

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This volume arose from the unusual circumstances of 2020, and an event that did not take place: a strand on Erasure in Late Antiquity organized by Kay Boers, Becca Grose, Thomas Langley, Guy Walker, and Rebecca Usherwood for the Leeds International Medieval Congress 2020, as part of the Postgraduate and Early Career Late Antiquity Network’s attempt to engage junior scholars in cross-disciplinary conversations.

Although the Leeds IMC did not proceed as planned, some speakers did present their papers independently. The discussions raised by these papers, and the clear interest in finding spaces to continue our conversations in lockdown, led to two subsequent events. First, in November 2020, the Department of Classics at Trinity College Dublin kindly supported an online workshop based around pre-circulated drafts, with keynotes by Mark Humphries and Irene van Renswoude. Second, in July 2021, we arranged a virtual strand at the Leeds IMC with a response from Alexandra Walsham drawn comparatively from her work on the English Reformation. On the basis of these two events, we identified that not only was there no clear or shared definition of “erasure” between our fields, but also that we were speaking past one another, and that there was a value in trying to bring together new approaches to erasure across different disciplines of Late Antiquity to establish the extent of common ground.

This volume is indebted to everyone involved in these events. Thomas Langley helped us identify the potential of “erasure” as a concept that involves scholars from various disciplines. All three of our expert speakers, Mark, Irene, and Alex, generously gave us insights into the value of “erasure” within their specialist fields and shared their advice

with other speakers and participants, and Mark also kindly agreed to place some of his insights into the conclusion. This volume owes a lot to the speakers whose findings will appear elsewhere – Henry Anderson, Nicola Holm, Giulia Rossetto, David Rockwell, Mathilde Sauquet, Atiyah Taghiei, and Nadine Viermann – for helping us to better identify what was interesting about the material discussed here and the wider questions and problems of studying “erasure.” Last but not least, the active engagement and feedback from the participants and moderators of both events helped us draw together different papers and establish key problems and conversations.

Three of the editors began this process during their doctoral work and were able to participate due to individual funding received from national bodies: the Arts and Humanities Research Council/South, West and Wales Doctoral Training Partnership (Grose), the Irish Research Council (Walker), and the NWO Nederlandse Organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (Boers). The same is true for various contributors, and we are grateful to these organizations for supporting early-career scholarship in Late Antiquity.

The volume here is also the result of significant subsequent support. At Trinity College Dublin, we would like to thank the CONSULT Trinity team for their work behind the scenes that funded this project’s image permission and Open Access fees. Appreciation is also due to the Domina writing team at Fifty Fathoms, and especially Simon Burke, who provided work that was both a joy to carry out and has made projects like this possible. At Utrecht University, we would like to thank Bruno Schalekamp and Stefan Dingemans, editorial assistants provided by the Utrecht University Faculty of Humanities, for their support. At Trivent, Teodora Artimon has been incredibly patient and helpful. Each chapter in this volume was peer-reviewed separately, and so we would also like to thank all of the peer reviewers who contributed their expertise.

Finally, the editors would like to thank their own partners, friends, families, and colleagues for their support during both the pandemic and the editing of this book.

The Editors