

## The Historiography of Democratic Athens before Grote

Workshop organized by Mirko Canevaro and Leo Catana

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The Athenian democracy lasted from 508/7 BCE until 322 BCE, though with some notorious interruptions in 411-10 and 404-3. The way in which this period has been described — that is, its historiography — has varied enormously over the last centuries. The English historian George Grote (1794-1871) is typically seen as a foundational figure when it comes to the modern conception of ancient Greek political thought. This position is mainly due to his *History of ancient Greece*, published in 12 volumes between 1846 and 1856. However, over the last years some scholars have begun to question Grote as the decisive figure and to search for other historians of ancient democratic Athens, who pre-date Grote, and who made significant contributions to the modern conception of this period in ancient political thought. It has thus been suggested that the eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century histories of ancient Greece produced by Temple Stanyan, John Gillies and William Mittford were important in precisely this respect. The planned workshop will build on this research, but it will also transcend it by focusing on historians who have not been given much attention so far: Mirko Canevaro will focus on the Italian historian Carlo Sigonio and his *De republica Atheniensium* (1564); Leo Catana will discuss the German historian of philosophy Jacob Brucker and his *Historia critica philosophiae* (1742-44).