

John Tzetzes was a towering figure in the scholarly landscape of twelfth-century Constantinople. He commented extensively on the Greek poets and literary history; he had access to works that are lost to us and is a source of the greatest importance for the history of scholarship in antiquity. But his idiosyncratic writerly persona has made him an easy target for the irony of twentieth-century scholars, and the appreciation of his work has suffered as a result.

It is all too easy, especially for classicists, not to see beyond a combination of Tzetzes the caricature and Tzetzes the footnote fodder. But his vast learning and the variety and influence of his writings demands a more discerning attention, which has indeed started to increase in the past few decades. This colloquium brings together scholars in classical and Byzantine studies for the sake of a better understanding of Tzetzes and his output.

twitter: @tzetzes

Organiser:
Enrico Emanuele Prodi
Ca' Foscari

This conference falls under the dissemination activities of the project “Ancient Scholarship on Archaic Greek Iambic Poetry” (ASAGIP). The project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement 708556.

The project examines the exegesis and ecdotics of archaic iambos from the fourth century BC to the twelfth AD. It attempts to provide in due course the first comprehensive treatment of iambic scholarship in antiquity by drawing on a variety of sources of evidence, from the marginalia and critical signs preserved by papyri to entries in Hesychius that draw on the iambographers, from hypomnemata and other works of scholarship on papyrus to Tzetzes’ quotations of Hipponax.



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Tzetzes

An International Conference

6th - 8th September 2018
Ca' Foscari University of Venice
Aula Mario Baratto, Ca' Foscari, Dorsoduro 3264

Thursday 6th September

Session I

Chair: **Caterina Carpinato**

9:30 Opening of the colloquium: **Giovannella Cresci**, Head of the Department of Humanities

9:40 **Alessandra Bucossi** – Tzetzes and the twelfth century

10:20 **Frederick Lauritzen** – Allegory in eleventh- and twelfth-century Constantinople (*Iliad* 4.1)

Coffee break

11:20 **Vlada Stankovic** – John Tzetzes as an epistolographer and a witness of the creation of Manuel Komnenos' autocracy

12:00 **Giulia Gerbi** – *Epistulae ad exercitationem accommodatae*: notes on some fictitious epistles by John Tzetzes

Lunch break

Session II

Chair: **Ettore Cingano**

14:20 **Aglæ Pizzone** – Why a self-commentary? Tzetzes' *Historiai* and the emergence of a new genre in 12th-century Byzantium

15:00 **Julián Bértola** – Tzetzes' verse scholia: a particular case of book epigrams

Tea break

16:00 **Tommaso Braccini** – A neglected manuscript of Tzetzes' *Allegories from the Verse-Chronicle*: first remarks

16:40 **Jacopo Cavarzeran** – "Euripides talks nonsense" (schol. Eur. *Hipp.* 1013b)

17:20 **Thomas Coward** – Discerning Tzetzes: Towards a new edition of Tzetzes' commentary on Lycophron

Friday 7th September

Session III

Chair: **Enrico Emanuele Prodi**

9:00 **Valeria Lovato** – John Tzetzes' reception of Orpheus, teacher of truth

9:40 **Caterina Franchi** – *Una, nessuna, centomila*: Penthesilea between Tzetzes and Eustathius

10:20 **Corinne Jouanno** – Tzetzes' Alexander: between learned and popular culture

Coffee break

11:20 **Ettore Cingano** – Facing the early and classical authors: Tzetzes' reliability as a source of rare information

12:00 **Anna Novokhatko** – παρὰ τῶν τεσσάρων τούτων σοφῶν: John Tzetzes as a critic

Lunch break

Session IV

Chair: **Federica Benuzzi**

14:20 **Johanna Michels** – Tzetzes *mythographus* in Vaticanus Gr. 950

15:00 **Minerva Alganza Roldán** – *Le Chiliadi di Tzetze e la tradizione mitografica: il caso di Palefato*

Tea break

16:00 **Philip Rance** – Tzetzes and the *mechanographoi*

16:40 **Jesús Muñoz Morcillo** – John Tzetzes on *ekphrasis*

17:20 **Ugo Mondini** – John of all trades: *Carmina Iliaca* and Tzetzes' didactic programme

Friday 8th September

Session V

Chair: **Filippomaria Pontani**

9:00 **Marc Lauxtermann** – Buffaloes and bastards: Tzetzes on metre

9:40 **Baukje van den Berg** – Verses for his deceased brother: John Tzetzes' didactic poetry and his treatise on metres

10:20 **Enrico Magnelli** – Tzetzes' hexameter: not so unruly?

Coffee break

11:20 **Yulia Mantova** – Tzetzes' legacy as a source on the socio-cultural use of invective in Byzantium

12:00 **Tomasz Labuk** – Tzetzes on the foul literary cuisine: contemporary Byzantine discourses and ancient literary engagements

Sessions will take place in the **Aula Mario Baratto**, Ca' Foscari.

Coffee, lunch, and tea breaks on Friday 7th and the coffee break on Saturday 8th will be provided in the Sala Archivio next door.

Please note that no refreshments will be provided on Thursday 6th due to a function taking place in the room.