

GUEST LECTURE

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XENOPHON AS AN  
ORIGINAL HISTORIAN AND  
POLITICAL THINKER

This lecture aims to familiarize students with the works and main ideas (historical, political, ethical, and philosophical) of the Athenian author Xenophon (431-354 BCE). Xenophon was for a long time a rather neglected author, deemed as inferior if compared to Thucydides or Plato. Over the last decades, however, scholarly attitude towards him has considerably changed: nowadays critics tend to highlight his originality, while his engagement with the political and ethical debates of his times is being more and more stressed. The lecture will provide some insights from what is labeled as “Xenophon’s rehabilitation”: after offering some basic background and bibliographical information, we will read selected passages (in English translation) from Xenophon’s corpus (especially, the *Hellenica*, the *Memorabilia* and the *Cyropaedia*). It is hoped that students will thus get a glimpse of the uniformity of Xenophon’s thought and that they will also be able to assess his literary innovations and his contribution to political thought.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2019**

**08:45 | Seminarraum 3**

**(Atrium – Zentrum für Alte Kulturen, Langer Weg 11)**