

POUR UNE ANTIQUITE-MONDE : LA GRECE, ROME ET LES AUTRES

« Antiquité, territoire des écarts »

Programme initié et préparé par Carole Boidin, Tristan Mauffrey,
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(Université Paris Diderot et association ATE)

Université Paris Diderot, rue Thomas Mann 75013 Paris

11 avril 2019

18h30 à 20h30 en salle 681C (Grands Moulins 6^{ème} étage)

Phiroze Vasunia

Professor of Greek (University College London)

Discutante : **Anne Sinha** (Université Paris 13 - EA 7338)

A God in Translation? Lucian, Dionysus, and Gandhara



Dionysus' conquest of India enthralled ancient writers and artists from the Hellenistic period onward. Lucian's *Dionysus* is a fascinating text since it offers us a humorous interpretation of Dionysus's invasion and Indian reactions to the event. The text prompts its readers to reflect on Alexander's Dionysiac self-fashioning, especially in south Asia, and not least to ask after Indian reactions to Dionysus. It so happens that what we might arguably term 'Indian' responses to Dionysus also can be perceived in other ways since 'Dionysiac' images survive in some quantity from Bactria and Gandhara, regions that Alexander and the Greeks thought of as

India. The images date to a period that is roughly contemporaneous with Lucian's lifetime and, in their own terms, also explore the relationship between Dionysus and India. These Gandharan images were recovered during the period of British rule in India, and the colonial context of recovery is important. Reflecting on Lucian and the Gandharan images together gives us a worthwhile opportunity to think comparatively about Dionysus and to inquire into the politics of religious 'translation'.

