



PHILOLOGISCH-KULTURWISSENSCHAFTLICHE FAKULTÄT

INSTITUT FÜR KLASSISCHE PHILOLOGIE,  
MITTEL- UND NEULATEIN

INSTITUT FÜR ALTE GESCHICHTE UND ALTERTUMSKUNDE,  
PAPYROLOGIE UND EPIGRAPHIK

Die genannten Institutionen erlauben sich, zu folgendem Vortrag einzuladen, den

## Prof. Dr. William Batstone

(Ohio State University - Columbus, Ohio, USA)

am Donnerstag, dem **27. Juni 2013**, um **17 Uhr c. t.**,  
im **Hörsaal 21** des Hauptgebäudes der Universität Wien,  
1010 Wien, Universitätsring 1,  
halten wird:

### *Caesar Constructing Caesar*

The “myth of Caesar” is a commonplace of Caesar studies, whether it is seen as the residue of the great man’s actual achievements or as a romanticization of some of those achievements and the occlusion of others. In other words, “the myth of Caesar” is usually treated as a feature of Caesar’s historical accomplishments and his promise (and that promise is huge: can you imagine Caesar without the assassination? without what he could have been?). In this paper, I am interested, not so much in the facts and their mythic dimension (in this sense, both the Colossus and the Tyrant are mythic), as in the texts that Caesar wrote, and in how those texts are already complicit with the myth of Caesar. First, I will review both linguistic evidence and narratological structures, pointing out how they construct a particular version of Caesarian *virtus*. Then, I will turn to a view of “mythology” (taken from Barthes) which is less familiar to Classicists. This view will help us see that Caesar’s *Bellum Gallicum* is mythic in a different sense. The story is itself the signifier of something outside the story, of an abstract idea and not a thing, of the promise of absolute rightness, personal clarity and untouchable distance, total and totalizing effectiveness. *Adventu Caesaris cognito*, all will be well. Caesar’s story of Caesar is already the myth of Caesar, which is not an historical actor, but a desire which the history of the west shows we have too often believed in or desired: *Césarité* (pun intended).

Gäste sind herzlich willkommen!

Im Anschluss an den Vortrag bittet der Eranos Vindobonensis in die Räumlichkeiten des Instituts für Alte Geschichte und Altertumskunde, Papyrologie und Epigraphik zu einem Gläschen Wein.

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Farouk F. Grewing  
Univ.-Doz. Dr. Thomas Kruse

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Thomas Corsten  
Univ.-Prof. Dr. Danuta Shanzer

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Matthias Meyer  
Univ.-Prof. Dr. Herbert Bannert