



## ANCIENT TEXTS AND THEIR BYZANTINE READERS: BYZANTINE REFLECTIONS ON THE VALUE OF LITERATURE

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This lecture explores the value of ancient literature in Byzantine culture as formulated by various scholars active between the twelfth and fourteenth centuries. Ancient Greek literature held a central position in Byzantine textual culture, providing linguistic and stylistic models for literary composition. Beyond this formal dimension, however, the works of Homer and other ancient authors also stimulated reflection on moral behaviour and the human experience more broadly. Byzantine scholars postulated a continuity between the Greek literature of the pagan past and that of later Christian times, tracing, for instance, a direct line between Homeric poetry and Byzantine hymnography. This perceived continuity prompted them to read both pagan and Christian texts through the prism of the grammatical and rhetorical traditions, while simultaneously positioning ancient Greek literature firmly within contemporary textual culture. By exploring Byzantine literary reflections and situating them in their wider cultural contexts, this lecture intends to shed new light on the Byzantine literary experience and the value attached to literature, whether that of the pagan past or the Christian present.

**Wann:** Dienstag 19. November 2024, 18:00

**Wo:** Innrain 52a, Ágnes-Heller-Haus, Seminarraum 8 (1. Stock).