

**St Mary's University, Philosophy Programme
Royal Institute of Philosophy Public Lecture**

Professor Lene Rubinstein

Classics, Royal Holloway

Thursday 30 March 2017, 5.15-6.45pm

Senior Common Room, St Mary's University, Twickenham

About the Speaker

Lene Rubinstein is Professor of Ancient History at Royal Holloway, University of London. She is co-founder and director, with Dr. Kremmydas, of the Centre for Oratory and Rhetoric at the Department of Classics. She has published widely on Athenian law and oratory, including her book *Litigation and Cooperation: Supporting Speakers in the Courts of Classical Athens*, Stuttgart 2000 on advocacy in the Athenian courts.

Abstract

When we assess the validity of an argument, our assessment depends not only on what is said and how it is said, but also on who says it. The weight that can be lent to an argument by the expertise, authority and personal character (ethos) projected by a speaker was recognised and debated by Greek rhetoricians at least as early as the fourth century B.C., and it receives much attention in Aristotle's *Rhetoric*. Likewise we can see pronounced awareness of its importance expressed by speakers who addressed mass audiences in the Athenian assembly and courts; indeed, the Athenians went so far as to exclude citizens from political participation, if they were believed to be guilty of having breached certain norms of good citizen behaviour in their personal lives.

Registration

All lectures are free and open to the public without registration. Lectures start at 5.15pm and last for 50 minutes, with 40 minutes for questions, followed by a wine reception.

Venue

St Mary's University,
Waldegrave Road,
Strawberry Hill,
Twickenham TW1 4SX