

Introduction

The latest years have seen an increase of interest in the reception and survival of Antiquity. Researchers, as well as poets, writers, painters, sculptors, composers and filmmakers have been the main force responsible for this rapid growth in this field of research. In Portugal, too, a devoted number of scholars are studying subjects related to the reception of Egyptian, Mesopotamian and classical texts, thoughts, and material culture in a variety of historical and ideological contexts.

The aim of the conference “Sources to study Antiquity: Between texts and material culture” was to introduce researchers to the key tendencies in the history of the reception of antiquity, since Classical reception of earlier periods, until the present. The study into ancient and modern receptions of antiquity concentrates on how the texts, thoughts and representations of Egyptian, Mesopotamian, Greek and/or Roman culture have been transferred, modified, revised and appropriated in a variety of ancient and modern cultures.

For one day we examine questions such as “How did collections influence the notions of antiquity?”, “How did the attraction with antiquity produce new types of cultural production?” and “What is the role of antiquity in the modern and contemporary era?”

This compilation of papers investigates the uses of the past from an extensive variety of perspectives, employing variable combinations of texts, iconographic representations, oral traditions and visible remains, bringing together a group of stimulating scholars who otherwise may not had the opportunity to exchange ideas on this same subject.

Maria Helena Trindade Lopes