**Network for Oratory and Politics**

**Workshop: ‘Speaking to the People from the ancient world to the modern day’**

13 March 2015, University of Glasgow

This workshop gathers experts in political oratory to discuss the distinctive features of public oratory to the people in different historical periods and from different perspectives. Speakers include a speechwriter regularly preparing speeches for politicians addressing the public, an academic specialist in modern political speech, and, an ancient historian adding the historic perspective from another vibrant political culture of speech: ancient Rome.

Through these three view points, we shall discuss the distinctive features of addressing the people in public – then and now – and what that might tell us about political oratory and the cultures in which such oratory is performed. It is the hope that we shall be able to exchange knowledge between practitioners of public speech and academic specialists of political oratory which will benefit all participants.

Confirmed speakers are Dr Amy Russell, Lecturer in Ancient History, Durham University, and an expert on Roman Republican politics and oratory; Prof. Alan Finlayson, Professor of Political and Social Theory, and an expert on British political speech of the 20th – 21st centuries; Mr Rodger Evans, Clerk and speechwriter in the Scottish Parliament, and a blogger on political speech.

*Programme*

9.30 Welcome by Henriette van der Blom

9.45 Amy Russell (Ancient historian, University of Durham): ‘A world of Ciceros? Speaking to the people in Republican Rome’

10.35 Tea and coffee

11.00 Alan Finlayson (Modern political scientist, University of East Anglia), ‘Rhetorical Performance and Democracy Today’

11.50 Rodger Evans (speech writer and clerk in the Scottish Parliament): ‘Rhetoric: indulging the hope that nature will finally yield to observation and perseverance the keys to the heart’

12.20 Lunch

13.15 Discussion

Chairs: Henriette van der Blom and Ernest Schonfield. The discussion is open to all participants.

Main questions for discussion:

‘What did and do public speaking to the people involve?’

‘What stylistic considerations do speech writers and politicians take into account when preparing a speech?’

‘How did and do politicians attempt to anticipate and respond to audience reaction?’

‘How important is public persona or public character to the success of communication?’

15 Farewell

Each presentation will last ca. 30 minutes and be followed by discussion.

Registration:

Book a free place at the workshop (which includes tea/coffee and lunch) through Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/preview?eid=15665094720>. Places are limited and will be given on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Venue:

Turnbull Hall

Glasgow University Catholic Chaplaincy

13-15 Southpark Terrace

Glasgow

G12 8LG

How to find the workshop venue: <http://www.gla.ac.uk/media/media_335384_en.pdf>

The building is marked as E5 on the map and listed in the alphabetical list under ‘Southpark House’. For maps and directions to the university, please see <http://www.gla.ac.uk/about/maps/> (Gilmorehill Campus).