent), Eudaimonia as Freedom Lost: Discussion on Isoc. *Or.* 10.67

14:50-15:20 Joel Pollatschek (University of Oxford): Mapping *parrhesia*: A Distributional Semantic Approach to Conceptual History of Free Speech in Ancient Greek

¹ SH is the abbreviation for *Seminarhaus*.

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15:20-15:50 Coffee break

15:50-16:20 Sebastian Scharff (Universität Münster): *Autonomos patris Messana*. Exploring the Addressee of an Athlete's Emphasis on Freedom

16:25-16:55 William Coles (Royal Holloway, University of London), Beyond a Slogan: *Eleutheria* and the Rhetoric of Freedom in Hellenistic Interstate Relations

Keynote speech (Chair: Lothar Willms)

18:00-19:00 Klaus Vieweg (Universität Jena): Hegels Freiheitsbegriff und seine antiken Quellen

Saturday, May 30 (SH 0.101)

Freedom in Roman History and Historiography (Chair: Sebastian Scharff)

9:00-9:30 Daniel Keilmann (Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz), *Aequanda libertas* and the Codification of Law – Livy's Depiction of Liberty in the Episode of the Decemvirate

9:35-10:05 Max Bacon (Royal Holloway, University of London), Constructing freedoms through antagonism: *libertas*, *dignitas* and lexical strategies of legitimacy from 49 BCE to 41 CE

10:10-10:40 Darja Šterbenc Erker (Humboldt Universität zu Berlin): Freedom of Speech and the Emperor as Dominus: How Suetonius Conceptualised the Freedom of the Roman People in the *Lives of the Caesars*

10:40-11:10 Coffee Break

11:10-11:40 Alessio Rebollo (University of Naples Federico II): *Libertas* as political device: Magnentius and the use of *libertas* in Late Antiquity

Freedom in Latin Literature (Chair: Lothar Willms)

11:45-12:15 Argyri Karanasiou (Universität des Saarlandes, Saarbrücken): Freeing slaves in the comedy of Plautus (the cases of *Epidicus* and *Captivi*)

12:20-12:50 Andrew Horne (Transylvania University, Lexington, Kentucky, USA): The Defeated Royal in Horace's *Odes*

12:50-14:30 Lunch Break

Freedom in Imperial Stoic Philosophy (Chair: Lothar Willms)

14:30-15:00 Aldo Dinucci (Universidade Federal do Espírito Santo): Musonius Rufus, philosophical *parrhesia* and the concepts of exhortation (*parainesis*) and

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admonition (*nouthesia*)

15:05-15:35 Danilo Ulhano Patutti (Universidade Federal do Espírito Santo): How Attention Influences Freedom in Epictetus' Philosophy

15:40-16:10 Jörg von Alvensleben (Georg-August-Universität Göttingen): Freedom and Arbitrariness – Marcus Aurelius' *Meditations* as a Concept of Imperial Self-Discipline

16:10-16:40 Coffee Break

Freedom in Christianity (Chair: Aldo Dinucci)

16:40-17:10 Jeremías Avilés (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile / Accademia Vivarium Novum): “Imitating Those Under the Law”: Origen's Terminological Engineering of *ἔλευθερία* in Homilia IX on Psalm 77 (LXX)

17:15-17:45 Romain Girardi (Université Côte d'Azur / Université de Genève (cotutelle)), Constructing Christian Liberty: The Terminological Nexus of *ἔλευθερία* and *προαίρεσις* in Justin Martyr and Tatian

Practical information

Accommodation

Based on my experiences during previous stays, I can recommend you the *Hotel am Turm* which offers affordable rates and is located at a walkable distance from Frankfurt University (Campus Westend).

<https://www.turmhotel-frankfurt.de/>

Given the limited number of rooms I would suggest that you book very soon. If you look for an accommodation on your own please avoid the area around the central station which is neither safe nor proper.

Getting from Frankfurt Airport to Frankfurt City

The best way to get from Frankfurt Airport to Frankfurt City is to take a regional train (S 8 or S 9 in direction to Hanau Hbf) and to go to Frankfurt Central Station.

Getting to the Hotel or Frankfurt University (Campus Westend)

From Frankfurt Central Station, you take the subway lines U 4 (to Enkheim) or U 5 (to Preungesheim) and change at the station *Willy Brandt Platz* to the lines U 1 (to Ginnheim), U 2 (to Bad Homburg Gonzenheim), U 3 (to Oberusel Hohemark) or U 8 (to Riedberg). For getting to the *Hotel am Turm* you get off at *Grüneburgweg*, for getting to Frankfurt University you get off at *Holzhausenstraße / Unicampus*.