



Call for applications

Doctoral Workshop

June 22–23, 2022

Ancient Doxography and its Transmission: Working on Aëtius' *Placita philosophorum*

under the direction of

Prof. Jaap Mansfeld
(Universiteit Utrecht)

Prof. David T. Runia
(University of Melbourne/Australian Catholic University)



Doxographical texts are complex works. Since they contain the views or tenets of ancient philosophers and schools, they are fundamental sources for our knowledge of ancient thought, and not only for those authors whose works have been lost and are known to us only indirectly: even when dealing with philosophers, whose writings are largely preserved, such as Plato or Aristotle, doxographical texts testify to the way in which their works have been interpreted and transmitted over time or they convey information that differs from what we know from other sources. Such texts pose specific problems: Being works of reference, they have been cited, abridged, supplemented, and transmitted in various versions through the centuries, often resulting in a highly complex tradition. These considerations are especially true in the case of Aëtius' *Placita philosophorum*, one of the most important sources for ancient natural philosophy, whose text is unfortunately lost but can be largely reconstructed thanks to quotations from other authors (e.g., from ps.-Plutarch and Stobaeus – the two main witnesses of this work). The first edition of Aëtius was published in *Doxographi Graeci* by Hermann Diels in 1879 and his work remained authoritative for over 140 years; a highly significant improvement to Diels' edition has now been successfully achieved by two outstanding scholars, Prof. Jaap Mansfeld (Universiteit Utrecht) and Prof. David T. Runia (University of Melbourne/ Australian Catholic University): their fruitful collaboration, after years of preparatory publications focused on doxography, culminated in 2020 in a new pathbreaking edition of the text of Aëtius in four volumes, with an extensive commentary and a new English translation.

The Workshop

The workshop “Ancient Doxography and its Transmission: Working on Aëtius’ *Placita philosophorum*” intends to provide PhD researchers, Postdocs and students interested in ancient philosophy, doxography, their transmission and reception with the opportunity to read and discuss the Aëtian *Placita* with their leading experts, Prof. Jaap Mansfeld and Prof. David T. Runia. Over the two days, participants will attend different seminar sessions, each devoted to specific text passages and related topics. Participants will be given preparatory material in advance, to encourage and foster discussions and are invited to actively participate in the workshop, presenting a section of the text or dealing with a specific topic about the *Placita*.

A certificate of Attendance will be awarded at the end for participation in the workshop. No registration fees will be required. The working language will be English.

On **Wednesday, June 22 at 18:15**, Prof. David Runia will hold a **public lecture** addressing

“The Reception of Plato in the Aëtian *Placita*”

at the University of Zurich (RAA-G-01, Rämistrasse 59, 8001 Zürich)

When, Where

22–23 June 2022 (Wednesday and Thursday)

The workshop will be held in person at:

Seminar für Griechische und Lateinische Philologie (SGLP)

Rämistrasse 68, 8001 Zürich (Switzerland).

Registration for the Workshop

To ensure a successful outcome of the workshop, the number of participants is limited. PhD students working on a topic related to doxography and ancient Greek philosophy are preferred. Students and other interested researchers are welcome. The knowledge of Ancient Greek is welcome but not a requirement.

Applicants should send a short CV and a brief letter of motivation (max. 1’500 characters, including spaces)

by **Sunday, May 22** to one of the organizers:

- Michèle Hegi (michele.hegi@sglp.uzh.ch)
- Lorenzo Ronchini (lorenzo.ronchini@uzh.ch)
- Benedetta Foletti (benedetta.foletti@sglp.uzh.ch)

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us!

Michèle Hegi (University of Zurich)

Lorenzo Ronchini (University of Zurich/ Università “G. d’Annunzio” Chieti – Pescara)

Benedetta Foletti (University of Zurich/ Sapienza–Università di Roma)