

Cambridge University Press & Assessment  
978-1-009-51510-8 — The Roman Republic and Political Culture  
Edited by Amy Russell , Hans Beck , Translated by Kathrin Lüddecke  
Frontmatter  
[More Information](#)

## THE ROMAN REPUBLIC AND POLITICAL CULTURE

This volume makes available in English translation for the first time a series of hugely influential articles about Roman Republican politics which were all originally published in German. They represent a school of thought that has long been in dialogue with anglophone research but has not always been accessible to all English-speakers, leaving many listening to only one side of a conversation. The contributions were part of a movement towards viewing Roman Republican politics more holistically, through the lens of political culture. They move beyond cataloguing institutions to treat art, literature, ritual, oratory, and public space as vital components of political life. Three new essays by Amy Russell, Karl-Joachim Hölkenskamp, and Harriet I. Flower discuss the history of German scholarship on the Republic and its interactions with anglophone research, and new introductions to each piece by Hans Beck allow readers to situate the work in its intellectual context.

AMY RUSSELL is Associate Professor of Classics and Associate Professor of History at Brown University. Her monograph *The Politics of Public Space in Republican Rome* (2016) was awarded the Charles J. Goodwin Award of Merit from the Society for Classical Studies, and in 2018 she won the Philip Leverhulme Prize.

HANS BECK is Professor of Ancient History at the University of Münster and Adjunct Professor in the Faculty of Arts at McGill University Montreal. He has published widely on ancient history, and co-edits the series *Antiquity in Global Context* (Cambridge). He has received the German Humboldt Foundation's Anneliese Maier Research Prize.

Cambridge University Press & Assessment  
978-1-009-51510-8 — The Roman Republic and Political Culture  
Edited by Amy Russell , Hans Beck , Translated by Kathrin Lüddecke  
Frontmatter  
[More Information](#)

## CLASSICAL SCHOLARSHIP IN TRANSLATION

### *Series editors*

RENAUD GAGNÉ, UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE  
JONAS GRETHLEIN, RUPRECHT-KARLS-UNIVERSITÄT HEIDELBERG

*Classical Scholarship in Translation* provides English translations of some particularly notable and significant scholarship on the ancient Greek and Roman worlds and their reception written in other languages in order to make it better known and appreciated. All areas of classical scholarship are considered.

Recent titles in the series:

*Choral Tragedy: Greek Poetics and Musical Ritual*

CLAUDE CALAME

*The Names of the Gods in Ancient Mediterranean Religions*

CORINNE BONNET

*The Early Christians: From the Beginnings to Constantine*

HARTMUT LEPPIN

*Platonism: A Concise History from the Early Academy to Late Antiquity*

MAURO BONAZZI

*The Greeks and Their Histories: Myth, History and Society*

HANS-JOACHIM GEHRKE

*The Hera of Zeus: Intimate Enemy, Ultimate Spouse*

VINCIANE PIRENNE-DELFORGE AND GABRIELLA PIRONTI

Cambridge University Press & Assessment  
978-1-009-51510-8 — The Roman Republic and Political Culture  
Edited by Amy Russell , Hans Beck , Translated by Kathrin Lüddecke  
Frontmatter  
[More Information](#)

# THE ROMAN REPUBLIC AND POLITICAL CULTURE

*German Scholarship in Translation*

EDITED BY  
AMY RUSSELL

*Brown University*

HANS BECK  
*University of Münster*

Translations by Kathrin Lüddecke, edited by Zara Chadha



Cambridge University Press & Assessment  
978-1-009-51510-8 — The Roman Republic and Political Culture  
Edited by Amy Russell , Hans Beck , Translated by Kathrin Lüddecke  
Frontmatter  
[More Information](#)



**CAMBRIDGE**  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom  
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA  
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia  
314-321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India  
103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment,  
a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of  
education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)  
Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781009515108](http://www.cambridge.org/9781009515108)

DOI: 10.1017/9781009515115

Original essays and English translations © Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2025

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions  
of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take  
place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press & Assessment.

When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI 10.1017/9781009515115

First published 2025

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library*

*A Cataloguing-in-Publication data record for this book is available from the Library of Congress*

ISBN 978-1-009-51510-8 Hardback

Cambridge University Press & Assessment has no responsibility for the persistence or  
accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this  
publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain,  
accurate or appropriate.

## *Contents*

<i>List of Figures</i>	<i>page</i> viii
<i>List of Tables</i>	x
<i>List of Contributors</i>	xi
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xii

### PART I ORIGINAL ESSAYS

1 Translating Roman Republican Political Culture <i>Amy Russell</i>	3
2 Politics and Power in the Roman Republic – Then and Now, in Old Europe and the Brave New Anglophone World: A Documented Survey <i>Karl-Joachim Hölkenskamp</i>	27
3 Perspectives from Germany <i>Harriet I. Flower</i>	71

### PART II TRANSLATIONS

4 Benevolence and Freedom: Institutionalizing the Relations between Upper and Lower Classes in the Roman Republic <i>Martin Jehne</i> 'Jovialität und Freiheit: Zur Institutionalität der Beziehungen zwischen Ober- und Unterschichten in der römischen Republik', in B. Linke and M. Stemmler (eds.), <i>Mos maiorum: Untersuchungen zu den Formen der Identitätsstiftung und Stabilisierung in der römischen Republik</i> , Historia Einzelschriften 141, Stuttgart: Franz Steiner (2000), 207–35.	95
---	----

5	Capitol, Comitium, and Forum: Public Spaces, Sacred Topography, and Landscapes of Memory <i>Karl-Joachim Hölkeskamp</i> ‘Capitol, Comitium und Forum: Öffentliche Räume, sakrale Topographie und Erinnerungslandschaften der römischen Republik’, in S. Faller (ed.), <i>Studien zu antiken Identitäten</i> , Würzburg: Ergon-Verlag (2001), 97–132. Reprinted in K.-J. Hölkeskamp, <i>SENATVS POPVL VSQVE ROMANVS: Die politische Kultur der Republik – Dimensionen und Deutungen</i> , Stuttgart: Franz Steiner (2004), 137–68.	124
6	Face to Face with the Ancestors: Political Monuments and Public Memory in Republican Rome <i>Tonio Hölscher</i> ‘Die Alten vor Augen: Politische Denkmäler und öffentliches Gedächtnis im republikanischen Rom’, in G. Melville (ed.), <i>Institutionalität und Symbolisierung: Verfestigungen kultureller Ordnungsmuster in Vergangenheit und Gegenwart</i> , Cologne: Böhlau Verlag (2001), 183–211.	166
7	Rituals of Integration in the Roman Republic: On the Integrative Force of the Popular Assemblies <i>Martin Jehne</i> ‘Integrationsrituale in der römischen Republik: Zur einbindenden Wirkung der Volksversammlungen’, in G. Urso (ed.), <i>Integrazione, mescolanza, rifiuto: Incontri di popoli, lingue e culture in Europa dall’Antichità all’Umanesimo, Atti del convegno internazionale, Cividale del Friuli, 21–23 settembre 2000</i> , Rome: ‘L’Erma’ di Bretschneider (2001), 89–113. Reprinted in K.-J. Hölkeskamp et al. (eds.), <i>Sinn (in) der Antike: Orientierungssysteme, Leitbilder und Wertkonzepte im Altertum</i> , Mainz: Philipp von Zabern (2003), 279–97.	200
8	The Message of the Medium: Historiography’s Potential to Create Meaning in the Context of Roman History Culture during the Republic <i>Uwe Walter</i> ‘Die Botschaft des Mediums: Überlegungen zum Sinnpotential von Historiographie im Kontext der römischen Geschichtskultur zur Zeit der Republik’, in G. Melville (ed.), <i>Institutionalität und Symbolisierung: Verfestigungen kultureller Ordnungsmuster in Vergangenheit und Gegenwart</i> , Cologne: Böhlau Verlag (2001), 241–79.	225

## Contents

vii

9 The <i>memoria</i> of the <i>gentes</i> as the Backbone of Collective Memory in Republican Rome <i>Wolfgang Blösel</i> 'Die <i>memoria</i> der <i>gentes</i> als Rückgrat der kollektiven Erinnerung im republikanischen Röm', in U. Eigler et al. (eds.), <i>Formen römischer Geschichtsschreibung von den Anfängen bis Livius</i> , Darmstadt: Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft (2003), 43–72.	272
10 The Ritual Grammar of Institutionalized Politics <i>Egon Flraig</i> 'Die rituelle Grammatik institutionalisierter Politik', in E. Flraig, <i>Ritualisierte Politik: Zeichen, Gesten und Herrschaft im Alten Rom</i> , Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht (2003), 181–212.	294
11 Aristocratic Roles and the Crisis of the Roman Republic <i>Hans Beck</i> 'Die Rollen des Adeligen: Prominenz und aristokratische Herrschaft in der römischen Republik', in K.-J. Hölkeskamp (ed.), <i>Eine politische Kultur (in) der Krise? Die letzte Generation der römischen Republik</i> , Munich: R. Oldenbourg Verlag (2009), 53–71.	328
12 Monuments and Consensus: The Precarious Equilibrium of Merit and Power <i>Tonio Hölscher</i> 'Denkmäler und Konsens: Die sensible Balance von Verdienst und Macht', in K.-J. Hölkeskamp (ed.), <i>Eine politische Kultur (in) der Krise? Die letzte Generation der römischen Republik</i> , Munich: R. Oldenbourg Verlag (2009), 161–81.	350
13 Publicity or Participation? The Role of the <i>contiones</i> in the Middle and Late Roman Republic <i>Claudia Tiersch</i> 'Politische Öffentlichkeit statt Mitbestimmung? Zur Bedeutung der <i>contiones</i> in der mittleren und späten römischen Republik', <i>Klio</i> 91 (2009), 40–68.	374

## Figures

5.1	Rome in the year 200. T. Cornell, ‘The Roman Conquest of Italy’, <i>CAH VII.2<sup>2</sup></i> , fig. 50. Reproduced with permission of Cambridge University Press via PLSclear	page 131
5.2	Temple of Jupiter Optimus Maximus. Elevation (reconstruction) and ground plan. A. Claridge, <i>Rome: An Archaeological Guide</i> , 1st ed. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998), fig. 109. Reproduced with the permission of Oxford Publishing Limited through PLSclear	134
5.3	Forum, Capitol, and Arx with its <i>auguraculum</i> (A); presumed line of sight towards the <i>Mons Albanus</i> . F. Coarelli, <i>Foro Romano I</i> (Rome: Quasar, 1985), p. 102 fig. 33. Reproduced with the permission of Quasar	135
5.4	The triumphal route. D. Favro, ‘The Street Triumphant: The Urban Impact of Roman Triumphal Parades’, in <i>Streets: Critical Perspectives on Public Space</i> , ed. Z. Çelik, D. Favro and R. Ingersoll (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1996), p. 151. Reproduced with the permission of Diane Favro	138
5.5	The <i>Rostra</i> in the middle Republic (reconstruction). After Gjerstad	140
5.6	<i>Columna rostrata</i> (reconstruction). E. Künzl, <i>Der römische Triumph</i> (Munich: Beck, 1988), fig. 64. Reproduced with the permission of Ernst Künzl	142
5.7	The Forum Romanum in the second century. J. Stambaugh, <i>The Ancient Roman City</i> (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1988), p. 112. Reproduced with the permission of Johns Hopkins University Press via PLSclear	144
5.8	Denarius of A. Postumius Albinus (from 96): the Dioscuri water their horses in the <i>lacus Iuturnae</i> . [New image for this edition of an example now in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, o8.170.75]	145

*List of Figures*

ix

5.9	The Comitium in the middle Republic with the monuments mentioned. F. Coarelli, <i>Foro Romano I</i> (Rome: Quasar, 1985), p. 120 fig. 21. Reproduced with the permission of Quasar	149
5.10	Denarius of Sextus Pompeius from 137: the she-wolf and twins; behind them, the <i>ficus Ruminalis</i> . [New image for this edition of an example at cngcoins.com, The Coin Shop item 5629315]	150
6.1	The Roman Forum in the Republican period (after H. Broise and J. M. David, 'Un plan du forum républicain', in <i>Architecture et société: Actes du Colloque international organisé par le Centre national de la recherche scientifique et l'École française de Rome (Rome 2–4 décembre 1980)</i> [Rome: École française de Rome, 1983], pp. 243–5, at p. 244)	175
6.2	Rome: the triumphal route (author)	180

## *Tables*

1.1 Comparison of the German and English versions of a passage by Hölkeskamp	<i>page</i> 12
8.1 Variants	269

## *Contributors*

**HANS BECK** is Professor and Chair of Greek History at the University of Münster and Adjunct Professor of History and Classical Studies at McGill University in Montreal.

**WOLFGANG BLÖSEL** is Professor and Chair of Ancient History at the University of Duisburg-Essen.

**EGON FLAIG** is Emeritus Professor of Ancient History at the University of Rostock.

**HARRIET I. FLOWER** is Andrew Fleming West Professor of Classics and Clerk of the Faculty, Department of Classics, at Princeton University.

**KARL-JOACHIM HÖLKESKAMP** is Emeritus Professor of Ancient History at the University of Cologne.

**TONIO HÖLSCHER** is Emeritus Professor of Classical Archaeology at Heidelberg University.

**MARTIN JEHNE** is Emeritus Professor of Ancient History at the Technical University of Dresden.

**AMY RUSSELL** is Associate Professor of Classics and Associate Professor of History at Brown University, and directs the Program in Early Cultures.

**CLAUDIA TIERSCH** is Professor and Chair of Ancient History at the Humboldt University of Berlin.

**UWE WALTER** is Professor and Chair of Ancient History at the University of Bielefeld.

## *Acknowledgements*

The translations in this volume were produced by Kathrin Lüddecke, checked by Amy Russell and Hans Beck, and edited by Zara Chadha. Notes from the present editors are in square brackets. Translations from Greek and Latin into German have been replaced by the current Loeb edition, except where noted. We have generally retained the original bibliographical formats used by the authors; abbreviations others than those found in *L'Année philologique* (for journals) and *The Oxford Classical Dictionary* (for ancient authors and texts) are explained in notes.

Funds for the translation and editing were provided by the Philip Leverhulme Prize held by Amy Russell, from the MacNaughton Chair of Classics at McGill University which Hans Beck held at the time, and from his current chair at the University of Münster. Funds for image reproductions came from Brown University.