

RAYMOND GEUSS

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'Auctoritas'

Monday 22 October, 5 p.m.: Old Combination Room, Trinity College

The Greek-speaking Roman senator Dio Cassius mentions that the Latin term '*auctoritas*' has no exact equivalent in Greek. The paper discusses some questions about the translatability of ethical and political terms, and some approaches to understanding '*auctoritas*' and modern concepts of authority. The underlying thesis is that we would be better off without a strong unitary concept of 'authority'.

Literature

Dio Cassius *Roman history* 55.3

Richard Henze *Vom Geist des Römertums* (Teubner, 1938), pp. 1-24

André Magdelain *Ius Imperium Auctoritas* (École française de Rome 1990)

Émile Benveniste *Le vocabulaire des institutions indo-européennes* (Éditions de minuit), esp. the discussion of '*augeo*' in vol. 2.