

Lucian Lecture Series

Michaelmas Term 2026

Dr Emma Greensmith (emma.greensmith@classics.ox.ac.uk)

Thursdays at 11.00am, Examination Schools

Weeks 5-8

This series of lectures explores Lucian's *True Histories* from many different angles. The first lecture gives an overview of this brilliant, bonkers text, and outlines the main traps to *avoid* when thinking and writing about it. The following two lectures focus on *VH* 1 and 2 respectively, tackling themes such as truth and deception, genre and history, landscape and travel, bodies and ghosts. The final lecture looks at the two books comparatively, through some close analysis of key passages. The survey lecture on Wednesday of Week 8 (on Imperial Greek Literature) is an important complement to this series.

The lectures are intended for all those studying Mods Greek Literature, but all are welcome.

The sequence is as follows:

- 1 (MT 5): 'Overview': Themes, Traps and Tropes
- 2 (MT 6): *VH* 1: Lying, Truth and Travel
- 3 (MT 7): *VH* 2: Literary Ghosts
- 4 (MT 8): Into the Belly of the *VH*: Close Reading Key Passages

Questions are very welcome (afterwards, or by e-mail). The lectures are designed for in-person delivery: whilst recordings of the lectures will be available after the Faculty embargo period via Panopto, **attendance in person is strongly encouraged**. Please e-mail me for a copy of the handout (which I shall distribute in the lectures) if you are unable to make a particular lecture.

E.G