



Royal Irish Academy Grants Report

Title:	Dr
First Name:	Michael
Surname:	Hanaghan
Discipline:	Humanities and Social Sciences
Year of Award:	2018
Project Title	"Visual Praise of Constantius II in Epideictic Literature."

1. Research background:

I am a Classicist who works on epistolography, historiography and panegyric from the early Empire through to Late Antiquity. I completed my PhD at the University of Sydney in 2015. From 2015-2016 I was an Associate Lecturer in Classics at the University of Exeter, and from 2016-2018 an Irish Research Council Postdoctoral Fellow at University College Cork. My IRC funded project resulted in my monograph being accepted for publication by Cambridge University Press (anticipated Jan 2019).

2. Please outline the findings of your research and/or milestones achieved (did you achieve the primary objectives - if not, what did you learn from the process)?

My research culminated in an hour-long public lecture that I gave in the seminar series hosted by the Department of Classics. This was a great opportunity to showcase my research to a large audience (more than 40 attended) and resulted in a series of interesting questions and responses which will stimulate further avenues of inquiry for the project.

My findings showed that successful panegyrists avoided focusing on Constantius' appearance. One in particular, Themistius, argued that Constantine's outward beauty distracted viewers from seeing his inner control. This accords well with other descriptions of Constantius, especially in historiography, and contrasts with the intense visuality evident in panegyrics to Constantius' father, Constantine.

Invectives conversely used Constantius' appearance to criticise his inner character, painting him as an Arian heretic committed to undermining Christian orthodoxy.



St Andrews Classics @StA_Classics · Sep 19

Join us today at 2pm in School 1, to hear Michael Hanaghan speak on "Praise, Blame, and Roman Emperors: A Visual Study of Constantius II in Epideictic Literature" st-andrews.ac.uk/classics/event... #seminar #allwelcome

