

CONFERENCE
A Grave Moral Case
The Responsibility of The Historian in Dystopian Times

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Abstract

What is the responsibility of the historian, and more broadly of humanities scholars, during times of climate collapse, televised genocides, techno-feudal fascism and imperial meltdown? How does it feel to be working on the dystopian nature of widely trusted civilizational myths when these same myths are being repurposed for yet more dystopian enterprises in real time? And what is the moral duty of scholars of the past in times like now? This talk will unpack these questions and propose some ways forward.

Dr. Katherine Blouin is Professor of History and Classics at the University of Toronto. Her work centres on socio-economic and environmental history, with a focus on ancient, and particularly Roman, Egypt, as well as on the ethics and (de)colonial entailments of Antiquity-related fields. She is the author of the book *Triangular Landscapes: Environment, Society, and the State in the Nile Delta under Roman Rule*, and the editor of the volume *The Nile Delta: Histories from Antiquity to the Modern Period*, and the co-editor of the

Routledge Handbook of Classics, Colonialism, and Postcolonial Theory. She is currently writing a book entitled *Inventing Alexandria*. She is also the co-founder and lead editor of the platform *Everyday Orientalism*.